

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT Minutes of the May 15, 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	-	Preston	-
Jewett City	-	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	-	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: -		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		
CT DOT	Jennifer Pacacha		

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: -. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo. Eversource: Theresa Jackman, Jaquan Samuels, Egzon Balidemaj, Steve Sullivan, Jeff Pugliese. TVCCA: Josh Kelly. Keith Chapman. Department of Housing: Ben Lovejoy.

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.

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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3. Act on Minutes of April 17th Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes (Sparkman, Hedrick). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy noted correspondence from the CT Department of Housing.

6. Public Comment: Mr. Kelly noted the end-of-month deadline for fuel assistance for this past winter and that TVCCA had been awarded ARPA funding for a client support fund. Ms. Jackman noted that a webinar would be held May 21 at 10 AM regarding the July rate adjustments. Mr. Chapman distributed information regarding a municipal staff development program he is offering and asked any interested members to contact him.

7. Guest Speaker: Steve Sullivan, Eversource: Mr. Sullivan walked members through the components of electric rates, noting how each is determined and factors affecting the changes putting place in July. The bulk of the increase comes from public benefits fees which address needs from the last few years. The average monthly customer costs is expected to increase by \$13, though summer bills are usually higher than other months.

A) Public Comment: None.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee:

i) Ms. Kennedy noted that minutes are provided in the packet and that the Executive Committee voted to advance several items.

ii) Amendment: 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

MOTION: To approved the proposed amendment (Cwikla, DeVivo). So voted unanimously

iii) FFY 2023 Section 5310 Grant (Elderly/Disabled Transportation)

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee voted to recommend a prioritization of funds for UCFS, Lebanon, and ECTC's Taxi Voucher program, but that Lebanon has since withdrawn its request for funding. Staff recommends that Colchester take Lebanon's place in the prioritization.

MOTION: To endorse the recommended prioritization of funding (Hedrick, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

iv) Endorsement: Lisbon LOTCIP Project: River Road Improvements. The EC recommended that the Board endorse the current request for LOTCIP funding.

MOTION: To endorse the request for LOTCIP funding (DeVivo, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: -

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: -

D) Military Command Representatives: -

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride reported that Sen. Murphy has sponsored a bill for loan student loan forgiveness for certain categories of farmers and is hosting an info session for high school juniors interested in military academies. Ms. Graham stated that her office is working through request for CDS funding. Mr. Carver noted that Australians are still visiting our region (as part of the AUKUS partnership).

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver reported on several grant and loan programs available to small businesses. He mentioned seCTer's involvement in specific long-term planning efforts.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: -

H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll noted steady ridership. SEAT is rolling out additional microtransit services and hours of operation, with more to come once additional drivers are secured.

I) Regional Water Committee: -

J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Sparkman reminded members to return their MOA paperwork and mentioned that a special meeting will be scheduled to discuss issues related to the sharing of equipment. Ms. Kennedy mentioned that SCCOG was working with DEMHS to support additional Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in the region.

K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: -

L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen congratulated Stonington for the designation of two cultural districts there, served by a single commission.

9. Health Districts: Ms. Muggeo stated that they are in the midst of their relicensure activities. They are receiving information regarding infectious disease, including rabies and the HSN1 flu.

10. Solid Waste Committee: -

11. New Business:

A) TIP Amendments

Ms. Kennedy described the two amendments, which are for signalization projects in Stonington and Waterford, and commuter services. The Executive Committee recommended approval.

MOTION: To approve the TIP amendments (Sparkman, Chmielewski). So voted unanimously.

B) 2025-2028 Transportation Program and Associated Resolutions. The Executive Committee recommended that the Board approve the TIP and resolutions.

MOTION: TO approve TIP and related resolutions (Cwikla, Burt). So voted unanimously.

12. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted items from the Executive Director's report, including

SCCOG will host a Sustainable CT Fellow this summer

SCCOG will reopen the TAP application period, details forthcoming

SCCOG/SECHA will host a housing tour on June 21st, highlighting housing developments in the region.

13. Old Business: None.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be June 18, 2024, which will be a Tuesday, to avoid holding a meeting on the Juneteenth holiday.

15. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Sparkman, Chmielewski). So voted unanimously. The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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