

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

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

Held at Flanders Fish Market, East Lyme, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	-
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Alden Miner	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Tina Falck	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
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: Asst Superintendent Van Camp New London SUBASE: CAPT Curtin, Steve Sadlowski, Chris Zendan		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Rodney Butler		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair, Jessica Cobb, Jim Butler, Jennifer Lindo, Nicole Haggerty, Doug Colter. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, Mark Oefinger. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Thailisa Clark, Cherise Simpson. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant, Noah Carver. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda. Eastern Regional Tourism District: -. TVCCA: Josh Kelly. Office of Military Affairs: Bob Ross. DEMHS: Mike Caplet. Navy Federal Credit Union: Dara Wickel.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. Ms. Chesebrough led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present. Members introduced themselves.
3. Act on Minutes of November 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 (Hedrick, Chmielewski). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: No communications.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Speaker: Steve Sullivan, Eversource.

Mr. Sullivan asked to reschedule due to the windstorm this week.

Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee: Ms. Kennedy noted that a draft budget was presented to the Executive Committee for discussion and will be revised for consideration in January.

i) STIP/TIP Amendments taken up under new business.

B) Legislative Committee: Mayor Allyn reviewed the draft legislative agenda and stated that the committee would meet one more time in January.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Butler thanked members for their ongoing collaboration and noted several legislative items that the Tribe had advocated for in the past year, including expansion of the Mashantucket-Pequot fund and paid family medical leave.

D) Military Command Representatives: CAPT Curtin reviewed some of this year's accomplishments and noted that the Base will be working on pier updates in 2024. Assistant Superintendent Van Camp's update included information about the Academy's athletic facilities being made available for outside use.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant stated that her office would send out a summary of the NDAA once it receives the President's signature. Ms. McBride reviewed a number of bills and acts that Sen. Murphy was involved with in 2024. Ms. Graham stated that information regarding the next round of congressionally directed spending would be available soon.

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver reviewed seCTer's major activities and asked to meet with new members.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.

- H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll stated that ridership is at pre-COVID levels after years of fluctuation. SEAT updated its real-time arrival system, now available through google and app. New fixed route and micro transit services are planned for 2024, the challenge is hiring new drivers. Long-term, the system is converting to EV and upgrading its Preston facility.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Caplet asked that information on storm damage be sent to him.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Kennedy summarized the RHSCC and mentioned that Dina Sears-Graves had agreed to co-chair. The next meeting is January 19th.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen introduced her organization for new members.

9. Health Districts: No report.

10. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn reviewed the draft findings and recommendations.

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy stated that three new staff start in January. She stated that SCCOG will receive grant funding from Safe Streets for All for a Regional Safety Action Plan and for brownfields assessment work for a property in Lisbon. Ms. Rattan reviewed VIP paving projects for conflicts/synergies with local/regional plans or known issues. Ms. Haggerty provided housing training to Salem's P&Z Commission and Ms. Kennedy offered this service to other commissions. Ms. Kennedy introduced the SCCOG staff in attendance and thanked them for their work this year.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business:

A) Defense Community Champion Award: Marian Galbraith

Ms. Chesebrough asked Mr. Ross to introduce the award and awardee Marian Galbraith. Mr. Ross, Mr. Hedrick, and Mr. Zendan commended Ms. Galbraith for her service to the region's military community. Ms. Galbraith spoke about the value of welcoming all residents and the current efforts she is involved with to establish the USS Groton Memorial in Groton.

B) STIP/TIP Amendments

MOTION: To approve TIP amendments allocating funding towards the configuration of I95 Exits 71/71 and rehabilitation of a culvert in Preston.

C) Appointments: Ms. Kennedy stated that bylaws require a number of standing committees and annual appointments.

- i) Nominating Committee. Bylaws require a standing nominating committee of three members. Proposed slate: Sparkman, Chmielewski, Passero.

MOTION: To elect the proposed nominating committee (Hedrick, Salomone). So voted unanimously.

- ii) Legislative Committee. Bylaws require a standing legislative committee of at least five members. Proposed slate:

MOTION: To elect the proposed legislative committee (Hedrick, Chmielewski). So voted unanimously.

- iii) EWIB CEO Council: SCCOG elects three representatives to one-year terms. Proposed slate: Nystrom, Sparkman, Allyn-Gauthier.

MOTION: To elect the EWIB representatives (Allyn, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

- iv) Executive Committee/Officers: Ms. Chesebrough reviewed the nominations. Chair: Rob Brule, Vice-Chair: Cheryl Blanchard, Treasurer: Tom DeVivo, Secretary: Bob Carlson, Representatives-at-Large: Danielle Chesebrough, John Salomone.

MOTION: To elect the nominated Executive Committee (Allyn, Schefers). So voted unanimously.

Mr. Brule thanked Ms. Chesebrough for her service to the SCCOG.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be January 17, 2023.

15. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Chmielewski, DeVivo). So voted unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Rob Carlson, Secretary