

POLICY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

CRRA Trash Museum

April 23, 2008

Noon

Policy Board Attendance

Melody Currey, Chair
Dick Hines
John Colman
Joyce Stille
Dave Kilbon
Denise Menard
Scott Kaupin
Susan Karp
John Adams
Jim Boucher
Lee Erdmann
Lou Spadaccini
Scott Shanley
David Nagel
Barbara Gilbert
Mary Glassman
David Pinney
Matthew Galligan
Matthew Streeter
Christopher Clark
Bonnie Therrien
Steve Wawruck

Town/Organization

East Hartford
Avon
Bloomfield
Bolton
East Granby
East Windsor
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Manchester
Newington
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Somers
South Windsor
South Windsor
Vernon
Wethersfield
Windsor Locks

Others Present

Alex Johnson
Steve Cassano
Paul Nonnemacher
Deputy Commissioner Amey Marrella
Paul Stacey
Maryanne Nusom-Haverstock
Dan Vindigni
Pete Smith

Capital Workforce Partners
CRCOG Foundation
CRRA
CT DEP
CT DEP
CT DEP
Enfield, CREPC
Rome Smith & Associates

Staff

Maureen Barton
Sandy Fry
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Lyle Wray, Executive Director

CRCOG
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CRCOG

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Currey called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2008 MEETING

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2008 regular meeting. Ms. Therrien seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Chair and Executive Director

The Executive Director and Chair gave their reports. Dr. Wray spoke about the new Department of Transportation Commissioner and reported on the Regional Planning Conference he attended. In addition, he extended an invitation to the Board, on behalf of CPTV, to attend a live town meeting on education in the state.

Capital Workforce Partners

Mr. Johnson from the Capital Workforce Partners reported on the agency's legislative priorities, which include funding for summer youth programs, incumbent worker training, and a mortgage crisis job training program.

Community Development Committee/Municipal Services Committee

Ms. Kowalewski reported that the Community Development Committee is working with the Regional Planning Commission on a series of regional roundtable meetings.

Public Safety Council/Homeland Security

Mr. Erdmann and Mr. Vindigni reported on the progress of the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG), which was established as required for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The UAWG has developed eight goals, with a champion for each one. They are anticipating an award of \$3 million to \$4 million and will be submitting their investment justifications to CT DEMHS on April 28. Specific information is available on the UASI page of the CRCOG website.

Transportation Committee

No report aside from the agenda items.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: MUNICIPAL OUTREACH

Deputy Commissioner Amey Marrella gave a presentation on the DEP's Municipal Outreach initiative. Ms. Marrella stated that municipalities and the DEP need to be partners, since municipalities are permittees for DEP programs as well as leaders for environmental protection. The DEP will be distributing a Municipal Primer and will be leading two workshops for municipalities, one on permitting and one on partnering, as well as offering some training. Ms. Marrella also discussed starting an e-mail distribution list. Mayor Currey mentioned some concerns about some previous experiences East Hartford had when they contacted the DEP to ask questions and in response were fined. Ms. Marrella mentioned that they do have an ombudsman, and in the instances where they fine a municipality, they try to have that money directed back to the municipality through other projects. Other attendees stated that there are general customer service concerns, which need to be addressed if the DEP hopes to improve their relationship with the municipalities. Ms. Nusom-Haverstock also

introduced herself to the Board, and stated that she would like to work with towns on questions or coordination for planning, and she can pull together workshops or programs to meet municipal needs.

CRRA UPDATE

Mr. Nonnemacher reported that the CRRA is developing a single stream recyclables program, which will require a retrofit to the facility. In addition, municipalities will notice that CRRA has started to include a newsletter along with the bill. Mr. Nonnemacher also reported that they have identified a site in Franklin for ash dumping, and that a recent engineering study has indicated that with regular maintenance, the CRRA facility has another 20 years of life ahead. Mr. Nonnemacher also mentioned the New Hartford lawsuit, which will be heard later this year. Ms. Glassman from Simsbury stated that it is unacceptable that municipalities are paying both sides of this lawsuit, and would like to expand the conversation to work on remediation or a legislative fix. She suggested establishing a working group. Mr. Colman made a motion to establish a working group, the motion was seconded by Mr. Galligan, and the motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Several members of the Board volunteered to participate in the working group. Mr. Nonnemacher finished his statements by reminding the Board of three upcoming electronics recycling collections.

TIP AMENDMENTS AND RELATED ACTIONS

Mr. Colman reported that all amendments were acted on and recommended by the Transportation Committee

Hartford – I-84 Viaduct Repairs

Hartford – Broad Street

Manchester – Route 30 at Exit 63

Statewide – highway operations center

Statewide – recreational trails funding

Capitol Region – small studies program

Mr. Colman reminded the Board that the I-84 viaduct project is not a major project, but a minor repair project. Mr. Colman made a motion to adopt the resolution approving TIP amendments, distributed with the meeting package. Mr. Erdmann seconded. Mr. Galligan from South Windsor commented that the Manchester amendment was pushed out a year. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF NEW REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PLAN

Ms. Fry gave a brief overview of the draft plan. Mr. Colman made a motion to adopt the new regional and pedestrian bicycle plan, Ms. Stille seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM & PLANNING AGREEMENT

Approval of Biennial Transportation Work Program

Resolution Authorizing Next Year's Planning Grant Agreement with DOT

Mr. Colman reported that the agreement allows transportation to carry-over money, and praised the Transportation Department for their work on last year's MPO certification. In addition, Mr. Colman stated that there are three new studies in the work program. Mr. Colman made a motion to adopt the Biennial Transportation Work Program and the Resolution Authorizing Next Year's Planning Grant Agreement with DOT. Mr. Erdmann seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

NEW ITEM: AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR EPA SMART GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Mayor Currey requested that this item be added to the agenda. A background memo was distributed at this meeting. Mr. Colman made and Mr. Erdmann seconded a motion to add this item to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Ellen Kowalewski explained the purpose of this project, specifically how it will support CRCOG's work related to smart growth and affordable housing. Mr. Colman made and Ms. Stille seconded a motion to approve the Authorizing Resolution for EPA Smart Growth Implementation Technical Assistance. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Ms. Kowalewski reported that the contract agreements for Regional Performance Incentive Grant projects are expected to be in place by mid-May. Mr. Wray reported that the State Legislature appears likely to approve continued funding for this program at this point.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Smith reported that House Speaker Jim Amann announced he would step down, so there will be a new speaker next year. The budget is in negotiation as the session winds down, and Mr. Smith is expecting the budget to launch next week. Mr. Smith also reported that the Governor sent a letter to the legislators telling them that there was a decrease in the surplus. Revenue sharing has survived and has a good champion.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Erdmann seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.