

MINUTES OF THE 6/15/11 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; Marian Galbraith, City of Groton; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Joseph Jaskiewicz, Montville; Martin Olsen, New London; Nicholas Mullane, North Stonington; Robert Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Alan Bergren, Norwich; Tim Bowles, Preston. Military Liaison: Robert Yust, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Other: John Markowicz, seCTer; Jenny Contois, Congressman Courtney's office; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Ed Dombraskas, Eastern CT Tourism District; Nancy Buckley, Kevin Hennessy, Dominion.

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. Congdon led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 5/25/11:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 5/25/11 (Sparkman, Steward). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. FY 2011 Budget Amendment

The Executive Director stated that as is annually done, the budget has been analyzed and recommended for adjustment based on changes in revenue and associated

expenditures. This is necessitated by the fact that the budget is prepared 18 months before the end of the fiscal year. He said the proposed amended budget was contained in the agenda packet, and that the Executive Committee had recommended its approval.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2011 Budget amendment as recommended by the Executive Committee (Oefinger, Sparkman).

2. SCCOG Interaction with SEAT

The Executive Director stated that the Executive Committee has discussed inviting the SEAT board to another retreat as was held several years ago. The Committee first plans to meet with CONNDOT to discuss best practices in transit around the state.

B. Legislative Committee

Mr. Schuster said he had nothing to report.

C. SCCOG Retreat Implementation Committee

Mr. Sparkman reported that the Committee would be interviewing consultants this coming Friday.

D. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

E. Military Command Representative:

Mr. Yust said he had nothing to report.

F. Office of Congressman Courtney

Ms. Contois stated that her office was planning a Route 11 Stakeholders meeting to be held July 20th at the SCCOG office.

G. seCTer

Mr. Markowicz stated that they had pretty much finished meeting with chief elected officials and other stakeholders as part of the CEDS update; still working with DLA over a financial issue from five years ago; serving as a host to the Emerging Foundations event being sponsored by CMEEC, CL&P, NU, and Yankee Gas on June 21 in Norwich.

H. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Markowicz stated that he is the incoming Chairman of the District and that former Chair Tim Ford will serve as Vice Chair; the District is still waiting to see if it will receive State funding in the upcoming fiscal year; and at the District's Annual Meeting on June 1, the District voted to delete from their Bylaws the Greater Mystic Visitor's Bureau.

I. SEAT

No report.

J. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

The Executive Director reported that the June meeting of the Committee had been cancelled and that the next meeting will be held on July 7th.

K. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Congdon stated that at their May meeting, the REPT adopted its next year's budget.

L. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Mr. Bowles reported that the RHSCC met in June and received a presentation on the CEDS update from Deb Donovan from seCTer. He said the Council had received a letter from Mashantucket Pequot Chairman Rodney Butler requesting that Michelle Watson be appointed to the RHSCC to represent the Tribe. The next meeting of the Council is July 15th. Ms. Donovan reported that all of the region's social service agencies are now awaiting the impact of the federal continuing resolution and adoption of the State budget, and that she is anticipating a severe reduction in funding for home heating oil assistance.

MOTION: To appoint Michelle Watson representing the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to the SCCOG Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (Osten, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director announced that they have received approval from HUD to proceed with the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning initiative, and that the five main partners in the consortium interviewed consultants yesterday for this job. He expects that they will have named a consultant within the next two weeks.

The Executive Director stated that planning had started on the holding of a SCCOG Gala this fall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of SCRPA/SCCOG. The

committee planning this event and others includes Bob Congdon, Mark Oefinger, Executive Director Emeritus Dick Erickson, and SCCOG staff Wendy Leclair and himself. He noted that he had placed at every member's seat a sheet entitled "This Month in SCRPA/SCCOG History – June", and that he planned to produce one of these every month for the rest of the anniversary year. He also pointed out a display in the meeting room of old SCRPA/SCCOG reports illustrating the agency's previous work.

The Executive Director reported that they had received word from CONNDOT that both of the region's Section 5310 applications had been funded, resulting in Colchester and Easter Seals receiving funding to purchase new handicapped accessible vans.

The Executive Director noted that staff had attended a meeting at CONNDOT earlier this month where it was announced that the Route 11 project will not appear in the State TIP for at least 2 years, and that the new Route 2A bridge should be in the revised forthcoming State TIP.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

Mr. Allyn announced that Ledyard is celebrating its 175th anniversary, and he invited all SCCOG members to attend Ledyard Night at Dodd Stadium on June 22nd.

Mr. Steward asked Nancy Buckley of Dominion to introduce Kevin Hennessy, who is Dominion's new Director of State and Local Affairs in New England.

14. Next Meeting: July 20, 2011.

15. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:56 a.m. (Osten, Jaskiewicz). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Lyden, Secretary

