



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments And Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 9, 2022

RiverCOG Members;

Chester: Charlene Janecek *
Clinton: Karl Kilduff *
Cromwell: Anthony Salvatore *
Deep River: Angus McDonald *
Durham: Laura Francis *
East Haddam: Irene Haines
East Hampton: David Cox
Essex: Norm Needleman
Haddam: Chris Corsa *
Killingworth: Nancy Gorski *
Lyme: Steve Mattson
Middlefield: Jim Irish *
Middletown: Ben Florsheim
Old Lyme: Tim Griswold *
Old Saybrook: Carl Fortuna *
Portland: Ryan Curley * (until 11:30)
Westbrook: John Hall

MPO Members:

Middlesex Chamber of Commerce: Darlene Briggs
Estuary & Middletown Area Transit Districts: Joe Comerford

*present

Others Present:

Carey Duques, Essex Planner
Laurie McAlwee, South Central Mobility Manager
Julia McGrath, Congressman Courtney's Office

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Torrance Downes
Eliza LoPresti
Kevin Armstrong
Janice Ehle/Meyer

RiverCOG

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

Chairman Salvatore called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

2. Household Hazardous Waste Subcommittee Updates & Recommendations

The subcommittee is recommending that we close the Essex facility and move to all satellite collections, which will save just under \$3,000 per collection. There will be seven collections, one in each month of the season. They would like to add collections in the Old Lyme/Old Saybrook area, possibly in Essex and in the Chester/Haddam area.

a. Moving to All Satellite Collections (motion)

Ms. Francis moved to approve the collections becoming all satellite collections; second by Mr. Griswold. Vote was unanimous in favor.

b. Revised Budget FY22 and New Budget FY23 (motion)

Ms. Francis moved to approve the FY22 revised budget of \$73,824; second by Mr. Fortuna. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Discussion: There was a question about how the difference in the FY 22 budget will be paid for. Mr. Gold stated that it will be coming out of the fund balance.

Mr. Griswold moved to approve FY23 budget of \$65,951; second by Ms. Francis. Vote was unanimous in favor.

The FY 23 assessments could be lower if East Haddam decides to join.

c. Environmental Site Assessments and Building Appraisal for Existing Building (motion)

Mr. Fortuna moved to approve a Phase 1 inspection of the Essex site; second by Mr. Griswold. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Discussion: Mr. Griswold noted that at the end of the Phase 1 we will need a legal document between RiverCOG and Essex that the deal is closed, with details. Mr. Fortuna asked who would be hired to execute the Phase 1; Mr. Gold reported that it may go to RFP if it will cost over \$25,000. If it will be less than that amount we can get three quotes.

3. Regional ARPA Updates

a. ARPA Administration/Reporting RFP Update

Nine responses were submitted, they are being looked at now. The CEOs discussed the fact that the towns are now able to claim up to \$10 million in lost revenue, therefore effectively eliminating the need for reporting. Mr. Gold stated that we will survey the towns to see what remains aside from the lost revenue and if guidance on such will be worthwhile.

b. Document Digitization RFP Update

Seven RFP responses were received and are being reviewed. Mr. Armstrong will put together a packet of information with his initial analysis and scoring rubric.

c. Small Business Grants/Loans Program

Jeff Pugliese of the Middlesex Chamber will bring this to the Middlesex County Revitalization Committee for discussion. Ms. Francis reported that he already did so and that they said yes to the COG using their structure as a framework for local small business loans.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Francis moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 A.M., second by Mr. McDonald. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti