

MINUTES OF THE 9/16/09 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: William Ballinger, Bozrah; Linda Hodge, Colchester; Paul Formica, East Lyme; Richard Matters, Franklin; Dennis Popp, City of Groton; Harry Watson, Town of Groton; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Joseph Jaskiewicz, Montville; Nicholas Mullane, North Stonington; Robert Congdon, Preston; Robert Ross, Salem; Donald Maranell, Borough of Stonington; Ronald Millovitsch, Voluntown; Daniel Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Alan Bergren, Norwich; James Fogarty, Salem. Tribal Liaison: William Satti, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. Military Liaison: Captain Mark Denno, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; John Markowicz, seCTer; Jeff Nelson, Governor's Eastern Office; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Ella Bowman, SEAT; Grayson Wright, CONNDOT; Merrill Gerber; Charles Jaskiewicz, Paul Jakubowski, Rick Porth, Sharon Beccini, and others from United Way; Janet Pearce, Covenant Shelter, Cathy Zall, Homeless Hospitality Center, and Bob Davidson, Norwich Community Care Team; two reporters.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Sparkman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 8/19/09:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 7/15/09 (Jaskiewicz, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the September Treasurer's Report (Congdon, Maranell). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director said this was contained in the agenda packet.

8. Guest Speakers: Charles Jaskiewicz, Paul Jakubowski, Rick Porth, United Way

Mr. Jaskiewicz introduced himself, and said that he was honored to be the Chairman of the United Way of SE CT. He then introduced Paul Jakubowski, the President of United Way of SE CT. Mr. Jakubowski commented on the transition that United Way has recently underwent, and underscored the importance of the upcoming United Way campaign. Mr. Jaskiewicz referred to tables distributed to each SCCOG member, and said that United Way had assembled data that shows what United Way programs are being used in each town, and what towns have contributed to previous United Way campaigns. He urged towns to take United Way up on their offer to come out and meet with municipal employees about this campaign.

Mr. Porth introduced himself, and said that he is the President and CEO of United Way of CT. He said they are proud to be partners with the United Way of SE CT. He talked about the importance of their 2-1-1 phone number, and provided statistics about its use by southeastern CT residents.

Sharon Beccini introduced herself and said she works with organized labor. She offered to meet with each town's unions, and then introduced several other United Way staff who distributed folders specific to each SCCOG municipality.

Mr. Jaskiewicz concluded by recognizing Groton Town Manager Mark Oefinger who serves on the United Way board, and Jeff Nelson from the Governor's Eastern Office who works on the United Way State campaign.

Janet Pearce, Covenant Shelter and Cathy Zall, New London Homeless Hospitality Center

Ms. Pearce opened her presentation by stating that there have been several meetings by those who provide services to the region's homeless population. This group is now trying to address how best to plan for overflow of the region's shelters this coming winter, so that no homeless person is forced to remain outside on the coldest nights of the winter when all available shelter space is occupied. She introduced Bob Davidson, who works for the Eastern CT Mental Health Board and who is a member of the Norwich Community Care Team. She then introduced Cathy Zall, who directs the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. Ms. Zall presented their white paper entitled "No Freeze Shelter Proposal" explaining the background of this proposal, and how it would work.

Mr. Congdon asked if funding was in place to pay for the transportation to and operation of the overflow sites. Ms. Zall responded that the projected \$23,500 cost still needs to be raised. Ms. Pearce said that the SCCOG towns should know that they are now asking for assistance in raising these funds.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

The Executive Director stated that the TIP/STIP amendments would be taken up later under New Business; he also said that he inadvertently failed to mention under the written Report of the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee had directed him to write a letter to CONNDOT supporting the position of East Lyme and Waterford concerning future improvements to I-95 in the vicinity of Exits 74 and 75.

B. Legislative Committee

Mr. Maranell said that now that the State budget had been enacted, he expected that the Legislative Committee would now start to develop a legislative agenda for next year. He also reported that the adopted State budget would take the additional cost that motorists pay for Long Island Sound license plates and deposit that funding in the General Fund, as opposed to dedicating it to the cleanup of Long Island Sound as was originally intended.

C. Regional Planning Commission

No report.

D. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

E. Military Command Representative:

Captain Denno reported that next week the SUBASE will be visited by every Admiral in the Navy and by the Secretary of the Navy. He said there will be a ceremony at the SUBASE on Thursday of next week, with the Governor and Secretary of the Navy expected to attend, in recognition of the State funding that has been appropriated for improvements at the SUBASE.

F. Office of Congressman Courtney

Mrs. Contois reported that Congressman Courtney is back in Washington, and that he has been busy on the health care reform issue; noted she had attended the groundbreaking of the ARRA funded Mystic Streetscape project in Stonington; and said her office was attempting to set up a meeting with the Governor on behalf of the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission to determine the status of Route 11.

G. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz said that on September 30th seCTer is holding an Economic Development training session at Groton Town Hall Annex; planning is underway for the reverse site visit to New York in November; they are still trying to promote the PTAC Program for state funding, to match already committed federal funds; and he reported on the most recent SUBASE Coalition meeting.

H. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Markowicz, Vice Chair of the Tourism District reported as a result of the 60% cut in state funding, all District staff have been laid off as of August 25th.

I. SEAT

Ms. Bowman reported that ridership remains stable; and said she wanted to remind that SEAT is responsible for providing paratransit services in the region.

J. Governor's Eastern Office

Mr. Nelson said the Governor is concerned about the need for rescission if State revenues do not go up; reported on the status of the State's Energy Efficient block grants.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director commended Dick Guggenheim who serves as the SCCOG staff United Way campaign coordinator as the past few years staff has participated at 100%; reported that it is anticipated that as a result of the adopted State budget, SCCOG's State Grant In Aid will be reduced from more than \$66,000 annually to around \$13,000, and that he has been in discussion with the Executive Committee concerning how this loss of revenue will be addressed this fiscal year; and reported on the status of the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission bike/pedestrian plan study contract with the State, and with the consultant to prepare the plan. He noted that the Route 11 GAC voted this past Friday to defer entering into a contract with the selected consultant until after a meeting can be held with the Governor and federal and state legislators to determine the status of Route 11.

11. Old Business

A. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Executive Director reported that several MOAs from NECCOG towns need to be executed before current fiscal year funding can be provided to grant recipients, including the three COGs.

B. Regional Intermodal Transportation Center Study

The Executive Director said that the consultant is now working to finalize the plan based on recent input from all stakeholders. The study may be one to two months behind the original schedule to allow input, but should be completed this fall.

C. Regional Water

The Executive Director said the next meeting of the Regional Water Committee will be immediately following the COG meeting.

12. New Business

A. FY 2009 TIP/STIP Amendments

- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, Replace Fareboxes - FY 09, OTH, 2009, \$520,000, New Project.
- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, Facility Security System - FY 09, OTH, 2009, \$250,000, New Project.
- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, AVL/GPS System for Transit, OTH, 2009, \$500,000, New Project.
- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, Facility - Expansion of Office Space - FY 09, ALL, 2009, \$300,000, New Project.
- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, Bus Shelter/Benches/Signage - FY 09, OTH, 2009, \$400,000, New Project.
- . 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, Administrative Capital - FY 09, OTH, 2009, \$200,000, New Project.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2009 TIP/STIP amendments (Congdon, Popp). So voted unanimously.

13). Next Meeting: October 21, 2009.

14). Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. (Steward, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Steward, Secretary

