

## MINUTES

### Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Thursday, November 10, 9:00 am

COGCNV Conference Room

60 North Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Waterbury, CT

**COGCNV Members:** Karen Wilson, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Ron SanAngelo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, August Palmer III, First Selectman, Oxford; Mark A.R. Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Clifford Brammer, First Selectman, Thomaston; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Woodbury

**Other Attendees:** Carla Ferreira, Medtronic; Terry Foell, American Heart Association; Bart Russell, Council of Small Towns; Dr. Yvonne Smith-Isaac, GWTD; Paul O'Sullivan, U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson's office; Grayson Wright, ConnDOT.

**Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Michael Flood, Regional Planner; Samuel Gold, Regional Planner.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions, Public Comment

At 9:10 am, Chairman Mark Cooper stated that a quorum was not present and that the meeting would be informational until a quorum was reached. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance. There was no public comment.

#### 2. Discussion of Common Legislative Issues

Bart Russell, President of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), addressed COGCNV. COST has for 30 years represented the interests of 112 suburban and non-metro towns across Connecticut to state government and is a grassroots network of local leaders. Russell identified rising property taxes as the most important issue in many of this year's town elections. Because of this, COST has been working to ensure a predictable and adequate level of state aid. COST created the Connecticut Small Town Coalition made up of legislators that represent small towns. This coalition helped with the creation of the STEAP program. COST has been working on addressing the issues of unfunded mandates and changing binding arbitration and prevailing wage rates regulations. Some modest movement is being seen with legislators beginning to listen. COST takes suggestions from towns for issues that need to be addressed on a state level. An example of this is Southbury's request to gain the authority from the state to remove unauthorized signs along roadways. Russell announced that COST will be holding a Grassroots Government Leadership Seminar in Hartford at the Old Judiciary Room, Wednesday, December 14, 9:30 am - 1 pm. The COST annual meeting will be held on February 14, at the Crown Plaza in Cromwell.

#### 3. Pediatric Use of Portable Defibrillators

Carla Ferreira from Medtronic addressed the COGCNV on the topic of portable pediatric defibrillators. Previously, Medtronic had worked with COGCNV in equipping local emergency services and public buildings with portable defibrillators. These defibrillators are meant for adults and cannot be used on

children. Ferreira said that portable pediatric defibrillators are intended for children 8 years and younger. Medtronic is willing to work with towns in order to obtain grants and funding for these devices.

Terry Foel from the American Heart Association also spoke about making Heart Safe Communities. This program was started in Massachusetts six years ago to equip towns with defibrillators and to train people in their use, in addition to CPR training. Once a town is equipped and trained it would be labeled as being a Heart Safe Community. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has decided to adopt a similar initiative to Massachusetts. Towns will be receiving a package of materials from DPH shortly explaining the program.

*With the arrival of Ron SanAngelo at 9:45 am, Chairman Mark Cooper declared that a quorum was present.*

#### **4. Administrative Items**

- a. *Minutes of October 12, 2005, Executive Committee Meeting* — On a motion by Ron SanAngelo, seconded by Karen Wilson, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 12, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting.

- b. *Minutes of October 14, 2005, COGCNV Meeting* — On a motion by Ron SanAngelo, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 14, 2005 COGCNV Meeting.

- c. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that, as of October 31, 2005, COGCNV was 33% through the fiscal year and had expended 30% of the \$626,791 operating budget. All towns but Naugatuck have paid their annual COGCNV dues. Peter said that the COGCNV budget needed to be changed to take into account the Connecticut Community Foundation Social Services Grant and to add a line item for pass-through funds for a consultant.

On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Joseph Salvini, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the October 2005 financial report with stated budget adjustments.

Peter also reported that additional money needs to be budgeted to pay for a tape backup system for the new server. The backup system will cost about \$2,000 and will be in addition to money already budgeted for the purchase of the new server. On a motion by Ron SanAngelo, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize up to \$2,000 increase in the budget for a new COGCNV server.

- d. *2006 COGCNV Meeting Schedule* — Peter Dorpalen presented the proposed COGCNV meeting schedule for 2006. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Karen Wilson, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the 2006 COGCNV Meeting Schedule.

- e. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent COGCNV correspondence.

October 19, 2005	Letter to the Department of Economic and Community Development from COGCNV Chairman Mark Cooper in support of retaining and strengthening the Southbury Travel Center as a passenger terminal and tourist information center.
October 20, 2005	Letter to Wolcott Mayor Tom Dunn in support of Wolcott's Small City Pre-Application to improve handicap access at three municipal buildings.
October 27, 2005	Letter from the CT Regional Institute for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century requesting an annual contribution of \$1,000 (it was \$500 last year).
November 1, 2005	Letter to Oxford First Selectman August Palmer in support of Oxford's STEAP application to fund E Commerce Drive in the Oxford's industrial area.
November 9, 2005	Letter from DECD stating that the department does not have a source of funding for the Southbury Travel/ Tourist Information Center.

## 5. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Transportation Improvement Program* — Mike Flood reported on the November 2005 TIP amendments listed in the November 10, 2005 COGCNV memo. On a motion by August Palmer, seconded by Ron SanAngelo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Transportation Improvement Program amendment as listed in the COGCNV memo.

- b. *Municipal Grant Program for Senior and Disabled Demand Response Transportation Services* — Mike Flood reported this new program has been funded for \$5 million dollars statewide for dial-a-ride services for elderly people in Connecticut. The money has been allocated for each of the state's municipalities based on senior population and town area. The funding is meant for service expansion and can not be used to pay for existing service. Transportation is supposed to be coordinated on a regional level. There is a 50% match, which can be a town's existing transportation spending. Money can be rolled over to the next year, but unused money will revert back to the state. The Greater Waterbury Transit District has proposed that the eight towns within the District apply together and that it be rolled into the existing services that the GWTD oversees.
- c. *Bus Stop Study* — Sam Gold reported that a public meeting will be held shortly to present the plan for new bus stops and signs in the Waterbury region. We received a commitment from ConnDOT for funding to pay for these new signs.

## 6. **Regional Business**

Mark Cooper mentioned that one of the possible topics for future meetings is a discussion of the avian flu

and what we can do to prepare for it.

Virginia Mason reported that the selection process for a consultant to create the regional emergency response plan is progressing. On Tuesday a consultant will be picked and approval will be sought at December's COG meeting. The regional plan should be completed by the end of June and then we will be ready to exercise on that regionally next fall.

Chairman Mark Cooper thanked Kip Brammer for his many years of service to COGCNV.

Sam Gold reported that DEP has applications out for the 2006 Recreational Trail Grant program. Information and the application materials were distributed.

Ron SanAngelo requested that the Conroy proposal for Naugatuck be added to December's agenda. If this proposal goes forward it would have a significant regional impact.

## **7. Other**

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning - Evolving RPO/DEHMS Region 5 Relationship* — Peter Dorpalen reported that he and Virginia Mason had met with the directors of the four planning regions that make up DEHMS Region 5 and Wayne Sanford, Deputy Director of DEHMS. The concern is that Region 5 is too large and varied to served the regions. It was suggested that there be sub-plans that would cover the greater Danbury, Waterbury, and Torrington regions. Peter reported the Sanford was amenable to this suggestion.

## **8. Adjournment**

At 10:11 AM, on a motion by Ron SanAngelo, seconded by Kip Brammer, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

For  
Thomas Dunn  
Secretary