

MINUTES

Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Friday, March 10, 9:00 am
COGCNV Conference Room
60 North Main Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, CT

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Ron SanAngelo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Mark A.R. Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Maura Martin, First Selectman, Thomaston; Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Woodbury

Other Attendees: Chuck Berger, Watertown Engineer; Dale Shannon and Melissa Pasquale, CERC; John Turk, Chairman, Southbury Economic Development Commission; Herman Schuler, Chairman, Oxford Economic Development Commission.

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 called the meeting to order and those present recited the pledge of allegiance. Peter Dorpalen called the roll and introduced the speakers and guests. He welcomed Theresa Caldarone as Waterbury's new COG alternate. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of February 15, 2006, Meeting* — On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2006 Meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that, as of February 28, 2006, COGCNV was 67% through the fiscal year and had expended 58% of the \$626,791 operating budget. Of the total budget including pass through funds 22% has been expended. The STIF account had a balance of \$11,500, Webster Bank checking account had \$25,000, and the STIF Reserve Fund had \$172,000.

On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Jerry Sitko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the March 2006 financial report.

- c. *Proposed Policy On Start of Medical Insurance Coverage* — Peter Dorpalen reported that employee health insurance has been switch from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to MEHIP. MEHIP requires COG to determine when medical insurance coverage starts for new employees. Peter proposes keeping the same policy as before under Anthem, which is medical insurance coverage starts on the first day of the month succeeding the month of employment. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Sue Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the proposed policy to initiate medical insurance coverage for new employees on the first day of the month succeeding the month of employment.

d. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent COGCNV correspondence.

March 2, 2006 Memorandum from ConnDOT on a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a user fee system on Connecticut state-operated roads. The memo seeks a letter of support from each RPO to be included in a request for funds from FHWA.

March 3, 2006 Memorandum from COGCNV noting changes in the funding and administration of the urban highway program (STP-U) including a required match of 80% federal/ 10% state/ 10% local *for all phases* of a project.

March 6, 2006 Letter from Major Michael Jarjura appointing Theresa Caldarone, Special Council to the Mayor, as his COG Alternate.

March 7, 2006 Email from Partnership for Strong Communities requesting to talk at the next COGCNV meeting to ask COG members about possible state incentives and other changes that might encourage towns to permit developers to build housing affordable to workers and families, given the high cost of housing in the state.

On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by August Palmer, it was unanimously

REJECTED: To provide ConnDOT with a letter of support for its request for funds from FHWA for a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a user fee system on Connecticut state-operated roads.

3. **Transportation Planning**

a. *Transportation Improvement Program* — Mike Flood reported on the March 2006 TIP amendments listed in the March 10, 2006 COGCNV memo. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by August Palmer, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Transportation Improvement Program amendment as listed in the March 10, 2006 COGCNV memo.

b. *Ozone and Particulate Matter Air Quality Conformity Determinations* — Mike Flood reported that ConnDOT is requesting that COGCNV endorsement of ConnDOT's ozone air quality and particulate matter air quality conformity determinations. On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Maura Martin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the *Connecticut Department of Transportation Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination*.

On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Maura Martin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the *Connecticut Department of Transportation PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination*.

- c. *Naugatuck River Greenway* — Sam Gold reported that he is preparing a FY 07 earmark request for \$110,000 to fund an engineering and design study for a Naugatuck River Greenway from Thomaston and Beacon Falls. This earmark would be submitted to the offices of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Congresswoman Nancy Johnson. On a motion by Ron San Angelo, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the FY 07 earmark request for a \$110,000 to fund a Naugatuck River Greenway engineering and design study.

4. **Economic Development Data & Information (EDDI)**

Melissa Pasquale from CERC presented EDDI, a database that provides economic and demographic data about specific locations and a site finder tool that facilitates economic development. CERC subscribes to this database on behalf of the State of Connecticut and is seeking the participation of towns within the state. The EDDI database can be accessed directly at <http://www.cerc.com/eddi>. This product is known nationally by the site selection community. CERC hired a site selection firm to assess the information currently available in Connecticut. The firm told CERC that the information being put out by towns about sites was not adequate. CERC has developed this product in accordance with International Economic Development Council standards to ensure that data is consistent. CERC has created pages on EDDI for each town and is populating these pages with Census data. CERC is seeking the participation of the regions rather than working with each of the 169 towns separately. The region would then coordinate the addition of town information, particularly for the site finder. The site finder lists sites in each town that are available for development or redevelopment. This website is accessible worldwide and 24 hours a day. Participation in EDDI is \$200 per year per town. If the towns work through the region, CERC is offering a 20% discount. All thirteen towns would have to participate, or at least be paid for, to receive the discount.

5. **Regional Business**

- a. *Municipal Wage and Benefit Survey* — Peter Dorpalen reported that eight out of the thirteen municipalities have returned their surveys. The results of the survey have only been shared with towns that submit surveys. Ron San Angelo mentioned that the survey results have been a useful tool in contract negotiations.
- b. *Other Regional Business* — There was no other regional business.

6. **Other**

- a. *Regional Build-Out Analysis* — Peter Dorpalen reported that one of the State Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations was to conduct a build-out analysis of Connecticut. A build-out analysis shows what the state would look like if it continues to grow under current zoning regulations. A decision was made to conduct a pilot build-out analysis of one region, to be conducted by UConn's Center for Land-use Education and Research (CLEAR). CLEAR has expressed interest in working with the COGCNV on a build-out analysis of the region. As it is proposed now, we would received \$30,000 to assist with this project. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Ron San Angelo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To participate in the CLEAR pilot build-out analysis of the Central Naugatuck Valley Region.

- b. *NIMS Compliance* — Peter Dorpalen reported that if a town is 100% NIMS compliant (the chief elected official, department heads, fire, police, and EMS have all been trained in NIMS) DEMHS will come and make a formal presentation of a certificate documenting the town's compliance. There will be two more NIMS workshops training this month. Contact Virginia Mason for specific information.
- c. *Regional Profile* — Peter Dorpalen presented the updated Regional Profile, noting that Selma Alves and Glenda Prentiss were largely responsible for the update.
- d. *Annual Report* — Peter Dorpalen presented the new Annual Report, prepared by Regional Planner Sam Gold.

7. Adjournment

At 10:11 AM, on a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by August Palmer, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

For
Thomas Dunn
Secretary