

MINUTES OF THE 2/17/10 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Gregg Schuster, Colchester; Paul Formica, East Lyme; Richard Matters, Franklin; Dennis Popp, City of Groton; James Streeter, Town of Groton; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Nicholas Mullane, North Stonington; Robert Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Ed Haberek, Town of Stonington; Daniel Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Martin Berliner, New London; Alan Bergren, Norwich. Tribal Liaison: William Satti, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Military Liaison: Captain Mark Denno, US Naval SUBASE; Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Liz Crutcher. Other: Ellen Paul, Congressman Courtney's office; John Markowicz, seCTer; Jeff Nelson, Governor's Eastern Office; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Grayson Wright, Tom Borden, CONNDOT; Bob Ross, CT Office of Military Affairs; James Fogarty, SCWA; Chris Clark, Mohegan Tribal Utility; Charles Karno, Ledyard Town Planner; Tim Bowles, Preston Board of Selectmen; two reporters.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Matters led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Executive Director introduced Liz Crutcher, the SCCOG's new GIS Coordinator.

Mr. Allyn introduced Charles Karno, Ledyard's new Town Planner.

4. Act on Minutes 1/19/10:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 1/19/10 (Sparkman, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Guest Speaker: Tom Borden, CONNDOT re: STP Urban Funding

Mr. Borden explained the requirements for this program, which in years past has provided around \$2.4 Million annually to the SCCOG and SCCOG municipalities. The program requires a 10% state and 10% local match to the 80% federal funding. He outlined the process for an STPU funded project including QBS to hire a consultant, possible ROW phase, the Project Development Unit of CONNDOT development of a scope for the improvements. He noted that some regions have a region-wide solicitation for projects.

The Executive Director stated that staff has drafted a policy for future distribution of STP funding that will be provided to the Executive Committee for their review and comment, before being brought to the COG for approval.

Mr. Borden offered to conduct a workshop for municipal officials on the STP funding program. SCCOG members expressed an interest in such a workshop.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Discussion of CONNDOT's Transportation Priority List

The Executive Director noted that several transportation projects important to SCCOG, including Route 11, I-95 improvements, and the Route 2A bridge have been categorized by CONNDOT as long-term major unfunded initiatives. Discussion ensued.

B. Legislative Committee

MOTION: To adopt the 2010 SCCOG Legislative Agenda as recommended by the Legislative Committee (Osten, Haberek). So voted unanimously.

The Executive Director reminded that the SCCOG was scheduled to meet with the region's legislative delegation this coming Friday.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Bunnell invited SCCOG members to meet with the Tribe and legislators in Hartford on February 24th.

D. Military Command Representative:

Captain Denno reported that the dredging had been completed at the SUBASE, and that the dry dock construction was also complete.

E. Office of Congressman Courtney

Ms. Paul reported that SAFETEA-LU was extended by Congress through the end of the month; reminded that appropriations requests were due to the Congressman's DC office by Friday; and said that this Friday the Congressman was hosting the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs in the district.

F. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz reported that DECD has promulgated a State Economic Development Plan; and said that seCTer would be submitting a request to EDA for CEDS update funding.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Markowicz reported that the District has created a public/private partnership to allow the Mystic Visitors Bureau to perform some destination marketing.

H. SEAT

No report.

I. Governor's Eastern Office

Mr. Nelson reported that the Governor's budget adjustment proposal has been made public and he mentioned highlights.

Mr. Sparkman asked if the State Bonding Commission was scheduled to meet anytime soon. Mr. Nelson responded that the February meeting was cancelled and that the Bonding Commission was scheduled to meet next on March 26th. Mr. Sparkman voiced concern over the last two cancellations of meetings by the Bond Commission and asked if the Governor was aware of the impact of not having the Bond Commission approve of the release of Town Aid Road funding to the state's municipalities.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reminded municipalities to respond to the Regional Evaluation survey; and said he had discussed with the Executive Committee the possibility of a Shared Services Forum which he hoped to put together for SCCOG towns this spring.

11. Old Business

A. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

B. Regional Water

The Executive Director reported that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee would meet right after the SCCOG meeting.

C. Status of SCCOG Nominations to the Transportation Strategy Board

The Executive Director reported that a letter had been received noting that Bob Congdon had been appointed to the Transportation Strategy Board.

12. New Business

Mr. Congdon introduced Tim Bowles, new Selectmen for Preston, who will serve as Preston's alternate to the SCCOG.

Mr. Allyn mentioned a proposed bill that would impact the appointment and removal of municipal assessors.

The Executive Director stated that each municipality had been provided a solicitation for the Elderly and Handicapped Demand Responsive Transportation program.

13). Next Meeting: March 17, 2010.

14). Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:29 a.m. (Allyn, Haberek). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Formica, Secretary

