



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688 • nvcogct.gov

AGENDA

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

Hybrid Meeting

10 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2023

- I. Commencement of Meeting (Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call)
- II. Public Comment
- III. A Conversation with DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes
- IV. Director's Report
 1. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2024-26 NVCOG Slate of Officers and At-Large Members of the Executive Committee
 2. TMA Designation for Waterbury – Mark Nielsen
- V. Environmental Planning – Aaron Budris
 1. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: CEO Priority Survey Reminder Attachment #1
 2. December 4, 2023 - Solar Inspection Training Attachment #2
- VI. Community Planning
 1. December 6, 2023 - Housing Lunch & Learn – Pheobe Ploof Attachment #3
- VII. Adjournment

Called by
Neil O'Leary, Chairman

Any member of the public wishing to address the board at a CNVMPO/NVCOG virtual and hybrid meeting should fill out the public comment form on the website or send an email to info@nvcogct.gov with the following information:

- *Your name, address, and any professional affiliation (for the public record)*
- *Your phone number (only if you are using the phone dial-in option)*
- *The item number on the agenda you plan to address in your comments*

Your Information must be received by 4:30 pm on the day before the meeting and you will be sent credentials to log-in to the meeting.

Because of the need for stable meetings and public security, anyone who does not provide the above information cannot be admitted to our meetings.

If you do not plan to address the board, you may instead watch the meeting on the NVCOG YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWq1tjA3T17sPHTk5ETVaQ>

For language assistance or other accommodations, contact NVCOG at least five business days prior to the meeting at info@nvcogct.gov

Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con NVCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al info@nvcogct.gov

W przypadku pomocy językowej lub innej pomocy, skontaktuj się z NVCOG co najmniej pięć dni roboczych przed wydarzeniem w info@nvcogct.gov



November 17, 2023

Memorandum: 20231117-CPRG

To: NVCOG Board Members

From: Christine O'Neill, Environmental Planner II

Subject: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant – CEO Project Priorities

The planning phase of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program is underway, which involves developing regional Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs). Naugatuck Valley municipalities are split among four planning areas.

Over four billion dollars in implementation funding is available nationwide now through April 1st. In order for projects to be eligible for these grants, they must be documented in a PCAP.

On November 3rd, COG staff sent an email to chief elected officials with a request to fill out a Google form. **Staff is seeking to capture the "wish list" of each Naugatuck Valley CEO so that your emissions reduction projects become eligible for implementation funds.** Please note that each planning area can only apply for one grant, but municipalities may apply individually under their respective PCAP.



Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera to access the survey.

Examples of projects eligible to funded under implementation grants include converting municipal fleets to electric vehicles, upgrading facilities to be more energy efficient, installing renewables, or implementing waste reduction strategies.

This should only take about 5 minutes and will help us make your desired projects eligible for funding.

The link to the survey is here: <https://forms.gle/86Nvecs7K3RsPqyh9>

More information can be found on our website at <https://nvcogct.gov/cprg>. Please email Christine O'Neill at coneill@nvcogct.gov with any questions. Thank you.



SOLAR INSPECTION TRAINING

Friday, Dec. 8th
10 - 11:30 am
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENTERS

Jeffrey Cook, National
Renewable Energy Lab

Sertaç Akar, National
Renewable Energy Lab

Omarys Vasquez, CT State
Building Inspector



**EARN OEDM
CREDIT FOR
BUILDING
OFFICIAL
TRAINING**

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH SOLSMART

Register at
bit.ly/nvcogsolar
or scan the QR Code.



Contact **coneill@nvcogct.gov** with any questions.

SOLAR INSPECTION TRAINING

SUMMARY

This one-hour training will review best practices for conducting field inspections for small solar PV systems. This training will discuss the goals of inspection, including relevant codes and standards. Inspection staff will learn about the value of a solar inspection checklist and how to ensure systems are installed in accordance with plans and specifications. While this training focuses primarily on rooftop solar systems, we will briefly discuss inspection best practices related to solar+storage.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- Introduction from NVCOG and SolSmart
- Inspection best practices
- Codes & standards
- Inspection checklists
- Solar+storage inspections
- Connecticut-specific update from State Building Inspector
- Questions & discussion

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand foundational codes and standards with which solar projects must comply.
- Recognize which documents are needed to perform an effective inspection.
- Become familiar with best practices for conducting a solar (and solar storage) inspection.
- **Receive a Certificate of Attendance for 1 OEDM Continuing Education Credit.**

Friday, Dec. 8th | 10am | Virtual via Zoom



CONNECTICUT
HOUSING FINANCE
AUTHORITY

*The Naugatuck Valley Council of
Governments in partner with CHFA presents:*

HOUSING Lunch & Learn

**Utilizing Housing Needs
Assessments as a planning tool**

In-Person Participants:

For in-person registration,
contact Pheobe at
pploof@nvcoct.gov.
Free lunch will be provided.



**Wednesday
December 6, 2023
12 PM - 1 PM**

Zoom Participants:

✓ Register on Zoom to attend
virtually: <http://bit.ly/3rXFC9Y>



MINUTES
Regular CNVMPO/NVCOG Meeting
Friday, October 20, 2023

I. Commencement of Meeting

Chairman Neil O’Leary called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. Rick Dunne welcomed Pam Succato and Kevin Tedesco from CTDOT, and introduced Jane Dunbar, NVCOG’s new Field Coordinator from CTDOT. There was no public comment.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: Chairman Neil O’Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Mayor Tom Dunn, Wolcott.

Remote: David Cassetti, Mayor, Ansonia; Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Andrew Martelli (Alt), Bristol; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests:

In person: Pamela Succato (CTDOT); Jane Dunbar (CTDOT); Sam Carmody (Eversource).

Virtual: Kim Czapla (CTDEEP); Daniel Davis (Eversource); Jennine Lupo (Rep. Hayes); Jameson Foulke (Sen. Murphy); John Wardzala (The Kennedy Collective); Kevin Tedesco (CTDOT); Lou Mangini (Cong. DeLauro); Michael Anderson (U.I.); Melissa Fahnstock (CTDEEP)

Staff:

In person: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Heidy Coronel, Richard Crowther, Richard Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Molly Johnson, Mark Nielsen, Eytayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Pheobe Ploof, Glenda Prentiss, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Michael Szpryngel, Faith Thurmond, Savannah-Nicole Villalba.

Virtual: Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Jack DeOliveira, Joanna Rogalski, Karen Svetz

Speaker Kim Czapla, Supervising Environmental Analyst from DEEP

Ms. Czapla presented a training refresher and NVCOG status update regarding Connecticut’s Aquifer Protection Area Program.

- What is an Aquifer?

An aquifer is any geologic formation (rock or sediment) that can yield a usable amount of water.

Connecticut’s aquifers are a significant source of existing public drinking water and our primary source of future drinking water. They are vulnerable to pollution threats from some local land use activities,

including industrial operations and gas stations, auto repair facilities and underground storage tanks and chemical storage.

- The State's Aquifer Protection Area Program

An Aquifer Protection Area is the critical portion of the aquifer which provides water to the well. Protected aquifers must be a stratified drift aquifer, must contain an existing well used by a public water system, and must serve a population of 1,000 or more.

The Program's purpose is to identify the major existing public water supply aquifers and to protect them from pollution by managing specific land use activities occurring nearby. It established aquifer protection areas around major public water supply well fields in sand and gravel aquifers. The program also established municipal Aquifer Protection Area agencies to implement the program and requires certain existing activities involving the use of hazardous materials to register and follow best practices designed to minimize the possibility of polluting the aquifer.

Water companies and public water utilities conduct mapping of the aquifer protection areas and provide technical assistance to municipalities.

Municipalities are charged with designating an aquifer protection agency, adopting APA maps and implementing APA regulations. They are to register and permit regulated activities and ensure compliance with best management practices, conduct site inspections, and enforcement.

CT DEEP administers the APA program statewide and provides technical assistance, guidance, and training to municipalities. They register and permit major facilities and State facilities (DEEP, DOT, DOE, DOC, DDS, DMHAS, CT Military Department), and ensure compliance with best management practices, conduct site inspections and enforcement.

- Where the NVCOG's implementation status stands currently

Ms. Czapla displayed a map of the NVCOG towns with Aquifer Protection Areas. NVCOG towns were leaders in groundwater protection before any statutory requirements were implemented. Local zoning laws were enacted and enforced to protect the groundwater. NVCOG towns were the first in the state to adopt the new State Aquifer Protection Area Program in 2004 and served as mentors to other regions in Connecticut that needed assistance with implementation, receiving the DEEP Green Circle Awards.

Today, compliance varies with several towns needing local registrations to be issued or renewed, some need to adopt APA regulation updates, and others need to adopt the APA regulation and map.

- Moving forward – next steps

DEEP's will be launching an APA Program Series in January to help the towns reach this goal. There will be office hours each month for the next six months. DEEP will be reaching out to the towns in the upcoming months to provide status updates and recommend a compliance work plan.

- Training opportunities and technical assistance

DEEP has developed a training program for municipal officials to meet the regulatory requirements that at least one member of the municipality must train and be certified. It's a free online course housed at UCONN. To register, visit https://clear.uconn.edu/training/DEEP_APA_training.htm.

They have also developed a step-by-step technical guidebook, "Connecticut's Aquifer Protection Area Program Municipal Manual," that can be viewed and downloaded at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Aquifer-Protection-and-Groundwater/Aquifer-Protection/Municipalities>.

Ms. Czapla provided the Board with her contact information and encouraged anyone with questions to email deep.aquiferprotection@ct.gov.

Mayor O'Leary thanked Ms. Czapla for her presentation. Rick Dunne explained that Molly Johnson will be presenting later in the agenda with NVCOG's training series to assist towns in achieving compliance.

I. CNVMPO Meeting

Adoption of CNVMPO Resolution 2024-01, TIP Amendments for Project: 0174-0471, 0080-0128

Kevin Ellis explained that there are two TIP Amendments – replacement of six traffic control signals in Middlebury and Southbury; and the State Project of Route 63, 64 and I-84 Interchange 17 exit. This project is being moved from this TIP to the next one as a permit issue caused a delay.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution #2024-01, TIP Amendments for Project: 0174—471, 0080-0128; SECONDED by Rich Dziekan. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of CNVMPO Resolution 2024-02, Endorsement of CTDOT Safety Performance Targets

Rich Donovan explained that each year under the Highway Safety Improvement Program the State and MPOs are required to adopt safety performance targets. NVCOG continues to set more realistic targets based on actual performance. We chose to endorse CONNDOTs targets rather than set our own; we can always set our own targets in the future.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2024-02, Endorsement of CTDOT Safety Performance Targets; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. The motion carried unanimously.

Launch of EcoInteractive ProjectTracker

Rich Donovan explained, in June, the Council authorized NVCOG to contract with EcoInteractive for the rollout of their ProjectTracker Suite. The platform is now live with both our TIP and LOTCIP project listings. It can be accessed at nvcog.ecointeractive.com. It's an interactive platform where the public can leave comments, ask questions, and see all of the information associated with these projects. Eventually there will be a link on each of the Our Towns sections of the NVCOG website. MetroCOG and a total of six MPOS across Connecticut have adopted this platform for the TIP.

The GBVMPO will be directed to the MetroCOG website to see the most current information on their projects. Mr. Donovan displayed the EcoInteractive ProjectTracker for the Board members and highlighted its capabilities.

He noted that NVCOG will be putting out press releases and sharing it to our website and social media and asked the Board members to do the same to help publicize this.

II. Minutes for Approval

09-15-2023 CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting minutes

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the minutes of the 09-15-2023 CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting, as presented; SECONDED by Rich Dziekan. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Financial Report

Financial Report for period ending 09/30/23 – Michael Szpryngel

Mike Szpryngel explained that at the end of the first quarter the net position is \$190,921. There were no unexpected funding cuts, and two DECD grants were received. The \$827,756 in RSG funding has been received in one lump sum payment. The collection of municipal and brownfields dues in July inflates the net position but will diminish toward a balanced budget as the year progresses. There will be a temporary very minimal increase in bank fees as we transition to a new bank.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2023; SECONDED by Ed Mone. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Director's Report

Building update

Rick Dunne reported the Executive Board met to discuss the situation with the landlord (inadequate HVAC and parking, not being provided access to our space as described in the lease, numerous leaks throughout the offices). Based on discussions with our attorney we are not withholding any rent at this time. We do have options in our lease to reduce and withhold rent and will be taking advantage of those options if necessary.

Nominating Committee for 2024-2026 Slate of Officers and At-Large Members of the Executive Committee

Rick Dunne explained that following the odd-year municipal election we hold the election for Officers of the NVCOG. In November, (post-elections) the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the members sitting at the November meeting (there may be new members voting depending upon the dates they take office).

In December, the Nominating Committee will meet to nominate a slate. The proposed slate will be sent to the full Council at least seven days prior to the January meeting. At the January meeting, election of officers takes place.

Adoption of Calendar Year 2024 Meeting and Holiday Schedules

2024 Schedule of Meetings

The CNVMPO and NVCOG meet at 10 a.m. the third Friday of each month in the NVCOG Conference Room. There is no meeting in August. The 2024 meeting dates are as follows:

January 19
February 16
March 15
April 19
May 17 - (tentative annual budget meeting)
June 21
July 19
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt the 2024 Meeting Schedule as presented; SECONDED by George Temple. The motion carried unanimously.

2024 NVCOG Holiday Schedule

January 1	Mon	New Year's Day
January 15	Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19	Mon	Presidents Day
March 29	Fri	Good Friday
May 27	Mon	Memorial Day
June 19	Wed	Juneteenth
July 4	Thu	Independence Day
September 2	Mon	Labor Day
October 14	Mon	Columbus Day
November 10	Fri	Veterans Day
November 28	Thu	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	Fri	Day after Thanksgiving
December 25	Wed	Christmas Day

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented; SECONDED by Pete Hess. The motion carried unanimously.

November 17th Speaker Update – A Conversation with DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes

Rick Dunne reported that Commissioner Dykes has accepted the invitation to attend the November 17th meeting. She will be here with her Deputy Chief of Staff to discuss municipal solid waste, waste diversion, and recycling and the other items mentioned last month. Mayor O’Leary noted that to have a robust conversation, we should move the rest of the agenda to the following meeting except those things that are critically important. Commissioner Dykes and her staff will lead off the meeting, and any necessary business can be conducted after.

Mayor O’Leary continued, for them to come here in person is a real positive. This is a subject that affects every single municipality here, large and small. We should give her plenty of time. This will be a critical meeting because we’ll be going into the session in January, and this is going to be a very well vetted session on municipal solid waste. There are so many different areas – we talk about EPR, and move into organic food waste, recycling – it’s a lot to talk about. For a city the size of Waterbury, a lot of this has a lot of dollars attached to it; all of it is in the form of unfunded. Some of the things that were proposed in the last session – Connecticut wants to be the first out of the gate, and that’s fine, but I’d like to see what the strengths and weaknesses are before we dive in first. We have different cities, different folks with different mindsets, different populations, and different demographics. It’s hard.

V. Legislative and Emergency Management Updates – Drew Baklik/John Field

Legislative Update

Drew Baklik advised the Board that the TTAC equipment list from the website is outdated and inaccurate. It is an NVCOG-specific shared public works equipment database that hasn’t been maintained, and he would like to remove the link from the website. Instead, towns are now cooperating amongst themselves to share equipment, or the requests come to us, and we marry the appropriate partners.

He reported that the CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee has opened an online portal where anybody can submit funding recommendations. The goal is to gather ideas to help those most impacted by the opioid crisis. This portal will only be open until November 17th.

Mayor O’Leary will advise the Council of his status on this Commission when he finds out from the Governor’s Office whether he may or may not remain after the elections. He strongly encouraged the Council members to get together regionally to develop curriculum in the public schools to educate the parents and students about opioids. He would like to see the topic remain on the agenda before the end of this year to discuss what’s working best in some communities.

Rick Dunne explained that we have two regions working separately on this. BHCare is leading the effort in the lower Valley; there was a meeting yesterday in Derby. Potentially, Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton will be working with the Milford-New Haven region.

On October 17th, Mayor Caggiano and his team hosted the Governor and DECD and Chief Marketing Officer Anthony Anthony at the Bristol Bazaar where they unveiled the state's new rebranding campaign and marketing plan, strategy and logo. There are instructions on the State website on how to customize the logo for your towns.

On October 19th Drew and Savannah-Nicole attended the COST's (Connecticut Council of Small Towns) legislative wrap-up. There were some useful presentations about PFAS, MS4 compliance, and climate change, and they went through some of the new housing and land use legislation.

If towns still have PFAS fire foam 5-gallon jugs in their fire departments, DEEP is collecting them. They are also coming onsite and assisting towns with cleaning tanks and other things that previously held PFAS diluted solutions and are recommending the new green alternative.

Mayor O'Leary discussed the opioid crisis at length.

Emergency Management Update

Drew reported that on November 4th, Naugatuck is hosting a Traffic Incident Management event. We encourage the towns to send staff to participate in that.

November 13th is DEMHAS' Annual Meeting with two sessions – 1 pm at Watertown Fire Department and at 6 pm at Litchfield County Regional Fire School in Torrington. It will provide the opportunity to learn more about current DEMHAS initiatives and future planned activities, best practices and lessons learned from recent incidents and events. These meetings will conclude with an open round-table discussion.

VI. GIS – Glenda Prentiss

GIS Lunch & Learn

Glenda reported that on October 25th NVCOG will be hosting a GIS Lunch and Learn – an opportunity to understand some of the services the GIS Team can provide - maps, data, support for larger geospatial projects. People from different departments are encouraged to attend. The GIS Team hopes to receive more requests as they can assist in things towns are hiring consultants to do. If they can't do the whole project, they can serve as a guide or even consider a regional project that would benefit everyone.

VII. Transportation Planning – Richard Donovan

Transportation Alternative (TA) Program Update

Rich Donovan noted some concerns with the implementation of the Transportation Alternative Program, as well as the availability of matching dollars for federal programs. There will be a statewide meeting between the nine COGs and the departments on November 2nd to discuss some intentional changes to the LOTCIP program to better accommodate those programs and address those concerns. They will also discuss ensuring that TA is a viable option for building active transportation infrastructure in the towns.

Introduction of Naugatuck Valley Transportation Guide - Eyitayo Olaleye

Tayo Olaleye introduced the newly updated Naugatuck Valley Transit Guide. He explained that the NVCOG Transportation Team has updated the guide, and it will be published in the same month the last edition came out, 44 years ago.

The guide has information about inter- and intra-city transit options by bus and train, as well as airport and heliport facilities in the region. It has information about freight-restricted bridges and commuter parking lot locations, transit accessibility options, as well as utilization rates from data that's been collected over the last three years. When published, NVCOG will make copies available to the town halls, schools, public libraries, as well as being posted on the website. A story map on the website will be kept up to date.

CT DOT Update

Mayor O'Leary welcomed Pam Succato and asked her for an update/overview of where we are with CT DOT. She explained that Garrett Eucalitto is in his 10th month as Commissioner and wants to make the rounds to all the COGs in person. The department is hiring some new engineers and making headway. Three new units have been created in Policy and Planning. Jane Dunbar is NVCOG's new representative in Governmental Affairs. Garrett's main focus, in addition to safety, is getting projects out the door.

Mayor O'Leary expressed the NVCOG's appreciation for the DOT being so responsive. DOT's Public Involvement Unit will be working with NVCOG and the municipalities when there is a project in your area. The goal is to engage those constituents, so they have a better grasp of what the projects and impacts are.

VIII. Environmental Planning/Brownfields

Brownfields Update – Ricardo Rodriguez

Ricardo thanked Mayor Cassetti and the City of Ansonia for hosting the upcoming Annual Regional Brownfields Partnership meeting at the new Ansonia Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. December 6th. Please reach out to Steve Perry to RSVP.

There is an updated Brownfield Memo in the packets containing the status of all the active Brownfields in the region.

The Revolving Loan Fund Committee met and selected five new projects:

- 835 South Main Street and 272 River Street, Waterbury
- 280 Elm Street, Naugatuck
- 281 Canal Street, Shelton
- 40 West Street, Bristol

The last two are pending underwriting. Progress updates will follow.

Open Space Inventory Update – Christine O’Neill

At the September meeting it was announced that NVCOG had received funding through the US Forest Service to update its regional open space inventory. Priority open space parcels will be researched in each municipality to document information like ownership, acreage, level of legal protection, public access, and more. The final deliverables will include an updated GIS database and a report with municipal annexes.

NVCOG will meet with your Town Clerks, GIS or IT staff, and Conservation Commissions, and any active land trusts to exchange information, ensure that research with the towns’ land records is minimally disruptive, and ensure the inventory reflects the towns’ priorities. Direct input from CEOs is welcome and can be shared today or sent via email.

Rick Dunne noted that there will not be a Municipal Solid Waste update this month in anticipation of next month’s meeting with the Commissioner of DEEP.

Environmental Sustainability Forum: PFAS - Aaron Budris

Aaron Budris reported that NVCOG has been holding periodic environmental forums. The next one is coming up in December and will be looking at PFAS, public health issues, as well as potential municipal impacts of current and potential legislation regulations. We will share the date and the details when it’s confirmed – either the 13th or 15th at lunchtime; lunch will be provided.

In response to a question from First Selectman Mone regarding the origin of PFAS in drinking water, Aaron explained that PFAS is in thousands of products such as wrinkle and weather resistant clothing and items, and non-stick coatings on pots and pans. It comes from everywhere. When people wash their clothes, the water goes into the septic systems and leaches into the groundwater. It comes from manufacturing. PFAS is pretty much everywhere. The two water companies are following all guidelines that are currently in place. They've been testing, and probably every water system has some PFAS in it.

Rick Dunne noted that the federal government has announced that there will be standards; there are no standards for cleanup yet. Potentially there will be problems with our Brownfields programs and economic development in the future, because if we can't agree on standards to remove it, it will be difficult to advance projects the way we've been able to for the last 30 years. It is expected to be a long debate.

Mayor Dunn suggested having the speaker from COST present in January to talk about PFAS. Mayor O'Leary sits on the EPA Advisory Committee and it's all they talk about. People have very different opinions about the parts per trillion.

Kinneytown Dam Update – Aaron Budris

Aaron Budris presented a slide show updating the Council regarding the status of the Kinneytown Dam Removal Project.

- The subaward agreement with Save The Sound should be signed any day now. They have an RFQ ready and will be overseeing the dam removal design engineering, outreach, and communications.
- NVCOG issued an RFQ for the sanitary sewer and siphon relocation which must happen before the dam is removed. A consultant has been selected and we will be negotiating the scope and fee in the coming weeks.
- Our attorneys are having discussions with the federal and state regulators about jurisdiction on the project; we are trying to get everybody on the same page so when we go through permitting it can go as smoothly as possible.

Aaron explained that there have been a few delays. The plan is to have the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank take possession of the property and hold it while the design and dam removal are conducted. They've agreed to that acquisition pending the results of our due diligence we've been working through. There have been delays with the Phase II Field Work being conducted by EPA and found an issue with the Coe Pond Dam safety.

EPA is conducting a targeted Brownfield assessment on the properties - most importantly, the sediment behind the two dams. They are working on Phase II now. It took quite a while to get agreement from CT DEEP on their testing methods. We are trying to get a firm with equipment into those two impoundments to assess the sediments. EPA is optimistic and is adjusting the scope. The information collected will be critical to the design of the dam removal and to the Land Bank in understanding what their risks are in taking the property.

Aaron continued, while we were out there trying to find a way into Coe Pond with equipment, we found that what FERC and DEEP had listed as a 60-foot concrete Coe Pond dam, was actually about a 3,000-foot earthen dam with a 60-foot concrete spillway. The dam was built in 1840 when the canal was built and doesn't look like it's ever been inspected or maintained. The southern portion is completely vegetated with trees that are probably 80-100 years old. The Metro North Railroad line is positioned behind the dam and below it. At the southern end of the dam, it's about 20 feet below the crest of the dam. It has been flagged as a safety concern.

The northern half of the dam looks like it's being overtopped. There is evidence of sediment flows down the back side of the dam. We immediately alerted DOT and the Railroad that this could be a serious safety concern. DOT initiated an emergency inspection in August. Joining us were FERC staff, DOT staff, the Railroad, folks from and DEEP, all walking the site. FERC issued a letter ordering the dam owner to take certain measures to improve the safety of the dam. We need to understand what the actual risk is before the Land Bank takes possession of the property. Those things are holding up the acquisition.

Rick Dunne explained that we'll be meeting with NOAA staff to bring them up to speed. These are due diligence items that he cannot advise the Land Bank to move forward with until resolved. The owner needs to take certain steps before we can take possession. This was an unknown structure. There are ways to mitigate the hazard that we don't think are cost prohibitive. FERC controls the schedule at this point – they have to notify the owner; the owner has to respond.

Mayor Hess and Mayor O'Leary would like the Executive Committee to be involved in the decision making on this matter regarding next steps and to prevent the project from being stalled indefinitely.

This item will be added to the Executive Committee agenda.

IX. Community Planning

Land Use Training Update – Emely Ricci

Emely Ricci explained that the Community Planning Team conducted Land Use Trainings to help bring municipalities into compliance with CGS Section 8-4c, which requires members of Land Use Commissions to complete a minimum of four hours of comprehensive training. 77 Commissioners were trained within the Naugatuck Valley region, along with several from outside of our service area.

She thanked Ansonia and Waterbury for providing the venues to host these trainings, as well as the speakers from CT DEEP, UCONN, Partnership for Strong Communities, the State Historical Preservation Office, and the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity. Attendees were able to connect with one another, discuss the material, and have their questions answered by experts. Many spoke highly of the events and asked about future training opportunities like this in the region. PDFs, presentations, and recordings of the trainings are available on the NVCOG website.

Group and Family Childcare Home Reporting Update – Pheobe Ploof

Pheobe Ploof reminded the Council about Legislation that was made effective on October 1st concerning zoning regulations for group and family childcare homes. The State is requiring that CEOs in each municipality submit to OPM a sworn statement certifying either your compliance with the zoning regulations or the specific timeframe within which you plan to become compliant. This statement is due to the State no later than December 1st of this year, and annually thereafter. Given this deadline, this should be discussed with your municipal lawyer and land use staff at your earliest convenience.

OPM has drafted both a compliant and non-compliant statement for municipal use. Pheobe will be following up with each CEO in the next week with information about reporting requirements and will include those statements in her correspondence. She will follow up with the region's land use staff next week regarding compliance with the regulations and offering needed assistance.

Aquifer Protection Area Programming – Molly Johnson

Molly Johnson referenced Kim Czapla's presentation and reiterated that for eligible municipalities, aquifer protection is a tool not only to protect the safety of the drinking water but to prevent major costs and difficulty of cleanup. She will follow up with messages to the towns regarding their individual compliance status. Community Planning is hosting an Aquifer Protection Area program series along with DEEP in 2024 to answer common questions and provide office hours where staff can speak directly with NVCOG or DEEP on things they're working on. The towns will receive an invitation to the series directly from Molly.

Other

Bob Chatfield wished everyone running for re-election well; he hopes to see them at the next COG meeting.

Mayor O'Leary noted that the annual CEO celebration was a lot of fun and hopes the Council will continue meeting in this way once or twice a year.

X. Adjournment

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Ed Mone. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

46 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-755-6688

RESOLUTION 2024-01

**AMENDMENT
FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is authorized by the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)* and related US Department of Transportation regulations to prepare, endorse, and periodically amend a short-range Transportation Improvement Program for the 15-town MPO within the Waterbury Urbanized Area and is required to maintain a fiscally constrained program of priority projects; and

WHEREAS, the CNVMPO endorsed the *FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its October 9, 2020, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP as shown in the attached page; and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects do not necessitate a new Air Quality Conformity Determination; and

WHEREAS, the public notification and review of these amendments was consistent with and followed the procedures set forth in the MPO's public involvement guidelines, and the proposed amendments are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Naugatuck Valley planning region;

BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 20 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on October 20, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, III, Secretary

October 20, 2023

Date

BEDFORD HILLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • MERIDEN • NEW HAVEN • OXFORD • ROCKY HILL
SHRAMEL • SOUTH BRITAIN • THUNDERBOLT • WATERBURY • WALLENGRAM • WILCOX • WOODBRIDGE



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

49 Heavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-755-8688

RESOLUTION 2024-02

**ENDORSEMENT OF TARGETS FOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE
MEASURES ESTABLISHED BY CTDOT**

WHEREAS, the CNVMPO has been designated by the Governor of the State of Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the 15 town CNVMPO planning region; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for five safety performance measures by August 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established targets for five performance measures using both a 5-year moving average trendline and an annual trendline to guide the selection of targets for:

- (1) Number of Fatalities,
- (2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- (3) Number of Serious Injuries,
- (4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and
- (5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries; and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT coordinated the establishment of safety targets with the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Connecticut at the June, 2023, COG Coordination meeting; and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT has officially adopted the safety targets in the Highway Safety Improvement Program annual report dated August 31, 2023, and the Highway Safety Plan dated June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the CNVMPO may establish safety targets by agreeing to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned State's targets, or establish its own target within 180 days of the State establishing and reporting its safety targets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board has agreed to support CTDOT's 2024 targets for the five safety performance targets as attached herein, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board will plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of said targets.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 20, 2023.

BANDER HILL • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • GOSHUEN • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • FARMINGTON
MILFORD • SOUTH BRITAIN • THORNTON • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY