



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Regional Planning Committee

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 – 6:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members:

Chester	Mike Sanders *
	Cindy Lignar
Clinton	Alan Kravitz *
	Martin Jaffe
Cromwell	Nick Demetriades *
	Anthony LaCava *
Deep River	Bruce Edgerton *
	Tony Bolduc *
Durham	Frank DeFelice *
East Haddam	Crary Brownell
	Lou Salicrup
East Hampton	Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex	Jane Siris *
	Sandra Childress *
Haddam	Raul deBrigard *
	Maurice Adams *
Killingworth	Alec Martin *
	Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone *
	Humphrey Tyler *
Middlefield	Paul Pizzo *
Middletown	Beth Emery *
	Kellin Atherton *
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook	Douglas McCracken *
	Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Mary Dickerson *
Westbrook	Bill Neale *
	Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Megan Jouflas
Margot Burns
Kevin Armstrong

RiverRPC

Ben Lovejoy

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Sam Gold called the roll

3. Seating of Alternates – None

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. deBrigard moved to adopt the agenda; second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Approval of the Minutes of 2/22/21 Regular Meeting and 3/9/21 Special Meeting

Ms. Emery moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 regular meeting; second by Mr. Neale. Vote was unanimous in favor with Mr. McCracken and Mr. Kravitz abstaining.

Ms. Emery moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 special meeting; second by Ms. Siris. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Review of Member Comments on First Draft of RPOCD

Ms. Jouflas gave a short presentation on the purpose and intended audience of the plan and maps, the level of specificity, how to use the Existing Conditions report and summary, an explanation of the SWOT Analysis process used, and the QA/QC involved in the initial draft.

Mr. Gold discussed the addition of information in the introduction. There will be a discussion on writing a plan during a pandemic and a sidebar that explains how the plan is intended to be used.

Plan comments concerning spelling, grammar, typos will be addressed directly by RiverCOG and FHI and not discussed during this meeting. Other more high-level concept comments were then addressed in detail via group discussion. The spreadsheet containing these comments is also attached to these minutes.

There was discussion on including an implementation table which will include a metric for success on a few large topics. This would give a benchmark for measurements over the next decade and begin work on a future plan. There was discussion on goal identifying/setting based on the implementation table.

a. Next Steps and RPOCD Hearing and Adoption Process

Ms. Jouflas addressed this during the slides at the beginning of the discussion, the deck of which is attached to these minutes.

8. Miscellaneous: State, Regional and/or Local Planning Issues

In response to a question about the topic, Mr. Gold explained the process that Connecticut is currently going through to have the planning regions federally recognized as county equivalents. This will make census data align with the COGs in the state and also make it so that when federally funded programs are used, the first selectmen of our towns will make decisions regarding that funding rather than having it go through state government. This is already in CT State Statutes.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Neale moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm; second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti (not present during the meeting)