

MINUTES OF THE 4/21/10 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: William Ballinger, Bozrah; Gregg Schuster, Colchester; Richard Matters, Franklin; Phil Anthony, Griswold; Dennis Popp, City of Groton; James Streeter, Town of Groton; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Joseph Jaskiewicz, Montville; Nicholas Mullane, North Stonington; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Daniel Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Martin Berliner, New London; Alan Bergren, Norwich; Timothy Bowles, Preston. Tribal Liaison: William Satti, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; Jeff Nelson, Governor's Eastern Office; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Laurel Holmes, L&M Hospital; John Markowicz, seCTer; Grayson Wright, CONNDOT; Ella Bowman, SEAT; Joe Lanzafame, New London Water and Water Pollution Control Authority; Robert Yust, US Naval SUBASE; Paul Jakubowski, United Way; Merril Gerber, one reporter.

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. Matters led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 3/17/10:

Mr. Bergren stated that he should be noted as in attendance at the March 17th meeting, as well as at the March 30th and April 16th special meetings.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 3/17/10 as corrected (Allyn, Osten). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the April Treasurer's Report (Allyn, Osten). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Guest Speakers: Deb Monahan, TVCCA and Laurel Holmes, L&M Hospital re: New London County Health Collaborative

Ms. Monahan said she was at the meeting in her capacity as chair of the New London County Health Collaborative. She said that the Collaborative consisted of 13 entities, including hospitals, health departments, and social service providers. She said she was here today to reach out to SCCOG municipalities, and to invite them to contact the Collaborative if they need assistance. She discussed the work of the Collaborative in light of the State's fiscal crisis, and said the members have considered what would happen if this resulted in basic human health services not being provided. Ms. Monahan reported that TVCCA has received permission from DSS to use energy assistance funds to repair and replace boilers and burners that were damaged by the recent floods. Ms. Holmes also discussed the work of the Health Collaborative.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Consideration of STP-Urban Program Funding Applications

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee reviewed 13 projects submitted by 7 municipalities applying for STP Urban program funding. Several of the projects were not recommended for funding because they involved substantial roadway improvement projects for which no design had yet been done and therefore they could not be obligated this fiscal year (New London's Shaw Street and Ocean Avenue projects), or because the State informed SCCOG that there is no identifiable funding for the construction of the project (Norwich's P.E. of Route 82 widening). He said that SCCOG has learned that the Town of Groton's project at the intersection of Crystal Lake Road and Route 12 did not meet CONNDOT's minimum cost of a construction project (\$100,000), so that project was removed from the Executive Committee's recommended list of projects. The Executive Committee has therefore recommended to the full SCCOG 9 projects totaling \$1,696,144 in preliminary cost estimates, recognizing that CONNDOT's Project Development unit will review these cost estimates and may place higher costs on individual projects, thus requiring additional funding from the SCCOG's anticipated \$2.5 Million this year. The Executive Committee did say that the Executive Committee did discuss a CONNDOT recommended contingency plan should it not be possible to see obligated all of the region's STP-Urban funding allocation on the recommended projects.

MOTION: To endorse the ranked list of projects requesting STP Urban funding from CONNDOT as recommended by the Executive Committee (Osten Steward). So voted unanimously.

2. ARRA Funding Re-Allocation

The Executive Director said that the Executive Committee has discussed potential options for expenditure of any excess ARRA funding that might become available due to the favorable bids that are being received. He noted that the Town of Groton and City of Groton have not yet completed their bid process.

3. Draft Resolution No. 10-2, Relating to a Transportation Planning Grant

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 10-2, Relating to a Transportation Planning Grant (Mullane, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

4. FY 2010 TIP/STIP Amendment

The Chairman noted this item would be taken up under New Business.

B. Legislative Committee

Mr. Mullane stated that CCM has provided member municipalities with a one page listing of unfunded State mandates that are being eliminated, and a six to seven page list of unfunded mandates that are being added.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Satti reported that the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation will celebrate the milestone of \$3 Billion contributed to the State with an event to be held on May 12th.

D. Military Command Representative:

No report.

E. Office of Congressman Courtney

Ms. Contois reported that a disaster declaration request has been sent by the Governor to FEMA, but no federal declaration has yet been made. Once this declaration is made, claims can be made for losses incurred during the recent floods. She then talked about the 2010 Census and reported on top constituent concerns and provided a handout that answered frequently asked questions about the Census.

Mr. Bowles asked Ms. Contois why Connecticut was lagging behind other states in requesting a disaster declaration after the recent floods. He said Rhode Island tacked it onto their request for a previous storm. He also commented on the Census and said it is important that the magnitude of the problem with the Census survey distribution be addressed.

F. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz reported on a proposed House bill that would be created Economic Development Districts in the state; seCTer's application to EDA for funding for a new CEDS is pending; reported on the interest of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development to participate in the CEDS process because of their desire to obtain funding for an incubator project at UCONN Avery Point; reported that the State match for the PTAP program has been reduced resulting in the

loss of two staff positions; and that the Business Development Committee is beginning to plan a fall visit to the region by site selection consultants.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Markowicz stated that towns have vacant seats they can appoint members to on the District board; the formation of the Greater Mystic Visitors Bureau has been finalized.

H. SEAT

Ms. Bowman reported that SEAT recently became a designated grant recipient for funds from FTA and that SEAT recently submitted a \$2 Million grant request for bus replacement to FTA. She also reported that there have been cutbacks in Saturday service due to a reduction in social services funding and an expected reduction in Jobs Access funding.

I. Governor's Eastern Office

Mr. Nelson said that the Governor wants to warn homeowners that had damage in the floods of repair scams; a low interest loan program and appliance assistance program has been expanded to include purchase of appliances that are energy star and that replace flood damaged appliances; and that CONNDOT will be adding three more SLE trains on weekdays, and that there are ongoing discussions between CONNDOT and the marine trades association on this issue.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director noted he had distributed copies of the RITC Study Executive Summary to all members attending the meeting.

11. Old Business

A. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Executive Director reported that the REPT Steering Committee would be meeting on April 28th to finalize its recommended FY 2009 Spending Plan and that the REPT itself is scheduled to meet in May.

B. Regional Water

The Executive Director reported that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee meeting for this month had been cancelled.

12. New Business

A. FY 2010 TIP/STP Amendments

- 0170-2776, Various, Statewide, Surface Transportation Program Funds for Engineering/Scope and Project Development, PE 2010, - \$150,000, Delete Project.

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2010 TIP/SIP amendment deleting Project 0170-2776 (Jaskiewicz, Steward). So voted unanimously.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any other new business.

Mr. Allyn asked the chief elected officials present that if they were to be contacted by Ledyard Town Councilors requesting the possibility of outsourcing services to Ledyard that they please contact him. He stated that Ledyard is cutting services, and said he hoped if this continued there would be opportunities for employment in other SCCOG towns of Ledyard staff whose jobs are being reduced in hours forcing them to look elsewhere for full time employment.

Mr. Matters said that few years back he had asked staff to look into the creation of a SCCOG land use staff including a Building Official, ZEO, and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, who towns could contract for services that are needed, similar to what is now done with SCCOG staff planners. At the time there was not enough interest, but asked if now there might be enough interest in towns getting together to discuss this option. Staff was asked to poll the SCCOG members of their interest.

Ms. Osten said that the continuing fiscal crisis and budget discussions have resulted in municipal employees becoming demoralized, a problem that she predicted will be ongoing.

Mr. Bowles asked if municipal job openings could be posted on the SCCOG web site.

Mr. Oefinger suggested that the SCCOG inventory what impacts budget cuts have had once budgets are finalized. He noted that the Town of Groton could be laying off 16-20 people this year. He recommended that towns look at the potential to combine some basic services.

Discussion of the business climate in Connecticut ensued.

Mr. Mullane suggested that the region could use a person who would scan all grant opportunities and notify which towns are eligible, and assist in the preparation of municipal grant applications.

13). Next Meeting: May 20, 2010.

14). Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. (Jaskiewicz, Bergren). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Formica, Secretary

