

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 March 20, 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	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Tina Falck	Preston	Sanda Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Laurie Sorder	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	Tom Sparkman	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		
CT DOT	Jennifer Pacacha (via phone)		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. SEAT: Mike Carroll. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen. Eastern Regional Tourism District: -. Uncase Health District: Patrick McCormack. Eversource: Jaquan Samuels. Senior Resources: Alison Dvorak

1. Call to Order: Chairman Brule called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Mr. Brule led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of February 21st 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

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

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy mentioned that the CT Public Transportation Commission would meet that evening in New London for a Shore Line East-focused meeting.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Speaker: Senior Resources Executive Director Alison Dvorak spoke to members about what Area Agencies on Aging do. They provided individual assistance to seniors on a number of matters, at no cost. She would like to strengthen relationships with municipal staff who deal with similar issues and broaden awareness of the available resources.

Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee:

i) Ms. Kennedy noted that SCCOG's auditor presented the FY2023 audit to the Executive Committee, which had no recommendations for improvement.

ii) Ms. Kennedy summarized the request for the Resolution regarding brownfields grants

MOTION: To approve the resolution (Carlson, Burt). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: Mayor Allyn mentioned several bills of interesting, including HB5413 (street takeovers), SB191 (organics recycling), and HB5056 (shared services). Members discussed the feasibility of residential organics recycling.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: -.

D) Military Command Representatives: Mr. Sadlowski summarized recent activities related to the AUKUS Australia/UK/US submarine partnership.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Graham noted that her office is receiving new applications for Congressionally-Directed Spending. Ms. Graham noted that additional CDS announcements are forthcoming. Mr. Carver stated that his office has not opened a CDS round yet, and if it does so, timelines will be short to submit requests.

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver reported on several grant and loan programs available to small businesses. seCTer recently sent out a survey asking community leaders what types of businesses they would like to attract.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.

- H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll reported stable ridership, efforts to attract and train drivers, and progress on adopting EV technologies.
 - I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
 - J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Sparkman noted that MOA paperwork has been distributed with a return deadline of April 1.
 - K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: No report.
 - L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Coalition is planning an event at Connecticut College on April 1st that will focus on the impacts of arts & culture in southeastern Connecticut.
9. Health Districts: Mr. McCormack discussed the challenges with new requirements for lead testing. He also discussed the ramp-up of seasonal and temporary permitting/inspections and asked Board members to feel free to send him a note to make sure that the health district has upcoming events on their schedule that they will need to attend.
10. Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn noted that the committee would next meet in April.

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Rattan highlighted items from the Executive Director's report, including the announcements of funding availability for several transportation funding programs and SCCOG's planned HR pilot program. An information session is planned for March 26 which will cover LOTCIP and several other funding opportunities.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business: 2023 SCCOG Annual Report.

MOTION: To approve the Annual Report (DeVivo, Schefers). So voted unanimously.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be April 17, 2024.

15. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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