

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT Minutes of the July 19, 2023 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

## PRESENT:

Bozrah	-	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Charlie Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	-	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	-	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	-	Sprague	-
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	-	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	-
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: Senior Chief Kravchuck, Assistant Superintendent Eva Van Camp New London SUBASE: CAPT Curtin, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy. seCTer: RT Brown. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride, Kyle Thaxton. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda. SEAT: Mike Carroll. Eastern Regional Tourism District: Chris Regan.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Ms. Chesebrough led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of June 21, 2023 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 6/21/2023 (Grant, Sparkman). Motion passed unanimously.

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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. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (Sparkman, McDaniel). Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy noted the communications from the Mashantucket-Pequot Tribal Nation regarding their upcoming gala celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum. Mr. Hayward said he hopes that towns can participate.

6. Public Comment: Ms. Monahan stated that the application period for energy assistance opens September 1<sup>st</sup>.

7. Guest Speaker: Local Opioid Settlement Activities, Jennifer Muggeo (LLHD) and Patrick McCormack (Uncas HD). Ms. Muggeo presented on the current statistics regarding opioid overdoses in the region and the multiple strategies that the NLCares program implements to address and prevent harm. She reviewed how these activities are allowable for support from Opioid settlement funds. Ledge Light and Uncas are working together to ensure resources are available throughout the region. Ms. Allyn-Gauthier and Mr. Carlson asked about the Narcan boxes. Mr. Bunnell asked about coordination with the Tribes.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) Ms. Kennedy noted that minutes from the 7/5/23 meeting were distributed and that the Executive Committee made one recommendation, to endorse the final design estimate for the Ledyard LOTCIP project.

MOTION: To endorse LOTCIP Project L171-001 (Ledyard Multi-Use Path) at its final design estimated cost of \$2.8 million. (Burt, Grant). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: Mr. Grant reported that SCCOG had sent a letter requesting a special session be called to override Gov. Lamont's veto of SB 1213 (Mashantucket-Pequot and Mohegan Funding). The legislature did not call a special session, but Mr. Grant said that he was told this issue would be taken up again next year. He also mentioned that SB 904 requires all Local Traffic Authorities to receive training each year. Ms. Kennedy mentioned that she would like to convene a meeting of the Regional Stormwater Committee this fall and was looking for a CEO to act as chair.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Bunnell mentioned several events and issues, including that he has been working with CT DOT, SCCOG, and the Town of Preston on the Route 2A bridge capacity issue. Mr. Hayward had no additional announcements.

D) Military Command Representatives: Senior Chief Bryon Kravchuck and Assistant Superintendent Eva Van Camp introduced themselves. Chief Kravchuck mentioned several upcoming events. Captain Curtin mentioned that the SUBASE has several IGSA's in place, and was able to contract for repairs for a tunnel through CRCOG and is working with CTDOT on another potential project.

- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant stated that modifications to Congressionally Directed Spending awards will be coming out soon. USDA and CT DOAG want to hear from farmers regarding damage from the recent weather events. Ms. Graham stated that Sen. Blumenthal would be available during the August recess for meetings and events, and that the Senate is currently considering the NDAA. Ms. McBride stated that CDS award letters were going out, and that Sen. Murphy is sponsoring bills regarding mental health and special education funding.
- F) seCTer: Mr. Brown stated that the CEDS had been accepted by EDA and the State of Connecticut, that the PTAC program is now known as “Apex Accelerator” and that EDA has some funding available related to Hurricanes Henri and Ida, and he would like to hear ideas on how funds might support business resiliency in SE CT.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: Mr. Regan is collecting tourism info for possible inclusion in a statewide map of 100 destinations. He asked towns to consider matching tourism marketing dollars to stretch these funds.
- H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll reported SEAT is waiting for information from CTDOT regarding grants and other funding.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Sparkman asked if all MOAs had been received. Ms. Kennedy said she would remind any remaining towns.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan stated that the RHSCC would meet again on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen noted that both she and Wendy Vincent were available to coordinate and assist.
- M) Health Districts: Mr. McCormack reminded the Board that EEE/West Nile Virus season was starting and that managing communications is important when cases are identified. The public spokesperson on this issue can be the municipal CEO or the health district.
- N) Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn stated that the committee met yesterday and would meet again in August and then twice per month through December. The product will be a white paper which will inform legislative asks.

9. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Town of Montville had joined SCCOG’s Building Official program. She posted three open positions yesterday—one for a new Municipal Services Manager; one planner position to replace Sam Alexander, who will be leaving SCCOG on August 11<sup>th</sup>; and one fall internship to assist with the Solid Waste project. Senior Advisor Jim Butler had a good meeting with Coast Guard Academy staff regarding the Rte 32 Corridor Study project, and SCCOG will request that CTDOT apply for grant funds to continue this project. SCCOG staff are working with CTDOT, Preston, and the Mohegan Tribe to evaluate investments necessary to expand the capacity of the Route 2A bridge. SCCOG submitted its

SS4A application for \$8 million and will hear back in December on that grant program. SCCOG was notified by DECD it will receive brownfields assessment funding for sites in Windham and Waterford. Ms. Kennedy will serve on the advisory committee for the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity's housing needs assessment project, and she will provide frequent updates to the SCCOG on that project. The JLUS Committee has resumed meeting (military coordination). Related to JLUS, SCCOG is working on parking issues in the City of Groton and will receive a grant to support resilience planning by Groton Utilities.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

A) STIP/TIP Amendments

Region	FACo	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$	Fed\$	Sta\$	Loc\$	Comments
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13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K
13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K
13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K
13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K
13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K
13	0407	0414-XXXX	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K

Region	FACode	Proj#	TempP#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(0	Fed\$(	Sta\$(0	Loc\$(	Comments
13	5307C	0414-XXXX		X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 23	OTH	2023	705	564	141	0	INCREASE EST. FROM FED \$360K

Motion: To approve the STIP/TIP amendments (Grant, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

B) Section 5310 Application Priorities- Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

MOTION: To approve the scoring as presented (Chmielewski, Grant).

12. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be September 20, 2023.

13. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Charlie Grant, Secretary