

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Julio's Wood Fired Pizza & Grill

220 Main Street South

Southbury, CT 06488

12:00 Noon, Friday, September 13, 2013

COGCNV Members: Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Ed Roden, Alternate, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; 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; Ray Primini, Town Council Chairman, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Jerry Stomski, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: Jennifer Weymouth, CT DEEP, John DiCarlo, Waterbury Regional Chamber; Rich Minnick, RPC Member; Paul Nonnenmacher, CRRA; Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT.

Staff: Samuel Gold, Acting Executive Director; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Aaron Budris, Planning Assistant, GIS; Trish Bauer, Financial Manager; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment

Chairman Ed Edelson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. Paul Nonnenmacher said CRRA had been charged by the legislature with coming up with a transition plan to bring CRRA into their next phase. Comments from CRRA's customers are being solicited and may be left at crra.org.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Tom Galvin, seconded by Tom Dunn, Consent Items A through F and Consent Item H were unanimously approved, with Consent Item G – *Appointment of Samuel Gold and Joseph Perrelli as Trustees for the COGCNV Pension Trust/COGCNV Employees Pension Trustee Amendments*, being removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

a. Minutes of the June 14, 2013 and June 25, 2013 Meetings.

b. Financial Report.

c. OPM State Grant-in-Aid for Regional Planning – Authorization

d. CTDOT-COGCNV Supplemental Transportation Planning Agreement – Authorization

e. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

i. District 1 – Install OSTA Traffic Signals (0171-0376)

ii. District 1 – Replace Traffic Signals (0171-0377)

iii. District 4 – Install STC-Approved Traffic Signals (0174-0361)

iv. District 4 – Install OSTA Traffic Signals (0174-0375)

v. District 4 – Replace Traffic Signals (0174-0376)

vi. Statewide – Repair or Replace Deteriorated Overhead Sign Supports on NHS Routes (0170-3066)

vii. Statewide – NHS Pavement Management Analysis (FY14-16) (0170-3258)

viii. Statewide – Non-NHS Pavement Management Analysis (12/2/13-12/1/16) (0170-3259)

f. Copier Purchase – Authorization

- g. *(This item removed from Consent Agenda – see below)*
- h. *Correspondence*

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda for Further Discussion

g. *Appointment of Samuel Gold and Joseph Perrelli as Trustees for the COGCNV Pension Trust/COGCNV Employees Pension Trustee Amendments* — Samuel Gold explained how the plan currently works. He said that Peter Dorpalen and Patricia Bauer are the current trustees. With Peter’s retirement, he needs to be removed as trustee and new trustees appointed. The trustees do administrative work only, there is no pension management or investment decision making. Following discussion, on a motion by Ed St. John, seconded by Jerry Stomski, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add Samuel Gold and Joseph Perrelli as Trustees to the COGCNV Pension Plan and to accept the resignation of Peter Dorpalen as an active trustee.

3. Cost Savings and Increased Revenues with Unit-Based Pricing for Solid Waste

Jennifer Weymouth, CT DEEP’s Source Reduction and Recycling Program Coordinator, spoke about programs being offered that will help towns to save money and to receive money. She said recycling has economic as well as environmental value, and can help towns reduce solid waste costs. She distributed information on workshops for technical assistance and for a grant incentive program. She also discussed the Reuse Marketplace and answered questions. She may be contacted at DEEP for further information.

4. Budget Actions

a. *Approval of Revised COGCNV Budget* — Samuel Gold reviewed Memorandum 090413F, explaining changes for income and expenses. The net result of the changes will be an increase of the overall budget from \$907,259 to \$1,094,798, with most of the increase coming from additional FHWA and OPM funding. Ed Edelson said the Executive Committee had met, reviewed the budget changes, and recommends the revised budget be approved. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Jerry Sitko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the revisions to the fiscal year 2013-14 budget, as presented in Memorandum 090413F.

5. RPO Futures Update and Recommendations

Samuel Gold provided an update to the RPO futures consolidation, as outlined in Memorandum 083013. Meetings were held with Valley COG and Central CT Regional Planning Agency in August. The meetings were cordial and similarities between the regions were discussed. Follow up communications have taken place since then.

Mr. Gold presented maps showing two Voluntary Consolidation Merger Scenarios (A and B) and two possible OPM Consolidation Scenarios (C and D). He said, at this point, OPM is only allowing the voluntary merger of entire regions. Additionally, OPM will be releasing a

preliminary report in October. Mr. Gold recommends that a special meeting be held after the release of OPM's preliminary report and COGCNV discuss things further at that time. Following discussion, Chairman Edelson requested a straw vote to see what the towns preferred. Ten towns affirmed that they prefer to wait for OPM's preliminary report before taking any steps towards voluntary consolidation, and one town was in favor of pursuing Voluntary Consolidation Scenario A. Gerry Smith requested a second straw vote to see which of the two possible Voluntary Consolidation Scenarios, A or B, the towns favored. Eight towns were in favor of Option A, and three were in favor of Option B.

6. **Transportation Planning**

a. *State Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update* — Joe Perrelli reported that in its last session, the legislature authorized additional transportation funding aimed at supplanting the federal STP-Urban program, which RPOs use for local high-priority transportation projects. The new program, called LOTICIP, will be funded through \$45 million in state bonds in the first year. The funds represent a significant increase in the overall transportation capital improvement money available to the region. CTDOT is now seeking RPO cooperation to program projects on state highways using the region's STP-Urban money. In exchange, LOTICIP funds will be available for local transportation projects. In FY14, LOTICIP funding will be equivalent to the region's FY11 STP-Urban allocation – approximately \$3.7 million. Mr. Perrelli said project eligibility guidelines will be similar to those used for the STP-Urban program, meaning the roads must be in urbanized areas and functionally-classified as collectors or higher. CTDOT has indicated they will have much less involvement than with the STP-Urban program. CTDOT has been meeting with small working groups to develop guidelines, with an emphasis on a streamlined process for the state-funded program. Once a clearer picture emerges of how the program will operate, there may be a need to solicit shovel-ready projects to spend the state funding allocated to the region in FY14. In addition to soliciting municipal projects, RPOs will be taking on more responsibility for prioritization, administration, and program review. This will require the services of an engineering firm to assist COGCNV. Staff will distribute guidelines to COGCNV members for review, as well as provide regular updates on the program at monthly COGCNV meetings. Any questions about the new program should be directed to Joe Perrelli.

b. *Letter to U.S. Representative Esty Opposing Longer and Heavier Trucks (U.S. House Bill 612) – Authorization* — Samuel Gold said that over the summer COGCNV was approached by two lobbying groups, Go Rail and the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, concerning U.S. House Bill 612. The bill would give states the option to increase the weight of trucks allowed on federal-aid highways to 97,000 lbs. from the current limit of 80,000 lbs. The bill would create a tax on these heavier loads to fund highway bridge replacements and rehabilitations. If passed, states would not initially be required to allow heavier trucks. However, if enough states adopt the higher weight limit, the remaining lower weight limits could be overturned by the federal courts for impeding interstate commerce. COGCNV has been asked to take a position on this bill and send a letter opposing it to U.S. Representative Esty. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To send U.S. Rep. Esty a letter opposing trucks that are heavier or longer than currently permitted under federal law.

7. Regional Business

John DiCarlo of the Waterbury Regional Chamber said that with regard to the RPO futures and recommendations update, from a business standpoint, Voluntary Consolidation Option B makes the most sense. He also said that Waterbury is the region's business center and that this should be kept in mind when consolidation decisions are made.

8. Other

a. *Emergency Planning* — Joe Perrelli reported that at the Regional Steering Committee meeting held last week, recommendations were made for allocating \$440,000 to cover three separate but concurrent Region 5 Homeland Security grants. The funding will go towards additional license plate readers, training, equipment maintenance, communications equipment, and planning activities. There will be a meeting of the full REPT, which is made up of all municipal CEOs in Region 5, on September 23. Proxy forms are available if a CEO is unable to attend.

The CT Citizens Corps Conference was held on September 4 and 5. This annual conference was funded through a grant from CL&P. The company made a two year commitment to funding the Citizens Corps conferences and training additional members.

Additionally, Naugatuck just completed CERT training for 26 participants.

Also, the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials, as fiduciary agent and lead RPO for DEMHS Region 5, is seeking to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the other RPOs in the region for assistance in completing planning tasks required under its homeland security grant. The MOU lists the funding each RPO will receive. The proposed MOU shows a slight increase in funding for COGCNV's services relative to the amount approved in May for the FY2012 grant, but is still significantly lower than the levels in prior years. The REPT will be meeting on September 23 to vote on approval of the proposed budget, including these funding levels. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Gerry Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Acting Executive Director Samuel Gold to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Between Applicant Organization and Partners Regarding Functions and Responsibilities for DEMHS Region 5 Under the FFY 2013 Homeland Security REPT Grant Program.

b. *School Security Committee (final update)* — Jerry Stomski and Tom Dunn reported that the committee completed its objectives and is now dissolved.

c. *Regional Buildout Analysis* — Samuel Gold said COGCNV staff completed a buildout analysis

of each town in the region, based on existing zoning and parcels and what type of development would be possible. Residential development was looked at in depth. Aaron Budris said a copy of the analysis has been sent to each town. He is now working to compile them into a regional report. He provided details and examples of how the buildout analysis works.

d. *Regional Animal Shelter Study* — Pat Gallagher reported that this study has progressed, with the consultant recommending that Middlebury’s animal shelter be used and expanded as a regional facility. A meeting of the animal shelter study committee will be held on September 19.

e. *Traffic Congestion Video* — Samuel Gold said COG staff has been monitoring traffic congestion in the region, and Pat Gallagher came up with a new method of doing this by using Google traffic and the CTDOT traffic cameras. Areas throughout the region are selected and monitored for a full week, and it enables visualization and understanding of the area’s roadways. Pat then explained how the process works and answered questions. Samuel Gold said this method is more efficient than ones previously used and is also free of charge. Pat Gallagher said the process will evolve with time and might eventually be entered into a database. In it’s final version, it could available to the towns.

9. **Adjournment**

At 1:15 p.m., on a motion by Bob Mezzo, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant
for
Bob Chatfield
Secretary