

MINUTES OF THE 3/30/10 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Gregg Schuster, Colchester; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Robert Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Daniel Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton. Tribal Liaison: William Satti, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Staff: James Butler. Other: Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Congdon called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and noted that Chairman Matters was out of the country.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Guest Speaker: Congressman Joe Courtney

Congressman Courtney said he had asked for this meeting so that he could talk to the SCCOG about the federal budget. He said he wanted to share his concern about budgetary funding for municipal education.

The Congressman said that the Transportation Reauthorization bill has been a struggle because no one has been able to identify a source of funding. He said the gas tax is inadequate. Chairman Oberstar would like to see it reauthorized at \$500 Billion, almost double the amount of funding in SAFETEA-LU. Congressman Courtney noted that gas tax receipts are down. The current transportation act has been extended to the end of 2010.

Congressman Courtney then mentioned earmark requests submitted by local governments. These may be found on his web site. He said the President's freeze on domestic spending will result in a zero sum game that will impact earmarks.

The Congressman said he wanted to focus on Administration Education Reform. He said there is a lot of support to reform No Child Left Behind laws. The President has proposed a budget that flat funds Title 1 and Special Education. Other funding would be provided by competitive grant, which would be problematic to small towns and school districts. He said that it is his position that formula grants like Title 1 and Special Education should be given a boost.

In commenting on today's heavy rain and flooding, Congressman Courtney said he has been in touch with FEMA. If a state of emergency is declared, his office would be happy to provide assistance in seeking disaster relief funding from FEMA.

The Congressman asked Mr. Congdon about the status of the Norwich Hospital property.

Ms. Osten expressed her concern over the future of federal funding for education. She said in Sprague, the municipal budget cannot absorb future increases in funding for education.

Congressman Courtney commented briefly on health care reform and on the proposed Energy bill cap and trade program.

Mr. Congdon thanked the Congressman for meeting with the SCCOG.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Formica, Secretary

