

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	Lenny Bunnell
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	-
Franklin	Charlie Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	-	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick	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	Tom Sparkman	Windham	Jim Rivers Tom DeVivo
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: RADM Johnston New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Thailisa Clark. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo. Eversource: Teresa, Jaquan Samuels, Egzon Balidemaj. 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 October 15th Meeting:

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

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: No communications.

6. Public Comment:

Josh Kelly thanked SCCOG for its action regarding heating assistance (SCCOG sent a letter to legislative leadership asking for financial support). Ms. Chesebrough thanked Charlie Grant for his service to the SCCOG.

7. Speaker: Kimberly Bradley, CT DEEP, RE: CT DEEP Trails & Greenways Program

Ms. Bradley provided an overview of CT DEEP's support of trails and greenways. She discussed opportunities to designate official greenways, and funding through the Recreational Trails grant program. She noted that the RTP grant can be used as a match for federal funds and that funding can support planning, design, construction, land acquisition, equipment and amenities, and educational materials. Ms. Bradley's presentation will be circulated to members.

Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) STIP/TIP Amendments taken up under new business.
- ii) Resolution: Relating to a 2023 EMPG HazMat Grant.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the resolution was necessary to act as fiduciary for the Region 2 REPT's HazMat grant.

MOTION: To adopt the resolution (Chmielewski, Grant). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: Ms. Chesebrough stated that Mayor Allyn had been asked to fill in as legislative chair given that Mr. Grant is no longer available. A meeting will be held December 12th at 10 AM at SCCOG. Mayor Allyn asked for volunteers for the committee, asked that COST's legislative agenda be shared, and that members come to the meeting with proposed solutions. Mr. Sparkman asked about the nominating committee, volunteers were requested. Mr. Sparkman also asked about the EWIB nomination.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward shared the invitation to the Mashantucket Pequot holiday party. Mr. Bunnell announced that Tesla had opened on reservation land. He reminded members that the Tribe has a committee directing charitable giving.

D) Military Command Representatives: RADM Johnston introduced himself and stated that the Academy would like to engage more with the community post COVID. Mr. Sadlowski

(SUBASE) attended the recent ADC conference and spoke there about the many partnerships the Base has formed with the support of the State, municipalities, and COGs. Mr. Whitescarver added that the Navy has benefitted from its inclusion in SCCOG's meetings.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride noted that the MLK essay contest is underway and there are current funding opportunities through FEMA and EPA. Ms. Graham noted that a long-term spending bill will still be required after passing a continuing resolution. Mr. Carver reported that Rep. Courtney recently hosted the Australian ambassador and is co-sponsoring a bill regarding opioid use treatment for veterans.

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver noted seCTer's upcoming annual meeting.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.

H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll stated he would be reaching out to the new first selectmen. Their challenge is hiring enough drivers to enable the start of planned new services.

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. Mathiasen stated that she had made a request to brief SCCOG on the results of their recent survey early next year.

9. Health Districts: Ms. Muggeo welcomed incoming selectmen and stated that the Health Districts are preparing their budget requests. She reminded the Board that while mosquito season is over, ticks are still active over 40 degrees.

10. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn stated that the committee met last week and would meet again December 12th at 9 AM at SCCOG (prior to legislative committee meeting).

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted the status of staffing and recruitment. SCCOG's new phone system is operational and enables direct extensions and direct numbers for employees working with the public. SCCOG anticipates a LOTCIP solicitation in early 2024. Federal funding has been announced for a study of the New Haven to Providence rail connection (funds go to RI and CT). SCCOG expects to hear whether its SS4A application has been funded in December.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business:

A) STIP/TIP Amendments

Motion: To approve the STIP/TIP amendments regarding replacement of bridge 07036 in Griswold and programming grant funding toward the rehab of the Gold Star Bridge Northbound span (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be December 20, 2023, likely at Flanders Fish Market in East Lyme.

15. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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