

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## DRAFT Minutes of the October 25, 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	-
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Charlie Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	-	Preston	-
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	Jim Rivers
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation:		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Jessica Cobb, Kate Rattan. seCTer: Joe Violette. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: -. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda. Eastern Regional Tourism District:-.

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 September 20th Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes (Cwikla, Grant). 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

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, [office@seccog.org](mailto: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:

Deb Monahan of TVCCA introduced Josh Kelly, TVCCA's new Executive Director, and reminded members that TVCCA is administering heat assistance. She stated that need exceeds available funding and asked SCCOG to write a letter to the legislature asking that the State provide supplementary funds to the available federal funds.

Members noted it was Mayor McDaniel's last meeting with SCCOG and thanked him for his years of service.

7. Speaker: Eastern CT Land Bank

Wayne Bugden and Tyra Penn introduced the Eastern CT Land Bank and discussed its objectives and current activities. It can assist with brownfields redevelopment once initial assessments are complete and redevelopment activities get more complicated. Its organizers would like to increase the capacity of the organization to take title to properties. Ms. Chesebrough noted that ECLB was very helpful to Stonington in addressing one of its brownfields. Ms. Kennedy noted that SCCOG was also trying to develop its brownfields program, had received assessment grants and has been working with UConn TAB on inventorying properties. Mr. Bugden noted that more federal money is available now than has been in the past. Municipalities interested in working with ECLB can call Wayne at 860-933-0195.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) STIP/TIP Amendments taken up under new business.
- ii) Resolution: Endorsement of Safety Performance Measures Targets.

Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG as an MPO must adopt safety performance measures targets and the Executive Committee is recommending adopting those developed by CTDOT.

MOTION: To adopt the resolution adopting CTDOT's Safety Performance Measure Targets (Grant, Burt). Mr. Allen asked Kate Rattan what was being done to address worsening safety conditions. Ms. Rattan mentioned several initiatives being carried out by CTDOT intended to address worsening traffic behaviors. So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee:

Mr. Grant asked for volunteers to serve on the SCCOG legislative committee, which will meet in early December. Ms. Chesebrough asked if SCCOG could consider a letter to the Legislature asking for the heating assistance that Ms. Monahan had asked for.

MOTION: To authorize Ms. Kennedy to write a letter to the legislature asking that the State allocate supplemental heating assistance funds this year to help meet the demand not met by federal funds (Grant, McDaniel). Members noted that no-heat conditions can lead to condemnation and displacement, which becomes a municipal responsibility to address. So voted unanimously.

- C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: No report.
  - D) Military Command Representatives: Mr. Sadlowski (SUBASE) stated that new subs have been christened and will be stationed at SUBASE New London.
  - E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride noted that Sen. Murphy had just completed his cross- state walk and was aware of the heating assistance challenges. Mr. Carver reported that Ayanti Grant is Rep. Courtney’s new Chief of Staff but will still primarily be based in Norwich. Matt Reich is the office’s new scheduler.
  - F) seCTer: Joe Violette from seCTer stated that the digital CEDS has been launched.
  - G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
  - H) SEAT: Mayor McDaniel noted that SEAT had met the previous week and authorized the purpose of four electric Ford Transit vehicles for use in the SmartRide program.
  - I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
  - J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
  - K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan noted that the RHSCC had met the previous week and that its membership has been rejuvenated since a COVID drop-off. Ms. Kennedy noted that there was space for additional municipal CEO participation.
  - L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen stated that the survey results would be released 11/13 and that a Zoom program would be held that day at 4 pm to discuss findings and their implications for southeastern Connecticut.
  - M) Health Districts: Mr. McCormack discussed the challenges with administering vaccines to homebound individuals. He said that additional naloxone boxes are being placed across the region and would talk to towns before placement. Mosquitoes are still testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and precautions should be taken against bites until the first hard freeze. Mr. Cwikla asked for guidance regarding found hypodermic needles. Ms. Chesebrough offered to share Stonington’s policy and protocols.
9. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn stated that the committee met last week. Ms. Kennedy thanked everyone for responding to the survey and stated that Nicole Haggerty and/or project interns may be following up for data clarification.

10. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted the status of staffing and recruitment, that SCCOG would be transitioning to a direct dial phone system, that a public meeting is being held 10/25 for the Norwich Downtown Mobility Study, that CTDOT had briefed the SEAT Board the previous week regarding the ECRTS bus transit recommendations, that SCCOG would be holding orientation for new CEOs in early December, that SCCOG staff is working on a new regional GIS parcel viewer, that SECHA and SCCOG are offering commissioner training on housing on 10/25, that SCCOG is working with Groton Utilities on resilience planning, and that she is working to identify a venue to award Marian Galbraith the ADC Champion award.

11. Old Business: None.

12. New Business:

A) STIP/TIP Amendments

Motion: To approve the STIP/TIP amendments regarding improvements to the southbound span of the Gold Star Bridge (Grant, Chmielewski). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be November 15, 2023

14. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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