

MINUTES OF THE 5/20/10 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Paul Formica, East Lyme; Richard Matters, Franklin; Phil Anthony, Griswold; Dennis Popp, City of Groton; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Joseph Jaskiewicz, Montville; 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. Military Liaison: Captain Mark Denno, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; Jeff Nelson, Governor's Eastern Office; John Markowicz, seCTer; James Fallon, Peter Talarico, Thomas Borden, Hugh Hayward, Grayson Wright, CONNDOT; Ella Bowman, SEAT; Ed Dombrowskas, Eastern CT Tourism District; Robert Yust, US Naval SUBASE; Merrill Gerber, Mike Zappone, Northeast Utilities; Donna Barber Dunn, Daniel Hagan, Ann Hazinet, Corinne Finnegan, CL&P; James Fogarty, SCWA; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:34 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 4/21/10:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/21/10 (Allyn, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Guest Speakers: Michael Zappone, Northeast Utilities, Daniel Hagan, CL&P

Mr. Zappone addressed the COG regarding the steps NU takes to prepare for a storm. Mr. Hagan spoke to CL& P's storm readiness. A question and answer session followed their presentations.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. FY 2010 STP-Urban Program Funding Re-Allocation
2. ARRA Funding Re-Allocation

The Executive Director asked that the SCCOG take these two items up together because they were connected. He introduced the members of CONNDOT who were present to assist in the discussion of these items. He then noted that the City of Groton opened their bids for the Bridge Street Streetscape project yesterday, which is an ARRA funded job. The project's low bid was \$1,334,752, which is less than the \$1,530,000 base bid estimated by CONNDOT. However, when contingencies, inspection, state fee, etc., and an add-alternative for paving is included, the project total will now be \$1,941,925. This requires the application of an additional \$411,925 to the ARRA funds previously allocated to this project. The Executive Director then explained that without knowing the Bridge Street Streetscape project bid, the Executive Committee had held a special meeting on Monday, and had prepared a recommendation to the full SCCOG regarding both the ARRA and STP-Urban funding re-allocation. This recommended action was contained in a memo from the Executive Committee dated May 17th, a copy of which was placed at every SCCOG member's seat today. The fact that the City of Groton job will cost more than originally estimated by CONNDOT will require some adjustment to that recommended action. He outlined three options as follows:

- 1) Apply \$411,925 in STP-Urban funding to the City of Groton Bridge Street Streetscape project, which would require an approximate \$41,000 local match (80% federal, 10% state, 10% local).
- 2) Retain the application of, as opposed to release as recommended by the Executive Committee on Monday, \$350,000 in State Bridge Bond funds on the Town of Groton Mystic Streetscape project, freeing up this amount in regional ARRA funding to be applied to the City of Groton Bridge Street Streetscape project, then applying an additional \$61,925 in STP-U funding to the Bridge Street Streetscape job, only requiring a local match of approximately \$6,100. The State would then release \$342,772 from the Town of Stonington Mystic Streetscape project and instead apply \$643,600 in HPP funding which has an 80% federal, 20% local match requirement, which would result in the Town of Stonington having a local match of \$128,720 for the project, which the Town has been aware of and for which it has budgeted.

- 3) The State would apply \$200,000 in State ARRA Enhancement funds to the City of Groton's \$411,925 shortfall, with the remaining \$211,925 being applied from the region's STP-U funds, requiring an approximate \$21,900 local match.

The Executive Director noted that he had two telephone conversations this morning with Jen Trio of CONNDOT's Capital Services unit, and that CONNDOT finds any of the options acceptable, but urges the region to act today if possible because the SCCOG's action impacts the re-programming of funding statewide.

Mr. Berliner voiced his disappointment that CONNDOT could not work to see obligated this fiscal year the two sidewalk and two pavement rehab jobs that SCCOG had submitted for STP-U funding. Mr. Congdon and Ms. Osten stated their agreement with Mr. Berliner. The Executive Director noted CONNDOT's cooperation with SCCOG and municipal staff toward the best solution for use of both the ARRA funds and STP-U funds this fiscal year. Mr. Hayward of CONNDOT said he understood the towns' frustration, but mentioned the amount of work that the ARRA funding imposed upon the Department of Transportation.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Mullane asked staff for his recommended option. The Executive Director said he personally did not have a recommended option, but said that from a regional standpoint, Option 2 made the most sense because it was consistent with the SCCOG's previous actions in applying STP-U funding to projects in Waterford, which is no longer needed, and New London, to ensure that the region's ARRA funded projects did not require any local match. He further noted that while Option 2 did not reduce the local match for the Town of Stonington which would have resulted if the Executive Committee's recommended action were approved, the Town of Stonington was able to access "extra" funding for which they were aware of and had budgeted for the local match of \$128,720. Mr. Haberek agreed that this was accurate. Mr. Congdon then asked Mr. Popp if the City of Groton could agree to absorb the approximate \$21,900 local match of STP-U funding as required by Option 3. Mr. Popp answered in the affirmative.

MOTION: To approve of the reallocation of \$426,368 in excess ARRA funding to the Town of Groton Streetscape project, with CONNDOT reprogramming \$34,832 in leftover ARRA Enhancement funds to this project as well, and to approve of the release \$350,000 in State Bridge Bonds from this project; to approve of the release of \$342,772 in HPP funds for the Town of Stonington Mystic Streetscape project, thus reducing the local contribution by \$68,554; and to approve of the application of \$200,000 in State ARRA Enhancement funds to the City of Groton Bridge Street Streetscape project, the low bid for which just came in at \$411,925 more than the \$1,530,000 previously allocated for this project, and to make up this difference by applying \$211,925 in FY STP-Urban funding (requiring 10% local match) available to the region to this project.

Furthermore, to approve of the re-allocation of any remaining FY 2010 STP-U funding after funding is applied to the City of Groton Bridge Street Streetscape project as noted above; to the Phase I ARRA funded Montauk Avenue Phase I project in New London (federal share \$358,390); and to the P.E. for the Sherman Street bridge project in Norwich (estimated by Norwich to cost \$186,500; estimate under review by CONNDOT Project Development Unit); and to the P.E. for the Submarine Base Gateway and Bikeway project in the Town of Groton, estimated by the Town to cost \$340,000 and contingent upon the Project Development Unit at CONNDOT and the Town of Groton completing the process necessary to see this project obligated this fiscal year; to the installation of traffic signals at six locations in the region (Franklin – Route 32/New Park Avenue; Montville – Route 82/Route 163; Waterford – Route 1/Strosberg Road; Griswold – Route 138 at I-395 NB On-Ramp; Groton – Route 1/ Meridian Street; and East Lyme – Route 156/Giants Neck Road) estimated by CONNDOT to cost \$200,000 each; and any remaining FY 2010 STP-U funds to the Bridge Replacement project at Bitgood Road over the Pachaug River in Griswold. It is noted that SCCOG has requested that CONNDOT fully fund the traffic signal at Route 156/Giants Neck Road in East Lyme with FY 2010 STP-U funds requiring no local match, as it proposes to do with the other five locations (Congdon, Popp). So voted unanimously.

3. 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. FY 2010-2012 Unified Planning Work Program

MOTION: To approve the FY 2010-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

4. DEMHS MOU with NECCOG and WINCOG

The Executive Director stated that this MOU was for FY 2009 funding. He said that WINCOG will remain the lead agency, and that this agreement will realize \$47,000 in funding to the SCCOG.

MOTION: To approve of the execution of the DEMHS MOU with NECCOG and WINCOG (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Regional Revaluation Survey

The Executive Director stated that the agenda packet contained the summary of the survey responses received regarding interest in shared or regional revaluation. Several SCCOG members noted they are in the process of going out to bid at this time.

B. Legislative Committee

Mr. Mullane asked that the SCCOG Legislative Committee be convened to review what the General Assembly did and did not accomplish this year. Mr. Formica asked the legislators be reminded about the conveyance tax bill and the hotel tax bill that would have created revenue for towns and regions. The SCCOG asked that the Chairman send a letter to President Pro Tempore of the Senate Donald Williams reminding him of the importance of these bills.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representative:

No report.

E. Office of Congressman Courtney

Mr. Haberek, on behalf of Ms. Contois who had to leave, said that FEMA had received 2000 additional claims from the state concerning the May flooding. Discussion took place. The Executive Director said he was recently contacted by FEMA regarding the five-year update to the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan. He is looking into what this will entail in terms of SCCOG resources.

F. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz reported that EDA has accepted seCTer's proposal for the CEDS update and that they hope to begin work on July 1; the General Assembly approved of legislation creating Economic Development Districts; and seCTer staff visited site consultants in New York City to begin planning a visit this fall to southeastern Connecticut by site consultants.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Dombroskas said the Tourism District remains concerned about the second year of no State funding; and reported on June 1 they will be launching a new website which is the result of a public and private partnership.

H. SEAT

No report.

I. Governor's Eastern Office

Mr. Nelson said that the Governor has signed the budget agreement.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that we have received the State Grant-In-Aid form OPM, but that it is in the amount of \$10,000 which is less than the \$66,000 the region has been receiving and for which he budgeted.

11. Old Business

A. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reported that the REPT will meet on May 26th to act on the proposed FY 2009 spending plan.

B. Regional Water

The Executive Director reported that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee will meet after the COG meeting.

12. New Business

Mr. Formica expressed his disappointment with the Governor and the leadership of the General Assembly for painting a rosy picture on the budget agreement that was reached. Mr. Allyn and Mr. Mullane agreed, and said that the State needs to be addressing next year's budget issues now. Discussion of the State's budget problems took place.

13. Next Meeting: June 16, 2010.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. (Lyden, Berliner). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Formica, Secretary

