

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## POLICY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING CRRA Trash Museum May 19, 2010 Noon

### Policy Board Attendance

John Adams, Vice Chair, Acting Chairman  
Melody Currey, Chairman  
Dick Hines  
Jon Colman  
Joyce Stille  
Dave Kilbon  
Matthew Coppler  
Chip Beckett  
Bonnie Therrien  
Lou Spadaccini  
Mary Glassman  
John Pelkey  
Steve Werbner  
John Ward  
Ron Van Winkle  
Jeff Bridges  
Peter Souza  
Steve Wawruck

### Guests

Scott Aronson  
Alan Desmarais  
Bill Thompson  
Kathie Lutz

### Others Present

Ande Bloom

Paul Nonnenmacher

### Staff

Cheryl Assis  
Winsome Barnaby  
Jennifer Carrier  
Bill Hogan

### Town/Organization

Granby  
East Hartford  
Avon  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
East Granby  
Enfield  
Glastonbury  
Hebron  
Manchester  
Simsbury  
South Windsor  
Tolland  
Vernon  
West Hartford  
Wethersfield  
Windsor  
Windsor Locks

Russell Phillips & Associates  
Milliman  
Milliman  
Rome, Smith & Lutz

Be Well – An Eastern  
Highland Health District  
Wellness Program  
CRRA

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Jocelyn Mathiasen	CRCOG
Debby Rihm	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

### **Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Mr. Colman made a motion to adopt the minutes from April 21, 2010 special meeting. Ms. Stille seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Reports**

a. **Executive Director**

Mr. Wray spoke quickly of the T-HUD grant. May 28 is the day that the notice should come out. The CRCOG Annual Meeting is being held at the Boathouse, with Dennis House as guest speaker. The meeting begins at noon and costs \$25. Watch for your invitation in the mail!

b. **MetroHartford Alliance**

Becky Nolan, business recruitment and retention, spoke of the Bradley Development Zone and the Economic Development District bills passing in the legislature. Also, the Traveler's Championship is coming up in June. There will be a regional forum on how we all benefit from all kinds of sports in the region.

c. **Community Development/Municipal Services/Purchasing Council**

Mr. Souza reported that municipal services discussed online permitting this month. Community development is working on sustainable communities in the capital region, and is working with the CRCOG Foundation to find funders from private entities.

*Chair Currey joined the meeting and took over as Chairman at 12:15 p.m.*

d. **Public Safety/Homeland Security**

Mr. Wray reported that the regional emergency response activity that occurred yesterday was a success and first responders from almost every community participated. The "hot wash" is happening now (that is where Ms. Assis is), and the full after action report will be available soon.

e. **Transportation Committee**

Ms. Carrier explained there are still ARRA funds available and they may go to the Vernon, West Hartford and Windsor Locks projects.

### **Discussion and Approval of the CRCOG 2010-2011 Budget**

Mr. Wray explained to the Board that the Finance/Personnel Subcommittee and the Executive Committee have recommended this budget be passed by the Policy Board. Mr. Wray highlighted the following aspects of the proposed budget:

- Proposed budget is balanced
- No use of fund balance
- No increase in town dues
- Operating budget up 1.7%
- Grant Budget \$8,105,492
- Flat staffing
- Decrease in state funding
- Non-base inflation adjustment for staff
- Dramatic health care inflation continues
- Organizational change to meet new realities

Mr. Wray thanked Jocelyn Mathiasen, Winsome Barnaby and Bill Hogan for getting the budget together. One change is that municipal services will be reporting to the Executive Director instead of the Director of Community development.

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the proposed CRCOG 2010-2011 budget as submitted. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Transportation TIP Amendments**

Ms. Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments. Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Ms. Stille seconded.

DISCUSSION: Glastonbury is installing sidewalks and wondered if other towns joined in, could they all apply for a TIGER 2 grant. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Approval of the Jobs Access Resolution**

Mr. Kilbon made a motion to approve the resolution for the Jobs Access program. Mr. Colman seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UWPW) for Transportation**

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the unified planning work program. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Approval of the Resolution for the FY2011-2012 Transportation Planning Agreement**

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the FY 2011-2012 work program. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Approval of Rome, Smith & Lutz Contract for Period Ending June 30, 2012**

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the contract for Rome, Smith & Lutz for lobbying services. Ms. Stille seconded. DISCUSSION: They are doing a good job. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Approval to Hold Special Policy Board Meetings for Transportation Items**

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the special Policy Board meetings for transportation items. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Speakers**

**Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Town of Wethersfield, Energy Program**

Mr. Bridges explained to the Board how the town of Wethersfield went about negotiating with an energy vendor to provide lower costs to their residents. The Town receives the buying power of the community, plus a percentage of revenue back in energy. The one catch is that the company wants to use the town's logo in marketing pieces. But the town gets to approve all marketing items before they go out. There is a potential that municipal services could do this for all the towns.

**Alan Desmarais, Benefits Consultant, Milliman**

Mr. Desmarais and Mr. Thompson spoke to the Board about polling the interested towns, cities, and Boards of Education into a shared risk pool. This would result in dollar savings without loss of benefits. Each town can still have their own carrier with their own plans, and still participate in this exciting endeavor. The pooling concept operates successfully today in Rhode Island. The Board felt this is worthwhile to explore and will have the Finance/Personnel subcommittee look into it.

Executive Director Wray thanked Bill Hogan for his brief tenure with CRCOG. Mr. Hogan will begin his new position in Bloomfield.

**Scott Aronson, Russell Phillips & Associates**

Mr. Aronson spoke to the Board about the completed long term care mutual aid plan for evacuation, and resources/assets. Long term care mutual aid plans are important so nearby facilities can assist a member disaster struck facility by accepting evacuated patients or helping with needed supplies, staffing, equipment and transportation.

**Updates**

**Solid Waste Management**

The RFP will be ready within the next six days. The consultant evaluation is online now. Necessary paperwork needs to be filled out, with counsel, to become an ING. Every town should respond to CRRA. Towns should email

their responses to CRCOG, and then CRCOG can put together a standard response, or collect the various responses to share. We need to come up with something for the General Assembly to vote on in January, including language having CEO's at the voting table. This will be worked on during the summer.

#### State and Federal Legislative Update

Ms. Lutz reported there were over 1,000 bills this year, but a much lower number of bills were passed. We need to ask for action before July 1 on the conveyance tax, and make sure that it states at least a two year extension.

#### Sustainable Capitol Region and T-HUD

We are waiting for the notice of availability.

#### CRCOG Annual Meeting – June 29, 2010

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 29 at noon at the Boathouse at Riverside Recapture at a cost of \$25. Members said to be sure and include a map with the invitation.

#### Comments

Next year is the 10 year anniversary of 9/11. We should put something together that shows how much progress we have made in the past ten years concerning homeland security.

#### Adjournment

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