

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT Minutes of the September 20, 2023 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Charlie Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	-	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	-	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	-	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon		Windham	Tom DeVivo, Jim Rivers
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Jessica Cobb, Kate Rattan. seCTer: RT Brown. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Wendy Vincent. Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern CT: Beth Sabilia. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda. SEAT: Mike Carroll. Eastern Regional Tourism District: Chris Regan. Eversource: Egzon Balidemaj, Teresa Jackman, Jaquan Samuels. Sen. Martha Marx.

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 July 19th and August 15th Meetings:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 7/19 and 8/15 (Carlson, Grant). Motion passed 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

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, office@seccog.org.
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4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: No communications.

6. Public Comment:

Beth Sabilia, Director of the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern CT, stated that an event would be held October 18th at which affordable housing plan scorecards would be released.

Teresa Jackman from Eversource stated that they were rolling out a discount program for low-income residents and were working on troubleshooting emergency call response. Egzon Balidemaj introduced himself as the new community relations rep for Griswold and Lisbon.

Dave Murphy (SCCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan consultant) stated that municipalities are working on adopting the recently completed plan. He asked to follow up with several towns regarding adoption and/or projects to advance through the Resilient CT process.

7. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) STIP/TIP Amendments taken up under new business.
- ii) America's Defense Community Champion: Ms. Kennedy reviewed this program, which is offered by the organization America's Defense Communities, of which SCCOG is a member. This is the second year of the program. Ms. Kennedy stated that she had worked with the CT Office of Military Affairs and SUBASE personnel to advance a candidate for consideration, Marian Galbraith, the former Mayor of the City of Groton and former Chair of the Thames River Heritage Park, among other affiliations.

MOTION: To nominate Ms. Galbraith for this year's Defense Community Champion award. (Burt, Grant). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: No update.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward stated that their tribal nation was working on Great Wolf Lodge and on a new centralized medical center.

D) Military Command Representatives: Mr. Sadlowski (SUBASE) stated that \$300 million had been awarded to the SUBASE for capital improvements, and that the Base was working with SCCOG and Groton Utilities on resiliency work funded by a grant to SCCOG from the Department of Defense.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Graham stated Sen. Blumenthal had introduced legislation regarding healthy homes. Ms. McBride stated that Sen. Murphy had just wrapped up a housing tour and stated that the MLK essay contest would be starting soon.

- F) seCTer: RT Brown from seCTer stated that the digital CEDS has been launched.
 - G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No update.
 - H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll reported that ridership has recovered to pre-Covid levels, with fares being collected, and that service expansions are enabled by the Governor's budget.
 - I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
 - J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
 - K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: No report.
 - L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Vincent stated that survey results were coming out soon and that she was available to assist any towns interested in forming cultural districts.
 - M) Health Districts: Ms. Muggeo reviewed activities related to opioids, mosquito-borne illnesses, and COVID/flu vaccinations. They are available to assist residents in scheduling vaccine appointments.
9. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn stated that the committee has been meeting, has finished the outline of the white paper, and a survey would be going out soon to municipal CEOs. There were several questions and suggestions regarding nip bottle regulation and clean-up strategies.

10. Executive Director's Report

11. Old Business: None.

12. New Business:

A) STIP/TIP Amendments

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

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be October 18, 2023. (Note: later postponed to Oct. 25th)

14. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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