

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Meeting
of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Ave, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	-
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	-
Franklin	Alden Miner	North Stonington	-
Griswold	-	Preston	-
Jewett City	-	Salem	-
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	-
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation:		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, RT Brown. CT DOT: Kevin Tedesco. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Thailisa Clark. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen, Wendy Vincent. Eastern Regional Tourism District:-. TVCCA: Josh Kelly. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Brule called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Brule led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of December 20th Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes (). 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

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4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy summarized communications received by Eastern CT EMS Council and Eversource.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Speaker: Wendy Vincent and Deb Mathiasen (Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition) provided a review of the findings of their recent economic impact report, Arts & Economic Prosperity 6. The study found that patrons spent an additional \$32 on non-admission purchases (food, parking, retail, etc.) per event. In FY22, total industry-related spending was \$183 million. Complete data including demographics are posted on their website.

Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee:

- i) Ms. Kennedy presented a revision to the FY 2024 budget and stated it had been recommended for approval by the Executive Committee.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2024 revised budget (Sparkman, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

- ii) Ms. Kennedy stated that the proposed FY25 budget had been reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2025 budget (Cwikla, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: Mayor Allyn stated that a date had been set to meet with the SE CT legislative delegation: Monday, January 29th. A meeting notice will go out this week.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Bunnell noted that the task force working on the tribal taxation issue had concluded its work without reaching consensus on a solution.

D) Military Command Representatives: Mr. Sadlowski reported on the recent visit to Groton from the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. OLDCC staff visited to learn more about community conditions related to work at the SUBASE and at Electric Boat.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride stated that Congress was working on another continuing budget resolution. Ms. Graham added that their offices would like to know about flood damage. Mr. Carver reported on expansion of Tri-Care to reservists.

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver reminded the Board of several business loan opportunities administered by seCTer.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.

H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll stated that ridership in December was down slightly.

I) Regional Water Committee: No report.

J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Caplet asked that members respond to the survey collecting information on damage/expenses associated with the Fitchville Dam/flooding situation. Mr. Cwikla asked about evaluations of upstream dams and Mr. Caplet suggested that SCCOG coordinate with the DEEP dam program for additional information.

K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Kennedy stated that the next meeting is January 19th.

L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: No report.

9. Health Districts: Mr. McCormack discussed some of the issue that the Health District gets involved in after flooding/no power incidents, which involve coordination with property owners. The Health District can provide confirmation of refrigerated food loss for the purpose of insurance claims.

10. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn reported on this week's meeting. Ms. Kennedy stated that the Committee plans to meet quarterly moving forward, and SCCOG may hold informational sessions on several topics that have come up for further exploration.

Mr. Brule asked Mr. Kelly if he had anything to report. Mr. Kelly stated that TVCCA knows of 1500 households seeking heating assistance that is not available.

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy stated that three new staff started the first week of January. Helen Zincavage and Emily Bigl will be working on restarting completion of the Open Space Plan and administering brownfields assessment grant projects. Liz Burdick is managing all municipal services provided by SCCOG. Ms. Kennedy noted that she will be working with Ms. Zincavage and Ms. Burdick to program the use of additional funds still available this FY.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business: None.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be February 21, 2024.

15. Adjournment:

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

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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