

MINUTES OF THE 2/15/11 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; John Rodolico, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Robert Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Ed Haberek, Town of Stonington; Ron Millovitsch, Voluntown; Dan Steward, Waterford; Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; Alan Bergren, Norwich; Timothy Bowles, Preston; Denise Dembinski, Sprague. Military Liaison: Captain Mark Denno, Robert Yust, US Naval SUBASE; RADM Sandra Stosz, LCDR Anna Hickey, Lt. Lindsey Seniuk, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Virginia Graham, Sharon Pettini, United Way of SE CT; Tony Sheridan, Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce; John Beauregard, Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board; Ella Bowman, SEAT; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Jane Glover, City of New London; Chris Clark, Mohegan Tribal Utility; Ed Dombroskas, Eastern CT Tourism District; Nancy Buckley, Dominion; two reporters.

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: The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 1/18/12:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of and 1/18/12 (Osten, McDaniel). 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:

The Executive Director said the one communication in the packet would be discussed under the Executive Committee's report.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. Transportation Enhancement Program Applications

The Executive Director reported on the three priority projects that the Executive Committee voted on to send to CONNDOT. These were:

- 1) Bluff Point to Preston Tri-Town Trail (northern section), Town of Ledyard, \$350,000
- 2) Shennecossett Road Multi-Use Pathway Link, City of Groton, \$316,133
- 3) Maritime Museum at Union Station (Phase I), City of New London, \$357,867

He said the Executive Committee directed that a fourth project be forwarded to CONNDOT in the event that one of the prioritized three was to fall out during CONNDOT's review. That project was:

- 4) Improvements to the Heritage Riverfront Trail, City of Norwich, \$300,000

2. SEAT/SCWA Proposed Legislation Follow-Up

The Executive Director stated that he has had no conversations or communications regarding the proposed legislation regarding SEAT, but that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee has reviewed the proposed legislation concerning SCWA. He has discussed this legislation with staff the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), DEEP and DPH. He has set up a meeting with the CWWA for Friday, and hopes to meet with staff of DPH and DEEP to discuss this as well.

3. FY 2010 TIP/STIP Amendments

Taken up under agenda item 11.A. New Business.

B. Legislative Committee

Mr. Schuster stated he had no further report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representative:

Rear Admiral Stosz thanked the SCCOG members for the warm welcome and support. She said she was looking forward to a long and enduring relationship with the region.

Captain Denno reported that with the assistance of Bob Ross, the SUBASE conducted an event for the Chamber's Leadership Development Committee to allow participants to see what the military means to the region.

E. Office of Congressman Joseph Courtney

No report.

F. seCTer

Mr. Oefinger stated that seCTer Executive Director John Markowicz remains out of work on medical leave. He said the SUBASE Coalition is tentatively planning a meeting for February 23rd at the Fort Trumbull Visitor's Center in New London, where Congressman Courtney will provide an update on the possibility of a BRAC.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Dombroskas commented on how a visit by Kim Kardashian to SE CT last year increased interest in the region; noted that DECD has released information on its Challenge Grant Awards.

H. SEAT

Ms. Bowman stated that ridership remains stable with over 100,000 trips being taken per month; she stated that at the SEAT meeting later this month the SEAT Board is scheduled to vote on a fare increase that would go into effect during March.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Chris Clark, member of the SCCOG Regional Water Committee, said a draft of the update of the regional response plan is due from the consultant next Friday.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman referred to the letter he had sent to Governor Malloy on behalf of the REPT concerning delays in release of funding. He said the letter resulted in a meeting with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Director of Homeland Security for the State which he attended along with WINCOG Executive Director Mark Paquette. It was explained to them that the merger of DPS and Homeland Security was not the cause of the delay, but rather the two significant storm events that occurred caused their financial staff to be diverted to other duties.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan said the RHSCC was planning on holding an informational event for the SCCOG on April 26th.

The Chairman then introduced John Beauregard, Executive Director of the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board, who had a presentation to make to the COG.

Mr. Beauregard thanked the SCCOG for the support provided over the years, then referred to a handout he had provided and made a presentation entitled "A Snapshot of the SE/CT labor Market".

The Chairman recognized Tony Sheridan, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT who was in attendance.

The Chairman called on Virginia Mason, President of the United Way of Southeastern CT, who introduced Sharon Pettini. Ms. Pettini referred to a handout she had distributed and summarized the United Way's Project Warm-Up fuel assistance program.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director presented the mid-year SCCOG financial report; stated that SCCOG staff would be mailing a survey to the region's planners regarding OPM's State Plan of Conservation and Development cross acceptance program which SCCOG has been tasked to administer; and asked that a Transportation Authorizing Resolution be added to the agenda under New Business.

MOTION: To add Resolution No. 12-1, Relating to a Transportation Planning Grant, to the agenda under New Business (Sparkman, Osten). So voted unanimously.

11. Old Business

Mr. Formica commented upon a letter he received outlining State Trooper fringe benefit costs that towns with resident Troopers must pay. He suggested a concerted effort by resident Trooper towns to see this reduced. Mr. Mullane suggested this cost increase for fringe was related to the State Police trying to recover some of the costs associated with Trooper Overtime rates.

12. New Business

A. 2010 TIP/STIP Amendments

- 0172-0412, Various, District 2, Epoxy Pavement Markings - Interstate Routes (2012), CON, 2012, \$952,000, Increase Est. From Fed \$857,000.
- 0172-0413, Various, District 2, Epoxy Pavement Markings - Non-Interstate Routes (2012), CON, 2012, \$952,000, Increase Est. From Fed \$762,000.

- 0172-0409, US Route 1, District 2, Boston Post Road Corridor Plan, PL, 2012, \$300,000, New Project.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed FY 2010 TIP/STIP amendments (Sparkman, Haberek). So voted unanimously.

Ms. Osten questioned the increase in cost for the two pavement marking programs. The Executive Director informed her they have passed on her and the SCCOG's concerns about delays and cost increases in local transportation projects to staff at CONNDOT.

B. Resolution No. 12-1, Relating to a Transportation Planning Grant

MOTION: To approve of Resolution No. 12-1, Relating to a Transportation Planning Grant (Congdon, McDaniel) So voted unanimously.

Mr. Sheridan announced release of the State's study of broadband access, and said he would send it to SCCOG staff for distribution to SCCOG members.

12. Next Meeting: March 21, 2012.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. (Osten, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Ballinger, Secretary

