

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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POLICY BOARD REGULAR MEETING CRRA Trash Museum March 24, 2010 Noon

Policy Board Attendance

Melody Currey, Chairman
Dick Hines
Dick Barlow
Steve Cassano
Dave Kilbon
Scott Kaupin
Chip Beckett
John Adams
Jonas Maciunas
Lou Spadaccini
Barbara Gilbert
John Pelkey
Steve Werbner
Ron Van Winkle
Jeff Bridges
Peter Souza
Steve Wawruck

Guests

Sandra Johnson
Kathie Lutz

Others Present

Grayson Wright
Paul Nonnenmacher
Rich Goldstein

Staff

Winsome Barnaby
Jennifer Carrier
Bill Hogan
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Jocelyn Mathiasen
Debby Rihm
Lyle Wray

Town/Organization

East Hartford
Avon
Canton
CRCOG Foundation
East Granby
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Manchester
Rocky Hill
South Windsor
Tolland
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor
Windsor Locks

MetroHartford Alliance
Rome, Smith & Lutz

Conn DOT
CRRA
Pepe & Hazard

CRCOG
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Call to Order

Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Kilbon made a motion to adopt the minutes from February 24, 2010 meeting. Mr. Kaupin seconded. All voted in favor of the motion, except for Ms. Gilbert who abstained.

Reports

- a. Executive Director/Chairman
CRCOG is working on their budget. Mr. Wray is very involved with the MORE Commission which discusses sharing services in the region. Mr. Cassano has made many trips to D.C. in the last month to advocate.
- b. Metro Hartford Alliance
Sandra Johnson gave the report this month. They are working on the Bradley Development Zone to stimulate business in that area. Forbes Magazine reported Connecticut #17 from across the U.S for the best commute. MHA also has a working group for centralized billing, contracts, etc. for hospitals. There is a new business trend reducing the footprint of buildings. Companies are hiring virtual employees to work from home for businesses such as call centers. Mr. Barlow asked for their help with the public notice in electronic form proposed bill. This bill will save the towns much money.
- c. Community Development/Municipal Services/Purchasing Council
Municipal Services had Ovation Benefits in to speak about health insurance. CRCOG is considering adding a benefits/HSA auction in the future. Community Development is working on livable and sustainable communities. CRCOG is monitoring a Livable Communities Grant and expects a draft notice of the availability of funds to be issued mid-March. CRCOG is considering developing a regional application in the \$5-\$10 million range.
- d. Public Safety/Homeland Security
There was no report this month.
- e. Transportation Committee
Transportation is working on the I-84 Viaduct Study. An Executive Summary of the draft transportation plan for 2011-2012 was passed out. Policy Board will need to approve the plan in the near future.

Melody Currey joined the meeting and took over as Chairman.

Transportation TIP Amendments

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

Resolution Authorizing CRCOG's Executive Director to Enter into an Agreement with Christopher Marvin for Planning Services for CRCOG's Homeland Security Initiative

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kaupin seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

America 2050

The Board watched a video about visualizing high speed rail systems. These systems reduce CO₂ emissions. People are healthier due to walking more and having less asthma.

June 30, 2009 Audit

The auditor had positive comments to make about the audit. They did give five recommendations for management to follow and CRCOG is implementing the guidelines now. This was the first audit with Blum Shapiro and it went well thanks to Bill Hogan and Winsome Barnaby.

Update on the CRCOG Policy Board Retreat

An update on the results of the retreat was discussed. An outcome included to not chase money, unless it has to do with our mission. Staff would like to meet with all the towns to discuss back office practices. The Purchasing Council may begin to work with other towns outside of Connecticut.

Preliminary Budget FY 2010-2011

Currently it looks like this year's current budget will come in with a \$46,000 deficit. CRCOG is looking into new healthcare plans to help with the FY 2010/2011 budget. There was a suggestion to try to combine with COST or CCM to get a better rate. The budget should be ready for the May Executive Committee.

Sustainable Communities Initiative and the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

A mission statement has been written for the sustainable communities committee. They are reaching out via Facebook. CRCOG has made seven presentations, including one request from USEPA to a group in Seattle. The country is using CRCOG's program as a template.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz gave the update. The House and Senate are working on deficit mitigation budgets in response to the Governor's recent plan. A new budget is not being prepared for the 2011 cycle. Local bonding is being held for the time

being. The CTDOT is getting hit hard because they received so much federal ARRA funds last year. There hasn't been much municipal talk except for making adjustments to PILOT. It is imperative that members continue one on one dialogues with their representatives and the Governor's office letting them know exactly what your town needs.

Solid Waste Management Update

Mr. Barlow has spoken to many entities and has testified for the bills. Chairman Currey, Lyle Wray and other CRCOG staff is willing to come to your Council meetings to do a Q&A and the benefits.

Comments

South Windsor has received local approvals for the studio to be built in their town. There will be a ground breaking ceremony soon. This is great news and will generate more jobs.

Adjournment

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