

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes

July 5, 2023 Executive Committee

Held via Zoom

PRESENT:

Danielle Chesebrough (Chairman), John Salomone, Cheryl Blanchard, Charlie Grant, Fred Allyn.
Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan.

Chairman Chesebrough opened the meeting at 8:32 AM.

1. Regional Code Enforcement Program Update

Ms. Kennedy reported that since the last SCCOG meeting, the Town of Montville had joined the Code Enforcement Program and would begin receiving Building Official Services this week, taking the excessive capacity of that program at least on an interim basis.

2. FY 2024 Regional Services Grant Funding/Workplan

Ms. Kennedy reported that she had submitted an FY 24 workplan to OPM for the Regional Services Grant. She brought up the need to add workspaces for additional staff. The workplan submitted to the OPM includes funding for interior renovations, website work, additional staff, and consultants. Mr. Salomone noted that renovation and/or expansion is a better option than relocation and others concurred. Ms. Kennedy noted that parking has been a problem lately on meeting days.

3. Audit Contract

Ms. Kennedy stated that since SCCOG's contract with the current auditor expired, she had issued an RFP in May and received only one response, from the current auditor, for satisfactory services and rates. Members contributed that they had also received poor responses to municipal RFPs/ bid requests for auditing services. Mayor Allyn suggested asking for an option to extend in the future contract.

MOTION: To approve executing a contract with the current auditing firm (Salomone, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

Member Municipalities:

Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

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4. Grants

Ms. Kennedy reported that SCCOG had been awarded CT DECD Brownfields funding for assessment work on four properties in Windham and Waterford and that planner Kyle Casiglio had done a great job preparing the application. She noted that this was a step towards expanding SCCOG's brownfields work and that SCCOG was also working with UConn on brownfields inventories in several municipalities. Staff will submit the SS4A application next week, is reviewing the PROTECT transportation resilience grant, and is still waiting to hear regarding the application for AOPP transit planning funding.

5. LOTCIP Project Endorsement

Ms. Rattan requested a recommendation to endorse the Ledyard Multi-Use Path project for funding under LOTCIP. The project has completed its final design and has a final project estimate which fine tunes the original estimate and increases the estimate for several items. Mr. Allyn noted the benefits of this project in connecting existing and planned residential areas with Ledyard Center.

MOTION: To endorse the LOTCIP project with a cost estimate of \$2,800,600 (Grant, Salomone). So voted unanimously.

6. STIP/TIP Amendments

Ms. Kennedy stated that because staff were waiting for additional information from ConnDOT regarding these projects, she was withdrawing them from the agenda for approval and would resubmit them once staff has the information necessary to fully review the items.

7. Speaker Requests/Scheduling

Ms. Kennedy stated that she had confirmed Jennifer Muggeo and Patrick McCormack to speak regarding local opioid settlement fund activities at the July SCCOG meeting. Members confirmed the current schedule of inviting Eastern Land Bank in September and Eversource in November.

8. Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity

Motion: To add this item to the agenda (Blanchard, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy stated that Beth Sabilia at the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern CT had asked her to join their housing needs assessment project steering committee, and that Ms. Kennedy was looking for general guidance on how closely SCCOG should be involved in CHEO work. Mayor Allyn asked how their assessment related to the study the legislature ordered OPM to develop. Ms. Kennedy stated that CHEO had not determined the

answer to that question as of her last conversation with Beth. Mayor Allyn advised that SCCOG should be engaged, and Ms. Chesebrough concurred. Ms. Kennedy stated that she would participate on the steering committee and would report back to SCCOG membership on a regular basis to keep them informed of the work.

9. Schedule of Next Meetings

Members agreed to cancel the August meeting, as is customary.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director