

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES CRCOG Office, Hartford August 13, 2009

Executive Committee

Melody A. Currey
Dick Hines
Jon Colman
Dave Kilbon
Scott Kaupin
Bill Smith
Lou Spadaccini
Mary Glassman
David Pinney
Ron Van Winkle
Steve Wawruck

Town/Organization

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

Guests

Pete Smith

Rome Smith & Lutz

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Bill Hogan
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Debby Rihm
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Public

David Bauer

ECRRA – Middletown

Roll Call

Chairman Currey called the regular meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chairman Remarks and Executive Director Report

The Executive Director reviewed his monthly report and reviewed his evaluation. He feels that since the State is not giving CRCOG nearly as much money as in the past that CRCOG is becoming more of a town regional entity, and therefore would like input from the towns as to what they want CRCOG to accomplish for them. The Chairman told the Committee that they should check with DOT to see if their projects are still on the list of projects or if they have been deleted or postponed.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2009 meeting with Congressman Oberstar's name corrected. Mr. Kaupin seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda

Resolution Authorizing Water Filter Extension
Authorizing Resolution Brownfields Contract 2009-2012
EPA Climate Authorizing Resolution
FY 08 USAI Authorizing Resolution
Resolution Authorizing Agreement with DOT for the Route 10 Corridor Study
Resolution Authorizing Agreement with DOT for the Route 3 Corridor Study

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion: Solid Waste RFI Update

The Committee discussed that if each municipality contributed \$500 to get started in the process to establish a solid waste authority, an RFP could begin. There are approximately nine responses that CRCOG can count on from the RFIs. Just the legal portion of an RFP would probably cost around \$150,000-\$200,000. If a town wanted to negotiate with CRRA, it would also cost money. CRCOG has about 95 of the 169 towns following CRCOG's progress on solid waste and could possibly join a new entity. We need to present a viable alternate, even though we don't have much time. We need to educate the legislators. It was suggested to pull together the contract attorneys from towns beforehand in order to save money on the process of finalizing an RFP.

CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative

Ms. Kowalewski summarized key points from the memo that outlined this proposal. She explained that a new Capitol Region Committee on Sustainability could replace the Community Development Committee, and would deal with a range of issues that fall under the sustainability umbrella. She noted a list of work activities currently being carried out by transportation, community development and homeland security departments that relate to the goal of creating and maintaining a sustainable region. The work activities described in the memo, including creating a new Committee on Sustainability, would position CRCOG to take advantage of federal grant money that may become available in the coming year. CRCOG would invite outside organizations to serve on the committee, which would help in coordinating regional actions and applications for grant money. The implementation money would most likely go to the

towns because they would be the ones actually executing activities. Everyone seemed to like this idea.

Shared Services and OPM Grant Updates

The CT Humane Society has decided they are not willing to do this for us, but there is a builder who is interested the Animal Control Facility.

Mr. Wray is very excited about the online building permitting. There are three finalists. We would be the first ones in New England to do this. This is open to all towns, even if you did not indicate that you were interested in the beginning. This is a very good program since many towns cut their building department personnel due to low building in the state.

CRCOG Healthcare for 2010

Mr. Wray thanked Bill Hogan. Mr. Hogan has done a lot of the work in the finance department to bring it up to speed. Management is implementing a new insurance policy at CRCOG. For the budget, they had estimated a 14% increase, and it came in at an 18% increase. They asked Ovation's Benefit Group to look at alternatives. We are staying with Anthem, but the copays are higher for employees. We have added Eyemed, and short term disability to fill in some missing gaps.

2009 State and Federal Legislative Update

Pete Smith gave the update. The rainy day fund won't be available to help with the deficit over the next two years if it has to be used due to having no budget. It was in the paper that Larry Cafro was locked out of two meetings. Donovan is in favor of a progressive income tax. Williams and Rell will budge on the budget. There is nobody at the LOB. In other times like this with past Governors, there has always been a lot of activity. It seems like the Executive Orders are given without much thought process or planning. The early retirement package was not a good idea. Of the 3,500 that took it, 1,700 have been hired back. The State is starving for ideas to make the government work. Municipal aid may be set. Bond authorizations won't be paid due to not having a budget. Also, there may be no road money. There was a question as to whether CCM is working on this or not. The Committee is concerned about what to do come September 1 when school opens. They would like CRCOG to send the Governor a letter. They suggested holding a special Policy Board meeting earlier in the month to discuss these issues.

Other Business to Come Before the Committee

The Town of Simsbury is preparing for a design charrette September 11-16 to discuss the Town Center and its future. The charrette is a detailed process where members of the community meet for six days with a team of planners to define a long term vision of the Town Center. Experts from the Code Studio based in Austin, Texas will be there to create recommendations for the Town Center. Professional consultants will be on hand to hear ideas and to plan the future development of downtown Simsbury. Everyone is invited. Simsbury received a grant to do this.

Adjournment

Mr. Colman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.