

MINUTES OF THE 1/19/10 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AT SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: William Ballinger, Bozrah; Gregg Schuster, Colchester; Paul Formica, East Lyme; Richard Matters, Franklin; Philip Anthony, Griswold; James Streeter, Town 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; Ronald Millovitsch, Voluntown; Daniel Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Martin Berliner, New London; Alan Bergren, Norwich. Tribal Liaison: William Satti, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; John Markowicz, seCTer; Jeff Nelson, Governor's Eastern Office; Grayson Wright, CONNDOT; Robert Yust, US Naval SUBASE; Larry Englisher, James Wensley, TranSystems; 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.

The Executive Director announced that Gerry Amt, who served as Assistant Director of SCRPA/SCCOG for more than thirty years, passed away last Friday. In Mr. Amt's memory, a moment of silence was observed.

4. Act on Minutes 12/16/09:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/16/09 (Sparkman, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director highlighted the letter from CONNDOT in the agenda packet authorizing the SCCOG to proceed with the Route 11 Bike/Pedestrian Path Study.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution No. 10-1, Concerning Proposed Stream Flow Regulations

The Executive Director stated that this resolution was recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has added language to an earlier resolution adopted by the SCCOG, and suggests this be delivered by the SCCOG to DEP at a public hearing on their proposed stream flow regulations on January 21.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 10-1, Concerning Proposed Stream Flow Regulations (Sparkman, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

Mr. Mullane suggested that the resolution also be sent to the region's legislative delegation.

B. Legislative Committee

The Executive Director reported that no date for a Legislative Committee meeting has been set yet. He said he would contact the Chair and ask him to do so.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Satti said that MPTN Chairman Rodney Butler asked him to thank the SCCOG members who attended the gathering with him in December.

Mr. Allyn asked about the Tribe's co-generation project and Mr. Satti said he would ask Tribal Planner Bob Birmingham to contact him with information.

D. Military Command Representative:

No report.

E. Office of Congressman Courtney

Ms. Contois reported that the Congressman's office has been working with local Haitian families to expedite passport issuance; she has spoken to CONNDOT recently and there is no definitive information about the status of Route 11 at this time; she stated that the Congressional delegation had e-mailed an appropriations request form to all municipalities and RPOs.

F. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz reported that funding for PTAP was on track for the time being; seCTer's Personnel and Executive Committees have reviewed the proposed budget

and recommended same to the seCTer board; he said he has established a dialogue with EDA concerning the CEDS update; and the loan programs are fully subscribed.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Markowicz reported on contracts in place.

H. SEAT

No report.

I. Governor's Eastern Office

Mr. Nelson reported the caseloads of DSS are up 18%; reported on the Governor's rescission and deficit mitigation plans and discussions with the legislature related to the current state budget.

Mr. Sparkman asked about a December 2nd memo from Commissioner Danaher regarding Resident State Trooper overtime being invoiced at 70% of actual overtime, with 100% for fringe. He said these fees will be problematic because municipal budgets have already been drafted based on a previous interpretation by the State's Attorney General stating that towns are only required to pay 70% of the costs.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG hosted a meeting of the Regional Film Commission. Mr. Steward described the meeting as an organizational meeting, with the next meeting scheduled for March 8th, at 9:00 a.m., at seCTer.

The Executive Director said that he had received a request for an administrative action on two TIP/STIP items, and since these involved ARRA funding he wanted to alert the SCCOG before he approved of them. One would add an additional \$800,000 in ARRA funding from a statewide pool to the Mystic Streetscape Project in the Town of Groton; the other would add \$500,000 to the Mystic Streetscape Project in the Town of Stonington from the same pool of funds. He stated that only enhancement projects are eligible for these funds, so CONNDOT has advised him that no other ARRA projects in the region would be eligible for this funding. No one on the SCCOG voiced disagreement with the Executive Director approving of these administrative actions.

The Executive Director referred to an e-mail he distributed to all SCCOG members present, in which he replied to Representative Brendan Sharkey's e-mailed invitation to participate in the Blue Ribbon Commission on municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies. He said he had informed Representative Sharkey that the fact that the commission has been announced as being comprised of only the 45 Democratic members of the House of Representatives would preclude him from participating, because the work of the SCCOG is non-partisan.

10. Old Business

A. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

B. Regional Water

The Executive Director reported that today's meeting of the SCCOG Regional Water Committee had been cancelled.

Mr. Formica thanked Congressman Courtney and the Mohegan Tribe, specifically Chris Clark, for their support of funding toward the East Lyme/New London interconnection project.

C. TSB Nominations

The Executive Director reported that he has sent several e-mails to the TSB Manager asking him to request that the TSB Chairman contact the legislature's Transportation Committee co-chairs, which are the appointing authority, about the continuing vacancy on the TSB from the Southeast TIA.

11. New Business

A. TIP/STIP Amendments

- 0170-2776, Various, Statewide, Surface Transportation Program funds for Engineering/Scope & Project Development, PE, 2010, \$150,000, move from FFY 2009 to FFY 2010.
- 0152-0151, I-395, Waterford, Pavement Preservation; east Lyme, Waterford & Montville, CON, 2010, \$5,354,000, increase FFY 2010 estimate from Federal \$1.15M.

MOTION: To approve of the TIP/STIP Amendments (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously

B. Town Aid Road Allotments

Discussion took place regarding the State's inclusion of these funds in the state bonding package, as opposed to these being line items in the operating budget.

Mr. Haberek suggested this be referred to the Executive Committee for discussion and the possible drafting of a letter to the state.

After additional discussion, it was agreed that staff and the Chairman could draft a letter and send it on the SCCOG behalf. Mr. Lyden suggested the letter request the status of the TAR

funding as municipalities need it now, and ask that this be placed on the February agenda of the Bond Commission.

MOTION: To have the Chairman send a letter to the Governor requesting the status of the TAR funding as municipalities need it now, and asking that this item be placed on the February agenda of the Bond Commission. (Congdon, Haberek). So voted unanimously.

D. Presentation by SCCOG Consultant on Regional Intermodal Transportation Master Plan and Efficiency Study

Larry Englisher of TranSystems gave a Power Point presentation with the recommendations for the Regional Intermodal Transportation Center in New London.

13). Next Meeting: February 17, 2010.

14). Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:56 a.m. (Congdon, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Formica, Secretary

