

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES CRCOG Offices, Hartford May 13, 2009

Executive Committee

Melody A. Currey
Dick Hines
Jon Colman
Dave Kilbon
Scott Kaupin
Susan Karp
John Adams
Lee Erdmann
Lou Spadaccini
Mary Glassman
David Pinney
Steve Wawruck

Town/Organization

East Hartford
Avon
Bloomfield
East Granby
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Manchester
Simsbury
Somers
Windsor Locks

Guests

Pete Smith

Rome Smith & Lutz

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Debby Rihm
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
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CRCOG

Roll Call

Chairman Currey called the regular meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chairman Remarks and Executive Director Report

The Municipal Solid Waste RFI should be ready by the next Policy Board meeting which is May 27. The CRCOG budget has taken a long time to put together, but it is done. The Governor's budget is moving along slowly.

2009 Legislative Session

Pete Smith gave the update. The Governor's budget should be done in three weeks. The big debate today is the death penalty bill. The vote failed on changing the electoral voting. There seems to be some personality problems. The legislature has been told the blackout dates for the summer are July 13-17 and the second week of August. Anyone working for the State who leaves – will not have their position filled. The benefit to leave is they are adding three years to their pension. They are trying to reduce manpower by not replacing people. Rep. Sharkey knows that regionalism takes a lot of money. Also they can't cut 10% ECS across the board because that could mean a lot of money to some towns and a little amount to others. June 3 is the last day of the session. The Committee decided to hold a press conference at the Capital on May 27 at 11:00 a.m. prior to the Policy Board meeting asking for ECS, LoCIP, TAR, and PILOT. A letter will also go into the Courant on the previous Sunday. Mr. Smith will work with Rep. Tim Larson to reserve a room, and we may possibly hold the Policy Board meeting there since people will already be there.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of CRCOG Budget for Recommendation to Policy Board

Mr. Wray reviewed the budget with the Committee. The budget was written in GFOA form. The federal reauthorization for transportation is very important to CRCOG as you can see that is where most of the budget money comes from. CRCOG has had a huge increase in volume of work, but kept staffing remaining the same. Staff is not getting raises this year and we held dues flat to our towns. We will be having a new benefits overview this summer before we sign up for insurance in the fall.

Mr. Colman made a motion to recommend the budget to Policy Board for approval. Mr. Kilbon seconded. DISCUSSION: Simsbury town employees gave back their raises. Mr. Colman amended his motion to recommend the budget to Policy Board and thank CRCOG staff for their hard work. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the amendment. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Resolution from Audit Committee Appointing Auditor

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing Blum Shapiro as the new auditor for the next three years. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

State Grant in Aid Authorizing Resolution

Currently the Governor does not have any money in the budget for regional planning. This resolution is to allow CRCOG to accept the grant should it be reinstated in the budget. Mr. Erdmann made a motion to approve the State Grant in Aid resolution. Ms. Glassman seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Annual Meeting Discussion

Mr. Wray is trying to get Watson Collins to be the speaker at the annual meeting to talk about strategic planning and business development in the electric utility industry. He is currently working on electric transportation initiatives and energy/environmental policy issues.

Shared Services and OPM Grant Updates

Ms. Kowalewski gave a status report to the Committee on the regional performance incentive grant program projects. Mr. Wray spoke about the \$17.5 million stimulus that Mr. Maziarz did. Congressman Overstar is very interested in a transportation bill and has a clear sense of the high need that is crucial to Connecticut. Senator Dodd knows that we need new infrastructure for Rt. 95, 91, and 84. Rep. Denise Merrill is the person to go to for the competitive grants. The committee also discussed the Waterbury line which is down the road, after the busway and railway.

Other Business to Come Before the Committee

Ms. Kowalewski explained a handout from David Fink. The funds for HOMEConnecticut are in jeopardy. Some towns may have already received money for HOMEConnecticut, and might have to give it back.

We received notice that we got another EPA grant for brownfields.

There are two conferences coming up: Thursday, Visualizing Density, and on Saturday, Sustainable Development.

The Reverse 911 System is ready to go. The mapping issues have been resolved.

Adjournment

Mr. Kilbon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Hines seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.