



MINUTES

Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCNV Conference Room
49 Leavenworth Street, Suite 303
Waterbury, CT 06702
12:00 Noon, Friday, April 12, 2013

COGCNV Members: Dominick Sorrentino, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Joanne Pelton, Alternate, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Ed Edelson, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Ron Pugliese, Alternate, Waterbury; Ray Primini, Town Council Chairman, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

Speakers and Guests: Kevin Lembo, State Comptroller, Michelle Gilman, State Comptroller’s Office; Rich Minnick, RPC Chairman, John DiCarlo, Waterbury Regional Chamber, Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Samuel Gold, Assistant Director; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Aaron Budris, GIS Planning Assistant; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment

Chairman Bob Mezzo called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

a. *Minutes of the March 15, 2013 Meeting* — On a motion by Tom Galvin, seconded by Ron Pugliese, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 15, 2013 meeting.

b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of March 31, 2013, COGCNV was 75% through the fiscal year and had expended 68% of its operating budget. Including pass-through funds, 65% of the total budget has been expended. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Edelson, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

c. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence:

March 14, 2013 Letter of support for HB 6542: an Act Concerning the Preservation of Farmland at the Southbury Training School

March 15, 2013 Letters to DECD in support of Small Cities grant applications in Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, and Southbury

March 15, 2013	Email to CCM transmitting COGCNV's RPO boundary evaluation report in connection with OPM's RPO boundary study
March 16, 2013	Testimony presented by Peter Dorpalen to the Legislature's Planning and Development Committee in opposition to House Bill 6629 - An Act Concerning Regionalism in Connecticut (would have converted planning region boundaries to counties)
March 20, 2013	Letter to CTDOT with comments on CTDOT's CTfasttrak draft service plan
March 21-26, 2013	Letters of support for Recreational Trails projects in Cheshire, Naugatuck, Waterbury, Watertown, and Thomaston
March 25, 2013	Memorandum to municipalities from Joe Perrelli requesting project proposals for the local road accident reduction program. Deadline is June 6.
March 26, 2013	Email to the legislature's Municipal Opportunities & Efficiencies (MORE) Commission on the types of services COGCNV has provided (as examples of regional efficiency)
April 2, 2013	Email from Pat Gallagher to CTDOT transmitting the 2012 memorandum on commuter parking lot use and recommendations

3. Update from the Comptroller – Plans and Thoughts

State Comptroller Kevin Lembo explained the role of comptroller. He discussed the state's deficit and its drivers, projections, and mitigation plans. He also spoke about the CT Partnership Plan that opens the State of Connecticut employee health benefits plan to non-state government employers, including municipalities and boards of education. Electronic monies transfer was also discussed, with several COGCNV municipalities now participating. A question and answer period followed.

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Joe Perrelli summarized the April 2013 amendments to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program as listed in Memorandum 040513. On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the April 2013 amendments to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program listed in Memorandum 040513.

5. Regional Planning Organization Legislation and M.O.R.E. Commission

Bob Mezzo said he is a member of the regional entities component of the M.O.R.E. Commission. The committee has been meeting on a weekly basis and is subdivided into three subcommittees focusing on transportation, delivery of human services, and back office

functions that could potentially present cost savings if done on a regional basis. As a member of the transportation subcommittee, Mayor Mezzo said the biggest point he took from their recent first meeting is that 14 regions in the State of Connecticut is not likely to be the future of regional planning organizations. CTDOT has presented concepts of three to five planning regions. There was some opposition to this from various member of the committee. Mayor Mezzo believes the legislature and governor's office has made it clear that upon completion of the process there will not be 14 planning regions.

Peter Dorpalen said he testified in opposition to House Bill 6629 that would have converted regional planning boundaries to county boundaries, which would have split the Waterbury area. A substitute House Bill is now being worked on. The intent of this substitute legislation is to convert all regional planning organizations to councils of governments with boundaries determined by OPM, based on a set of criteria. The conversion would take effect by January 1, 2015. The complex legislation could have significant implications to COGCNV. The bill seeks "an optimal size" for planning and service delivery, and lists 25 different services the new COGs could provide. Presumably, services now handled by other regional agencies could become a COG responsibility. Funding for the new COGs would be raised, and the larger the COG, the greater the per capita state contribution. The optimal size is defined as a region with one or more urbanized areas, a population of at least 200,000, and "the capacity to successfully deliver sophisticated planning activities, regional services, technical analysis, performance measurement and asset management." The CNVR's 2010 population was 287,768.

Urbanized area is a boundary criteria emphasized in the bill. It states that "to the extent practicable," urbanized areas should be assigned to one COG (to simplify federal transportation funding). Because of commuting patterns from the Central Naugatuck Valley Region, the region is in four different urbanized areas. Potentially, the region could be split two or three ways based on urbanized area, but the CNVR already meets the criteria for an optimal area.

Several RPO funding scenarios under Substitute HB 6629 were presented. Chairman Mezzo requested additional scenarios be prepared. Discussion followed.

6. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Congested Signalized Intersection Review* — Joe Perrelli said COGCNV staff is looking at congested signalized intersections and invited the towns to contact him for more information. This topic will be revisited next month.
- b. *Local Road Accident Reduction Program* — Joe Perrelli said CTDOT is beginning the Federal Fiscal Year 2013 round of applications for the Local Road Accident Reduction Program. COGCNV is requesting project proposals for the program. Each RPO can submit up to three locations. COGCNV staff will rank the municipal proposals and select the top three

locations to submit from the Central Naugatuck Valley Region. CTDOT will evaluate each application using a cost-benefit ratio to determine the anticipated effectiveness of the proposal. Mr. Perrelli is requesting a list of proposed locations and proposed improvements by June 6, 2013. COGCV will act on the project rankings at its June 2013 meeting. Further details are outlined in Memorandum 032513.

7. **Regional Business**

Samuel Gold said that on April 30, at Watertown High School, Attorney Mark Branse will give a presentation on, "How to Run a Meeting." The flyer has already gone out to land use commissions, and another emailing will take place.

8. **Other**

- a. *Emergency Planning* — Joe Perrelli reported that the Homeland Security Grant Program for DEMHS Region 5 has dropped from \$506,718 in 2011 to \$161,288 in 2012. The proposed budget will be considered by the Regional Emergency Planning Team's (REPT) Steering Committee on April 22 and by the full REPT on May 13.

An exercise of the Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan was held on April 10. Information on the successes and challenges of the exercise will be reported in the After Action Review.

The 2013 Statewide Severe Weather Exercise is scheduled for June 20, with an alternate weekend date of June 22. All municipalities are encouraged to open their EOCs during the exercise. Details will be available on the DEMHS website.

The CNV Emergency Planning Committee met on April 11 and questioned whether the state will offer an incentive for participation as they did for last year's exercise. There was also discussion about the role of resident troopers in local EOCs.

- b. *Regional Electronics Recycling and Disposal Services* — Joe Perrelli said municipal transfer stations are required to accept certain electronic devices for recycling and disposal. All of our municipalities have been working with a vendor that was recently dropped from the list of state-approved recyclers. As a result, they are well in a hurry to find a new electronics recycling vendor. A regional RFP for these services had gone out in March to try and leverage the opportunity for a larger service area covering multiple towns. Following the RFP, the participating towns established a Consultant Selection Committee and recommended Creative Recycling as the preferred vendor. Municipalities signed individual agreements with the vendor, but were not obligated to sign on with them. Creative Recycling offered rebates of 11¢ per pound for intact PCs (with hard drive), and 5¢ per pound for incomplete PCs (no hard drive) and all other covered electronics. Currently, eight towns have signed up for the program. Joe may be contacted for additional information.

- c. *COGCNV Website* — Samuel Gold distributed samples of possible new logos for the website, letterhead, and business cards.
- d. *School Security Committee Update* — Tom Dunn said that while municipalities are awaiting further word from the state, some towns have hired retired police officers for their schools. Discussion followed.
- e. *Regional Animal Shelter Study* — Peter Dorpalen reported that a committee meeting was held in March to review the proposals. Interviews are anticipated to take place in late April.

9. **Adjournment**

At 1:25 p.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant
for
Ed Mone
Secretary