

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Bozrah | Glenn Pianka | New London | Michael Passero |
| Colchester | Bernie Dennler | Norwich | - |
| East Lyme | - | North Stonington | Bob Carlson |
| Franklin | Alden Miner | Preston | Sandra Allyn-Gauthier |
| Griswold | Tina Falck | Salem | Ed Chmielewski |
| Jewett City | - | Sprague | - |
| City of Groton | Keith Hedrick | Town of Stonington | Danielle Chesebrough |
| Town of Groton | John Burt | Stonington Borough | Michael Schefers |
| Lebanon | Kevin Cwikla | Waterford | Rob Brule |
| Ledyard | Fred Allyn | Windham | - |
| Lisbon | Tom Sparkman | SEAT Rep (MPO) | Tom Sparkman |
| Montville | - | | |
| Military Liaisons: | US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: - Capt. Curtin | | |
| Tribal Affiliates: | Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward | | |
| CT DOT | Jennifer Pacacha | | |

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Paige Booth. seCTer: RT Brown. SEAT: Mike Carroll. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: -. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Wendy Vincent. Eastern Regional Tourism District: -. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack. Eversource: Jaquan Samuels. DEMHS: Mike Caplet. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda.

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

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, office@seccog.org.
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3. Act on Minutes of June 18 Meeting:

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

4. Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Kennedy noted that she had been told partial payment of the BRIC grant was in progress.

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

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy noted an email from Alison Dvorak inviting SCCOG members to their 50 year celebration July 24.

6. Public Comment: Josh Kelly (TVCCA) announced a new TVCCA program- Home for Family Bridge- which provides at home post-partum nursing services for Backus births. Jaquan Samuels (Eversource) noted that the rate change occurring will impact customer bills, and that hardship/medical certified customers enrolled with a third party supplier will see their rate go down in July if the Eversource rate is lower than their third party supplier's.

7. Speaker: Helen Zincavage, Director of Regional Planning, re: Regional Open Space Planning: Ms. Zincavage gave an overview of the process for developing SCCOG's regional open space plan, which has been underway since 2022, and a brief summary of the content, which will undergo one final revision pending municipal comments. The plan includes an interactive data dashboard that will enable additional open space to be identified and added to the inventory. The plan outlines regional goals and objectives and corresponding strategies. SCCOG is currently looking for any feedback on the plan and particularly on which strategies should be prioritized. SCCOG staff has been developing additional information regarding access to open space. The plan will be presented to the SCCOG Board for adoption in September.

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) Resolution 25-1: Regional Services Grant.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the resolution is a requirement for receiving OPM funds.

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

iii) Transportation Alternatives Program

Ms. Kennedy brief the Board on the applications submitted, the ranking criteria, and the relative rankings of the two projects.

MOTION: Approve the following prioritization of projects for potential TA funding: 1) Preston 2) Windham (Burt, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

- B) Legislative Committee: Ms. Kennedy noted that a 2024 legislative summary has been distributed to the Board which includes public act information grouped by municipal department or topic area.
 - C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward stated that their facilities are areas to stay cool.
 - D) Military Command Representatives: Capt. Curtin noted the upcoming Summerfest 7/27 which will include fireworks.
 - E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride mentioned Senator Murphy's work re: the LIS Fund Stewardship & Preservation Act. Mr. Carver mentioned an upcoming funding forum.
 - F) seCTer: Mr. Brown noted that seCTer would be collecting information on major economic development projects this fall.
 - G) Eastern CT Tourism District: -
 - H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll noted stable ridership. A labor agreement has been reached which provides competitive wages for drivers. SEAT continues to work on the bus stop program.
 - I) Regional Water Committee: -
 - J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Sparkman reminded members of the MOA deadline and also encouraged them to personally attend the CEO meeting in early September. Mr. Caplet noted that crisis track software had been acquired for use by the municipalities to track damage, and that a severe hurricane season has been predicted.
 - K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Kennedy noted that the RHSCC would meet that Friday 7/19.
 - L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Vincent reported that she had attended information sessions regarding America 250.
 - M) Health Districts: Mr. McCormack had no items of significance to report.Sfs
 - N) Solid Waste Committee: The committee met on July 16th. The report with municipal annexes will be published at the end of July.
9. Old Business:
10. New Business:
- A) TIP Amendments

Ms. Kennedy described the amendments, which were for projects in Norwich and Griswold and for SEAT capital expenses.

MOTION: To approve the TIP amendments (Hedrick, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

11. Executive Director's Report

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

- Receipt of FHWA/FTA Quadrennial Review/Certification
- Recent CTDOT briefings re Gold Star Bridge rehabilitation
- SCCOG (Haggerty) providing interim planning services to Colchester
- SCCOG did not receive the BRIC funding for Yantic river flooding work; we will reapply next cycle with a more defined scope
- SCCOG submitting application for extreme heat funds late summer
- Nominations for Defense Community Champion should be sent to Ms. Kennedy by end of August for review by Executive Committee.

12. Old Business: None.

13. Next Meeting:

September 18, 2024

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Brule). So voted unanimously. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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