

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274
Web Page: www.crcog.org

POLICY BOARD REGULAR MEETING CRRA Trash Museum February 25, 2009 Noon

Policy Board Attendance

Melody Currey, Chair
Dick Hines
Jon Colman
Dick Barlow
Scott Kaupin
Susan Karp
John Adams
Lee Erdmann
Lou Spadaccini
John Salomone
Jim Sollmi
Mary Glassman
David Pinney
Steve Werbner
John Ward
Ron Van Winkle
Peter Souza
Steve Wawruck

Town/Organization

East Hartford
Avon
Bloomfield
Canton
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Manchester
Newington
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Somers
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Others Present

Paul Nonnenmacher
Oz Griebel
John Shemo
Jeff Vose
John Larkin

CRRA
MetroHartford Alliance
MetroHartford Alliance
MetroHartford Alliance
Rome, Smith & Lutz

Staff

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
David Mason
Tom Maziarz
Debby Rihm
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
CRCOG Intern
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

USA Modeling from Somers, CT inquired about the solid waste RFP that was referenced in the Executive Committee minutes from January 14, 2009. The RFP is not completed yet.

Adoption of Minutes from February 4, 2009 Special Meeting

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2009 special meeting. Mr. Erdmann seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Reports

Chair and Executive Director

Chair Currey said that the Annual Meeting and Golf Outing will be held on Thursday, June 4, at the Manchester Country Club. The Board decided to hold an immediate meeting with the Governor's office, DOT, and our federal delegation to ask them the questions that the Board needs the answers to. A survey will be emailed out in a day or two requesting your questions. These questions will be forwarded to the officials and then hopefully they will come to the meeting with the answers.

The Executive Director told the Board that past-president Steve Cassano was elected President of NARC this week.

MetroHartford Alliance (MHA)

Oz Griebel, President, spoke to the Board about what they do for the region. They had materials at each seat. MHA has held joint meetings with towns' Boards of Finance and Economic Development Commissions. They spend time at the capital doing public policy. They have testified this year about the electronic tolling system and the gas tax. They market the region in general for new business.

Community Development/Municipal Services

Ms. Kowalewski is still looking for liaisons from every town for the roundtable discussions. There will also be a meeting on March 10, from 8-11:30 a.m. at the Lyceum called Housing: The Hub of Public Policy Lyceum Forum Series. Literature is available on the back table.

It was just found out that Joel Cogen, CCM, and Rick Porth, former CRCOG Executive Director, had a gentlemen's agreement about an electricity consortium that nobody at CRCOG knew about. CCM is now considering moving to a reverse auction like CRCOG. The Board decided to forward anyway. Mr. Wray informed the Board that even though we don't have county government, we are allowed to use the National Association of Counties bid.

Public Safety/Homeland Security

Mr. Erdmann reported that Ms. Assis will be back from maternity leave in March.

Tetra Tech has been selected as the vendor for the incident based exercise RFP and the first exercise will be a tabletop called Autumn Storm. Initial planning conference is March 3 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in East Hartford. The tabletop will be held on April 28th with location TBD. Two more large scale exercises will follow.

The third annual CCM Emergency Management Symposium will be held on May 12th in Cromwell. The focus is regional collaboration and all of our Emergency Support Functions will be represented. It is free but you need to register on the CCM website and space is limited.

The Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) has been meeting regularly and CRCOG staff is in process of putting together the FY 09 UASI grant application due March 20th.

The March 12th Public Safety Council meeting will feature progress demonstrations on the CAPTAIN Fire and Regional Offender Based Image Retrieval System (ROBIR).

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee discussion is under the Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Approval of TIP Amendments

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the TIP amendments. Mr. Erdmann seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Items:

- Resolution Authorizing Extension on the Tern of the CRCOG-DOT Funding Agreement for the Route 305 Study
- Resolution Authorizing Extension on the Tern of the CRCOG-DOT Funding Agreement for the Route 195 Study
- Resolution Regarding Non-Discrimination

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

Discussion: Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Mr. Maziarz discussed the Recovery & Reinvestment Act with the Board. There is now a 12 month window, instead of 90 days. Mr. Maziarz would like to try other jobs than re-surfacing. Final plans were in to DOT by 2/23/09 for the four projects. That leaves a balance of \$8.5 million. Union Station needs repairs because nothing has been done there in 30 years.

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the transportation projects 7 b-e. Mr. Erdmann seconded. DISCUSSION: There was a question about whether different priorities were used to base projects rather than the STP requirements. The answer was yes. We will be asked to provide funding for DOT staff on a project by project basis. Some people felt that millers and pavers did not stimulate the economy. He felt that these jobs were not labor intensive, but rather just spending money, not performing economic stimulus. Mr. Maziarz said that the rules have changed again. Then there was a question about how critical it was to get these projects approved today. Maybe the Board should wait to make sure that they are doing the right projects. Mr. Maziarz said it is critical to get the approval today. DOT will need to expedite review and take action of our submissions in order not to jeopardize our funding. The legislators need to know our concerns. Board members were happy to hear that the list is being looked over again. This is financial assistance to the municipalities. All projects were submitted at the same time so why change the priorities? All voted in favor of the motion, except for Mr. Erdmann and Mr. VanWinkle.

A letter should go out to the Commissioner of DOT from the Chair telling him that CRCOG appreciates what they have done to date. Mr. Maziarz said he would write the letter.

State Legislative Update

Chris Smith from Rome Smith & Lutz said that special education is going to stay in the budget and make up with stimulus money in April. Early retirement has been taken out. The municipal health insurance pool has come off. Everything they caucused on Monday night has changed by today. The Democrats are looking at more cuts to help with the Governor's budget deficit. Mr. Smith said that the budget is not going to be ready in June. The Board should be pushing for the Governor's budget to be completed so they can make their town budgets. Kathie Lutz was supposed to get the Executive Committee some language on binding arbitration. Board members said that they are losing employees, services and they have to go to the capital for hearings on obsolete stuff.

Other Business to Come Before the Board

A member brought up the CRRRA agenda. At the next CRRRA meeting, there is a resolution to approve the tip fee at \$70 per ton. There are also resolutions with the MDC budgets. Mr. Nonnenmacher, CRRRA, explained a few of the concerns that this person was bringing up.

Adjournment

Mr. Salomone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Mr. Hayden seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.