



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688 • nvcogct.gov

MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth St., 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT

10 a.m., Friday, February 14, 2020

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Kristyn Rosa, Proxy, Oxford; David Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Winn, Town Council Chair, Watertown; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: Senator George Logan; Linda Zukauskas, United Way of Greater Waterbury; Hedy Ayers, Samantha LaBonne, Eversource; April Chaplin, Meg Haffner, The Kennedy Center, members of the public.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Glenda Prentiss, Trish Bauer, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, John DiCarlo, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Gabriel Filer, Keith Rosenfeld, Olivia Brandi, Ricardo Rodriguez, Lesley Barewin.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation entitled "Shining a Light on ALICE" by Linda Zukauskas of United Way of Greater Waterbury.

1. Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

For public comment, Samantha LaBonne of Eversource said the utility is conducting a statewide helicopter infrared inspection; she also stated that an energy efficiency webinar will be held on March 4. Hedy Ayers, also of Eversource, spoke about the company's 2020 technology grant for non-profits; she also stated that Eversource is hosting a public energy assistance information session in Waterbury on February 28.

2. CNVMPO Meeting (*Voting members for these items are limited to the 15 CEOs in the CNVMPO area*)

- a. *Update and Discussion of MPO Boundary Adjustment with GBVMPO* – Rick Dunne explained that Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton are part of the Greater Bridgeport Valley MPO, thus, the MPO boundaries are not aligned in conformity with COG boundaries. A quorum has not been present at recent GBVMPO meetings. Kurt Miller said Ansonia, Derby and Seymour will not participate in GBVMPO meetings until the issue of boundary adjustment is put to a vote. The mayor of Bridgeport would need to release the three towns; Shelton would stay, but Shelton's funding would continue to come to the CNVMPO, as per agreement. The three towns would like to participate in a special meeting that would have one agenda item that would allow a vote on this matter to take place. Responding to a question from Sheila O'Malley, Rick Dunne explained that the MPO

approves funding for projects in the four towns. Without MPO approval, federal funds available for expenditure might mean that the state cannot proceed with projects. There are currently no projects affected. If the MPO issue is not resolved, there are potential problems for the future; the solution would be as outlined by Mr. Miller. Mr. Dunne said this matter was being presented to the board so members would be aware of the situation should they be contacted by anyone from the state.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the January 10, 2020 NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Kurt Miller, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 10, 2020 NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for Period Ending 12/31/19* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed the financial reports and summaries. NVCOG is 50% through the fiscal year, and there have been no unexpected reductions to funding sources. On the expense side, the only item running over is office equipment, which is mainly attributable to new hires. Capital computer replacement and software will be reflected in next month's financials. On a motion by David Merchant, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve, as presented, the NVCOG financial reports and summaries for the period ending 12/31/19.

- c. *Director's Report*

- If anyone has any questions about recent email communications with NVCOG, please contact the office. An issue with the Microsoft email exchange server is being corrected. This may cause budget overruns, reported Rick Dunne.
- Naugatuck Valley Rail Conference Update – Mr. Dunne said bill language to improve service on the Waterbury Branch Line was drafted and submitted by the legislative delegation. Thus far, the transportation committee has not committed to raising the bill. Senator Logan said he had recently received word that the transportation committee will hold a public hearing. Mayor O'Leary strongly encouraged everyone to attend the hearing.
- Legislative Update – Mr. Dunne spoke about the importance of the reauthorization of federal transportation sub-allocations to MPOs. He also reported that the Census Bureau is proposing to put "noise" into collected data so that it cannot be tracked back. Small Cities Program funds may be allocated to MPOs in the future rather than the states. In addition, Mr. Dunne and NVCOG staff members took part in a conference call with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concerning the Thomaston to Torrington section of the Naugatuck River Greenway. Much of this section of trail runs through property owned and managed by the USACE. Representatives from the offices of Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal also took part in this call. The Corps is not in support of the effort. For the final item in his legislative update, Mr. Dunne said there is a bill before the Planning and Development Committee of the Connecticut General

Assembly dealing with COGs. It is intended as a cleanup bill, with some language changes. OPM will address the funding formula for COGs in that bill.

4. Old Business – RPIP

- a. *Motion to Take from the Table NVCOG Resolution 2020-10 – Town Boundaries* – On a motion by Kurt Miller, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To take from the table NVCOG Resolution 2020-10, concerning the RPIP application for town boundaries.

- b. *Reconsideration of NVCOG Resolution 2020-10 in Support of RPIP Application for Town Boundaries* – Rick Dunne explained that this item had been tabled at the January 10, 2020 meeting. He noted Memorandum 020720-RPIP which addresses municipal concerns about this Regional Performance Incentive Program application to create a statewide municipal boundary survey (Class D) update. A visual example of municipal boundary discrepancies was displayed. Mr. Dunne explained the work of the municipal boundary survey would be done by a consultant, with little reliance on municipal staff. There are no legal consequences for property owners or towns. A Class D survey is adequate for planning purposes, but not legal for property or tax purposes. He also explained that this is a joint RPIP application being done by the regions, similar to the statewide flyover, which had been funded through an earlier joint RPIP application. He asked that the board reconsider endorsing this application being submitted by WestCOG on behalf of all the regions. Glenda Prentiss stated the boundaries do not have to be adopted by the towns, and would be used for regional state level planning purposes. Following discussion, on a motion by Kurt Miller, seconded by Ed Mone, with Bob Chatfield abstaining and Rich Dziekan opposed, it was

VOTED: To approve NVCOG Resolution 2020-10 in support of the RPIP application for town boundaries.

5. Regional and Municipal Shared Services Update

John DiCarlo said a meeting of the municipal shared services committee will take place on February 26, 2020. Email outreach inviting all CEOs or a high ranking administrative designee to join this committee has taken place. Agenda topics will include shared staffing, back office support including municipal and school consolidation, electronic document management, a regional tree service contact, fiber optic broadband buildout, and PSAP consolidation. The committee will meet two to four times a year to provide feedback and direction on staff prepared opportunities.

Mr. DiCarlo also reminded the board that CT DEEP is offering a workshop on March 5 for municipal fleet managers as part of its municipal grant program. DEEP's upcoming round of funding will focus on vehicle electrification and the corresponding workshop will provide municipalities the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of fleet electrification and the specifics of available funding opportunities.

6. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Update on Draft NRG Trail Thomaston to Torrington Routing Feasibility Study* – Aaron Budris reported there are currently over six miles of trail, within seven communities, that are open to the public on the Naugatuck River Greenway. Design is nearing completion

on other sections of trail. Several communities have submitted applications for funding. Mr. Budris provided updates by municipality on various sections of the NRG. The Thomaston to Torrington section of the NRG remains questionable due to a large federal property managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A routing feasibility study for this section, that included engagement with the USACE, was conducted over the course of the last two years. Other stakeholders, as well as the public, were also engaged during the process. The draft routing feasibility study was published on February 11 and public comments will be accepted through March 13. In addition, the 2015 NRG priorities list will be re-inventoried, and built and planned trail sections will be mapped.

- b. *LOTCHIP Update* – Christian Meyer reported that within the NVCOG region, eight LOTCHIP projects have been completed in the last five years, five projects are currently under construction, ten are under design, three projects have applications under review at CTDOT, and nine projects are in the preliminary planning phase. Three projects are expected to complete the construction phase in early spring, and another six projects are to begin construction during summer 2020.
- c. *Corridor Studies Update* – Mr. Meyer said West Main Street in the City of Waterbury and Route 229 through the City of Bristol and the Town of Southington were selected for inclusion in the CTDOT corridor study program. NVCOG is the project manager for these studies. RFQs were issued in November 2019. Selection committees comprised of local and regional representatives interviewed the shortlisted candidate consulting firms earlier in February. A preferred candidate has been selected for both studies and negotiations will be entered into in the coming weeks.

7. Emergency Planning Updates

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team* – Joanna Rogalski said CT DEMHS and the Council of Small Towns conducted emergency management and homeland security workshops for re-elected and new chief elected officials. Coordinator John Field is available to meet with any Region 5 officials.

The CT Incident Management Team Committee has reconvened after a two-year layoff.

The State of CT ESF 1 Emergency Evacuation Task Force is reviewing the current State of CT Evacuation Plan.

The State of CT School Safety and Security Working Group will be implementing modifications to the planning guidance to include students who are hearing impaired or have other disabilities, as required under new state statute.

The CT DEMHS Region 5 Cyber Security Task Force continues to meet and share thoughts on how to enhance cyber security and better identify vulnerabilities. Municipal education is a priority of the group.

- b. *Community Emergency Response Team* – Ms. Rogalski said CERT annual reports are now due.

- c. *Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* – Ms. Rogalski said an RFP was published in January. She reminded the board that the match to the grant for FY 21 has been included in dues notices.

8. **Other**

Rick Dunne confirmed that the Connecticut General Assembly Transportation Committee had met to raise a bill regarding service improvements on the Waterbury Branch Line, but a hearing is not yet scheduled. NVCOG will keep board members advised.

9. **Adjournment**

At 11:22 a.m., on a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Ed Mone, Secretary



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

#2020-10

Proposal

**For a Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey (Class D) Update Funded Through the Regional
Performance Incentive Program**

Waterbury, Connecticut

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on February 14, 2020 in Waterbury, Connecticut, a quorum being established:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council adopted a resolution to endorse the Western Connecticut's Council of Governments' proposal for funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Program for a statewide municipal boundary survey (class D) update.

The Secretary is authorized to impress the seal of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on any such documents, amendments, rescission, or revision.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 14, 2020

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed

Ed Mone, Secretary

ANSIONA • BEACON FALLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • GEROY • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
SANDSHOE • SHARLOTTE • SHELTON • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WATERBURY