

## MINUTES

### Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

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300 Wolcott Road

Wolcott, CT 06716

12:00 Noon, Friday, January 20, 2012

**COGCNV Members:** Gerald Smith, First Selectman, Dominick Sorrentino, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Joe Michelangelo, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Carol Hubert, Alternate, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Geraldo Reyes, Jr., Alternate, Waterbury; Ray Primini, Town Council Chairman, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Jerry Stomski, First Selectman, Woodbury.

**Speakers and Guests:** Commissioner Daniel Esty, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Rich Minnick, Regional Planning Commission Chairman; John DiCarlo, Economic Development and Public Policy Assistant, Waterbury Regional Chamber; Kathy McNamara, Grants Administrator, Waterbury; James Belden, Executive Director, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition; Sal Porzio, City of Waterbury, Carla Iezzi, Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT; Paul Nonnenmacher, CRRA; Terry Caldarone.

**Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Mark Berube, GIS Planning Assistant; Lauren Rizzo; Administrative Assistant.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment

Chairman Bob Mezzo called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. Chairman Mezzo noted that the agenda was lengthy, and in the interest of time, some items might be tabled to a future meeting. Carla Iezzi of CTDOT said Edgar Wynkoop will be taking her place as CTDOT liaison, but she will remain as the Transportation Enhancement contact. Mayor Tom Dunn welcomed everyone to the Town of Wolcott.

#### 2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of December 9, 2011 Meeting* — Virginia Mason said an amendment was needed to the text of the emergency planning motion passed at the last meeting; a comma needed to be inserted after the word “signs.” On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2011 COGCNV meeting, with the punctuation amendment to the text as noted.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of December 31, 2011, COGCNV was 50% through the fiscal year and had expended 46% of its operating budget. Including pass-through funds, 42% of the total budget has been expended.

He noted that he has been looking at office space in downtown Waterbury, as there have been maintenance and other issues with the current building. Meetings have been held

with the building manager to resolve existing issues, and things seem to be improving. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Jerry Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *Appointment of a Nominating Committee* — Bob Mezzo said the Executive Committee met and proposed a Nominating Committee consisting of Bob Chatfield, Tom Dunn, and Bob Mezzo. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Carol Hubert, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the appointment of a Nominating Committee for 2012 consisting of Bob Chatfield, Tom Dunn, and Bob Mezzo.

- d. *Correspondence* — This item was tabled to a future meeting.

### 3. **State Energy and Environmental Initiatives**

Commissioner Daniel Esty of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection spoke about the department's goals and commitment to working with municipalities and businesses. He discussed improvements to governmental efficiencies and the need for cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy. He noted that electric rates are coming down and spoke about deep energy efficiency as opposed to light energy efficiency. He said the department's focus will be on energy, the environment, and the economy, with all moving forward together. A question and answer period followed.

### 4. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *STP-Enhancement Priority List* — Sam Gold said that at the January 18 STP-Enhancement workshop, representatives of the region's municipalities discussed the transportation enhancement projects that were submitted. Seven projects totaling \$4.9 million were submitted. The region has an estimated allocation of \$1.1 million in STP-Enhancement funds for FY 2013-16. Staff created scoring criteria based on those used in 2003, and three projects were identified as the region's top priorities. There was a deadlock at the workshop over what project should be the region's second priority. Two greenway trails projects were tied: a cantilevered section of the Naugatuck River Greenway in Waterbury for \$880,000 and a rails-to-trails extension of the Farmington Canal Trail in Cheshire for \$1,100,000. Both projects have their merits and both greenway trails are regional. Unfortunately, the region does not have enough STP-Enhancement funds to fund both projects. The region's second and third priority will need to be decided by COGCNV. Joe Michelangelo of Cheshire provided further information on Cheshire's Farmington Canal Trail project, and Kathy McNamara of Waterbury provided additional information on Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway Project.

Jeff Hamel, Ed St. John, Tom Dunn, and Bob Mezzo spoke in favor of the Waterbury project. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Jerry Stomski, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the first regional STP-Enhancement priority as the Waterbury Green Bus Shelter, Bike Rack, and Trash Can Project, with second priority as Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway Cantilevered Trail, and third priority as Cheshire's Farmington Canal Trail.

On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the proposed STP-E project rankings, priorities 4 through 7, as listed in Memorandum 012012.

- b. *Congestion Management/Air Quality Priority List* — Joe Perrelli said the CMAQ program funds transportation projects and programs that contribute to the attainment or maintenance of federal air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter under provisions in the Clean Air Act. CTDOT sets aside \$10 million each year in CMAQ funds, prior to matching requirements, for project proposals from regional planning organizations (RPO). The program provides funding for projects between \$200,000 and \$3 million. The total cost of the project (federal and local share) includes design, rights-of-way acquisition, construction engineering, and operating costs, when applicable. Each RPO may submit up to three locations for statewide ranking. COGCVN received only one proposal, the Waterbury Downtown Traffic Signal System Upgrade. On a motion by Ed St. John, seconded by Jeff Hamel, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) proposal, as presented in Memorandum 011812, for submittal to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for review and ranking.

- c. *Waterbury Regional Bus Ridership Study 2011* — This item was tabled to a future meeting.
- d. *STP-Urban Program* — Joe Perrelli said that COGCVN staff completed a draft ranking of projects submitted for the STP-Urban program starting in FFY 2014. Since the region would benefit by establishing a fiscally-constrained schedule of projects going forward, two separate priority lists of projects were created to allow COGCVN to move forward with the highest priorities, while giving the flexibility to insert other projects into the STP-Urban schedule as needed. Using the criteria approved by COGCVN in July, Waterbury's Huntingdon Avenue bridge improvement project ranked #1, followed by the Cross Street project in Naugatuck. The Cross Street project has been on the region's STP-Urban list for over a decade. During this time, the borough has not received any STP-Urban funding. In the interest of regional equity, COGCVN staff recommends moving the Cross Street project to the top of the list so that this much-needed improvement will advance in the near future.

The priority list will be forwarded to CTDOT for review. Priority projects will be evaluated by CTDOT's project development team to advance the projects for transportation improvement programming and funding.

On a motion by George Temple, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Surface Transportation Program-Other Urban priority list presented in Memorandum 011312STPU and to move the Cross Street project in Naugatuck to the top ranking for submittal to the Connecticut Department of Transportation and scheduling in the region's STP-Urban Program.

- e. *Transportation Improvement Program: 2010-2013 Amendments* — Joe Perrelli summarized the January 2012 amendments to the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program, as outlined in Memorandum 011312TIP. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Carol Hubert, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the January 2012 amendments to the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program listed in Memorandum 011312TIP.

- f. *Transportation Improvement Program: 2012-2015* — Joe Perrelli said endorsement is sought for the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), prepared by COGCNV and CTDOT. The TIP is a federally-required four year funding schedule of highway and transit projects paid for by federal, state, and local funding sources. If approved by COGCNV, the TIP 2012-2015 will be forwarded to CTDOT. If accepted by CTDOT, the CNVR's TIP will become part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). CTDOT will submit the STIP to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for their review and approval. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Carol Hubert, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the Central Naugatuck Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program 2012-2015.

- g. *Air Quality Conformity Determinations* — Chairman Mezzo called for a motion on the Resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act Ozone and the Resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act PM 2.5. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Geraldo Reyes, Jr., it was unanimously

VOTED: Resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act - Ozone

WHEREAS,

the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley is required to submit an Air Quality Conformity Statement to the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the final conformity rule promulgated by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) when adopting an annual Transportation Improvement Program or when effecting a significant revision of the Region's Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS,

Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) states that conformity of transportation plans and programs will be demonstrated if:

1. the plans and programs are consistent with recent estimates of mobile source emissions;
2. the plans and programs provide for the expeditious implementation of certain transportation control measures;
3. the plans and programs contribute to annual emissions reductions consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended; and

WHEREAS,

it is the opinion of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley that the plans and programs approved today, January 20, 2012 and submitted to FHWA and EPA conform to the requirements of Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) as interpreted by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93); and

WHEREAS,

the Connecticut portion of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island Nonattainment area (Fairfield, New Haven and Middlesex counties) and the Greater Connecticut area (Hartford, New London, Tolland, Windham and Litchfield counties) have been designated as Moderate Nonattainment areas and the Connecticut Department of Transportation has jointly assessed the impact of all transportation plans and programs in these Nonattainment areas (Ozone Air Quality Conformity Report November 2011); and

WHEREAS,

the results of the required emissions analysis performed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 and the Transportation Improvement Program: 2012-2015 show that the implementation of the projects contained therein will result in emissions of ozone in each analysis year that are less than the emissions of the baseline year as stated in the *Connecticut Department of Transportation Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2011 Regional Transportation Plans* and the *2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut portion of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Ozone Nonattainment Area and the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment Area*.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley finds that the *Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 and the Transportation Improvement Program: 2012-2015* (TIP) conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing November 2011 Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination.

VOTED: Resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act - PM 2.5

WHEREAS,

the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley is required to submit an Air Quality Conformity Statement to the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the final conformity rule promulgated by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) when adopting an annual Transportation Improvement Program or when effecting a significant revision of the Region's Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS,

Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) states that conformity of transportation plans and programs will be demonstrated if:

1. the plans and programs are consistent with recent estimates of mobile source emissions;
2. the plans and programs provide for the expeditious implementation of certain transportation control measures;
3. the plans and programs contribute to annual emissions reductions consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended; and

WHEREAS,

it is the opinion of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley that the plans and programs approved today, January 20, 2012, and submitted to FHWA and EPA conform to the requirements of Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) as interpreted by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93); and

WHEREAS,

The New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island, NY-NJ-CT area is designated a PM 2.5 Nonattainment area; and

WHEREAS,

The State of Connecticut has elected to jointly assess conformity in all PM 2.5 nonattainment areas in Connecticut (Fairfield County and New Haven County); and

WHEREAS,

The results of the required emissions analysis performed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the *Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040* and the *Transportation Improvement Program: 2012-2015* show that the implementation of the projects contained therein will result in emissions of PM2.5 in each analysis year that are less than the emissions of the baseline year as stated in the *Connecticut Department of Transportation PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2011 Regional Transportation Plans* and the *2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut portion of the NY-NJ-CT PM2.5 Nonattainment Area, November 2011*.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley finds that the *Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040* and the *Transportation Improvement Program: 2012-2015* conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing November 2011 PM2.5 Conformity Determination contingent upon no major adverse comments having been received during the public comment period.

- h. *Certification of the Urban Transportation Planning Process* — Joe Perrelli said that each year the U.S. Department of Transportation requires COGCNV to certify that the terms and provisions of the March 16, 2007 Metropolitan Transportation Planning regulations are satisfied. In addition, COGCNV must demonstrate that the provisions relative to involvement of public and private providers of mass transit, Civil Rights, involvement of minority business enterprises, special efforts for elderly and disabled persons, the Clean Air Act, 23 U.S.C. and 49 U.S.C. have also been satisfied. Mr. Perrelli stated that COGCNV has successfully met these requirements and staff recommends the COGCNV certify that the obligations of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process have been satisfied. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: The Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region, hereby certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process has been conducted in accordance with the terms and provisions of the March 16, 2007 Metropolitan Transportation Planning regulations and that all applicable provisions relative to involvement of public and private providers of mass transit, Civil Rights, involvement of minority business enterprises, special efforts for elderly and handicapped persons, the Clean Air Act, 23 U.S.C. and 49 U.S.C. have been satisfied.

## 5. **Legislative Statement**

Chairman Mezzo said the Executive Committee met and recommends approval of the 2012 COGCNV legislative statement, as shown in Attachment 5 of the agenda packet. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the 2012 COGCNV legislative statement.

## 6. **Regional Business**

- a. *Municipal Solid Waste Options – What Are Other Municipalities Doing?* — Peter Dorpalen reviewed available municipal solid waste options. A page of notes was distributed as part of the agenda packet, listing solid waste operators and facilities, and solid waste authorities. DEEP waste engineering and enforcement contact information was also provided in the notes. In addition, a state solid waste advisory committee meeting will take place on February 28; municipal solid waste options will be added to that agenda.

**7. Other**

- a. *Regional Animal Control Feasibility Study – Town Resolutions* — Peter Dorpalen said Oxford has decided not to participate in the study, but Woodbury and Bethlehem are now interested in taking part. Once the resolutions of all interested towns are received, the application for the feasibility study will move forward.
- b. *Regional Cross-Acceptance Facilitator for State Plan of Conservation and Development* — This item was tabled to a future meeting.
- c. *Emergency Planning* — Virginia Mason said that in the 2009 and 2010 grant years, ham radios had been funded for all 43 municipal emergency operations centers. As part of that, there is an installation charge of approximately \$1,500 per town, thereby putting the fee over the \$1,000 limit, whereby bids become required. As COGCNV is the fiduciary agent for DESPP Region 5, and as towns have their own vendors (there are only four in this part of the state), a motion is needed to allow the towns to use the vendor of their choice for installation of the ham radio equipment. On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To allow the towns in DESPP Region 5, of which COGCNV is the fiduciary agent, to use the vendor of their choice for installation of ham radio equipment purchased with DEMHS/DESPP funds.

- d. *Regional Sustainability Committee* — This item was tabled to a future meeting.

Also, James Belden of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition said a program for municipal officials will take place on March 1 concerning low impact development and land use practices. Officials should contact him for further information.

**8. Adjournment**

At 1:30 p.m., on a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Jerry Stomski, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Lauren Rizzo  
Administrative Assistant  
for  
Edmond Mone  
Secretary