

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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September 5, 2023 Executive Committee  
Held at 5 Connecticut Ave, Norwich, CT and via Zoom  
Minutes

**PRESENT:**

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

Chairman Chesebrough opened the meeting at 8:32 AM.

1. EWIB CEO Council Appointment

Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG is responsible for appointing three representatives to serve on the EWIB CEO Council and that with Mayor McDaniel not running for re-election; one seat will be vacant. Members suggested asking for volunteers at the next meeting.

2. America's Defense Community Champion Nomination

Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG has the ability to nominate a regional champion that then becomes eligible for national recognition. She just learned that the deadline to nominate is this month and spoke with Bob Ross (CT Office of Military Affairs) and Chris Zendan (SUBASE New London) regarding potential nominees and presented a candidate for consideration based on their input. Mr. Brule asked for more information regarding the criteria, and Ms. Kennedy read the guidelines: "individuals who have made a significant impact in their defense community. Defense Community Champions go above and beyond to make meaningful connections with military members, families and veterans in their community. Nominees can be community or military members." Members discussed whether to nominate the suggested candidate or skip this year in favor of a more deliberative process next year, and agreed to go ahead with nominating the suggested candidate while soliciting suggestions for next year's nomination earlier in the year. Next year, nominations will be submitted to and reviewed by the Executive

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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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Committee for recommendation to the full SCCOG. Motion: To nominate Marian Galbraith for this year's Champion Award (Salomone, Brule). Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. GIS Parcel Viewer Transition

Ms. Kennedy explained SCCOG's plan to transition the regional parcel viewer to a self-hosted ESRI ArcGIS site, which would enable the addition of new features and more frequent updates. The new system would not have the documents viewer feature, which has not been well used or updated since it was created. Staff will outreach to planners, town clerks, and assessors to let them know of the change and to consider any comments. Mr. Grant asked if the switch would save money; Ms. Kennedy said not likely in the first year given the staff time to set up the system, but probably would save money after initial setup is complete. Members agreed that the regional viewer is important to maintain, that several use it on a regular basis, and having more ability add layers would be helpful.

### 4. Status of Hiring

Ms. Kennedy provided an update on filling the two positions advertised this summer.

### 5. Capital Improvements

Ms. Kennedy provided an update regarding the need to add office space and potential solutions. WB Mason has confirmed that we can convert the four office cubicles to six; and Ms. Kennedy is still working on contacting a contractor to repair walls, enlarge an existing window, and potentially create two additional large offices through the conversion of existing space. Ms. Kennedy stated that RSG funds could be used to pay for the modifications. She stated she would bring cost estimates to the Executive Committee when she has them. A discussion was held regarding maintaining fire exits.

### 6. STIP/TIP Amendments

Ms. Rattan provided an overview of each of the included projects, which included bridge repairs, scheduling funds for the Route 82 project and allocating funds for Route 85 traffic signal modernization. MOTION: To recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendments (Brule, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

### 7. Speaker Requests/Scheduling

Ms. Kennedy received two speaker requests this month: 1) Kim Bradley, CT DEEP, re the upcoming Recreational Trails Program grant program (application expected in October) and 2)

speaker tbd regarding State/municipal broadband efforts. Eversource is scheduled for November and we had tentatively scheduled Eastern CT Land Bank for September. Mr. Grant recommended that Ms. Bradley speak in September in advance of the grant round and that Mr. Bugden speak in October; others agreed.

#### 8. Schedule of Next Meetings

Ms. Kennedy stated that she was looking for guidance on how/when/where to hold the December meeting. Members said they like the breakfast meeting format but were interested in exploring other venues in the region that would have hybrid capabilities.

#### 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director