

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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October 3, 2023 Executive Committee

Held via Zoom

Minutes

PRESENT:

Danielle Chesebrough (Chairman), 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 reminded the Committee that SCCOG is responsible for appointing a member to replace Mayor McDaniel on the EWIB board, and should ask for volunteers again at the next full SCCOG meeting.

2. Status of Hiring

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the progress of hiring for vacant positions (Blanchard, Grant). So voted unanimously. Ms. Kennedy provided an update on progress. The Committee exited Executive Session.

3. Capital Improvements

Ms. Kennedy stated that a tree had fallen on the building causing a leak on one end of the roof, and there is leaking around the HVAC unit on the other end. An insurance claim has been filed. She is still waiting on the quote from the initial contractor contacted regarding correcting previous issues and renovating office space. She is working with Doug Colter on developing a full scope of work for bid solicitation. She plans to review potential costs with OPM to clear what can be paid for with RSG funds.

4. CEO Orientation

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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Ms. Kennedy noted that SCCOG typically does an orientation for new mayors and first selectman after each municipal election and asked for opinions on what such orientation should include this year and when it should occur. She and Kate Rattan would like to focus more content on the transportation program. Mayor Allyn suggested training should occur as soon as possible after the election (early December) because the budget season starts soon after. Ms. Blanchard stated that there should be a way to reach new CEOs in November even if their term hasn't started yet. Members agreed that transportation was an important area to cover. Mayor Allyn noted that content should include the process for seeking grants and that SCCOG administers/assists. Mayor Allyn noted the importance of being able to communicate with peers (through SCCOG) as a resource. Ms. Blanchard concurred.

5. STIP/TIP Amendments

Ms. Rattan reviewed the STIP/TIP amendments, which deal with provisioning the Gold Star Bridge with an improved multi-use path and strengthening the southbound span. SCCOG has still not received the analysis of multi-use path options that CT DOT has been preparing and has been told it would be provided in late October/early November. CTDOT would like to begin design of improvements as soon as possible and so is requesting approval of these TIP amendments. Ms. Rattan and Ms. Kennedy have been meeting with CTDOT on this project and have emphasized the need for public communication, particularly with elected officials and residents in New London and Groton.

Motion: To recommend approval of the Amendments (Grant, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

6. Resolution: Endorsement of Safety Performance Measures Targets

Ms. Kennedy noted that SCCOG has a federal obligation to adopt safety performance measures and can do so by developing its own or adopting those established by CTDOT. The CTDOT measures include fatalities, fatality rate, number of serious injuries, serious injury rate, and number of non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries. Ms. Rattan noted the SCCOG is required to spend safety funds on safety improvements because it has not met previous targets, and those have gone to systemic projects and spot improvements.

Motion: To recommend approval of the targets (Allyn, Grant). So voted unanimously.

7. Speaker Requests/Scheduling

Ms. Kennedy stated that Eastern CT Land Bank is scheduled for October and Eversource for November. Kim Bradley from CT DEEP would also like to speak at some point about available grants. There was a discussion about when/if a representative from Safe Futures could present and members suggested a presentation in January or February could be helpful.

8. Schedule of Next Meetings

Ms. Kennedy mentioned that she had heard concerns about a potential conflict with the next meeting date and the statewide emergency drill, and knew that five CEOs can't attend.

Members agreed that the meeting should be rescheduled. Members discussed options and settled on postponing to October 25th, in person.

9. Tourism Coalition

Motion: To add to the agenda a discussion of SCCOG potentially joining the Tourism Coalition (Allyn, Grant). So voted unanimously.

Ms. Chesebrough asked the Committee consider approving SCCOG's membership in the CT Tourism Coalition. Our membership would help strengthen their advocacy efforts for funding of tourism marketing. Members agreed it would be good to join.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director