

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley
Southbury Public Library
Brown Conference Room
100 Poverty Road
Southbury, CT
Friday, May 12, 2006, 9:30 AM

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectwoman, Beacon Falls; Leo Bulvanoski, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Michael Milone, Town Manager, Cheshire; Ron SanAngelo, Mayor, Naugatuck; August Palmer III, First Selectman, Oxford; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark A.R. Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Maura Martin, First Selectwoman, Thomaston; Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Woodbury; **Other Attendees:** Mike Powers, DEP; Grayson Wright, ConnDOT; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Michael Flood, Regional Planner; Samuel Gold, Regional Planner; Selma Alves, Secretary.

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

At 9:43 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 speaker and guests. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of April 13, 2006, meeting* — On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that, as of April 30, 2006, COGCNV was 83.2% through the fiscal year and had expended 72.2% of the \$631,791 operating budget. Of the total budget including pass through funds, 28% had been expended. The STIF account had a balance of \$26,576, Webster bank checking account had \$4,319, and STIF Reserve Fund had \$173,135.
- c. *Appointment of Auditor* — Peter Dorpalen reported that last year the audit cost \$9,000, but this year due more rigorous federal auditing requirements the audit will cost around \$12,000. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Sue Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Carlin, Charron, & Rosen LLP to conduct COGCNV's audit.

- d. *Household Hazardous Waste Administration Fee* — Michael Flood recommended maintaining the administration fee at its current level for next year. The total administration fee would be \$10,110. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Sue Cable, with Robert Chatfield abstaining, it was

VOTED: To maintain HHW Program Dues at \$10,110 for FY 2006-2007 with municipal dues based on 2003 population estimates as presented in memorandum 050506.

- e. *Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Agreement Authorization* — Virginia Mason reported that Milone and MacBroom was chosen to create a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the CNVR. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, with Michael Milone abstaining, it was

VOTED: To authorize an agreement with Milone and MacBroom to create a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the CNVR.

- f. *Revised Personnel Policies* — Peter Dorpalen reported that this draft had been updated and reorganized. The draft had been reviewed by the executive committee and a human resources consultant. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the *Revised Personnel Policies* effective July 1st, 2006, with the addition of Veteran's Day (November 11) as a COGCNV holiday.

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

April 13, 2006 Email to COG members with information on the Safe Routes to School program

April 19, 2006 Letter to COGCNV Chairman Mark Cooper from WRCC, WDC, Main St Waterbury, and Mayor's Office requesting a meeting with COG to discuss the proposed Waterbury Transportation Center and moving the local bus transfer point from the Green.

May 10, 2006 Letter from Chairman Mark Cooper in response stating that the COGCNV's Regional Planning Commission, the planning group of COG, is the appropriate group to discuss their concerns with.

April 20, 2006 Letter from DEP notifying towns of a new round of the open space and watershed land acquisition grant program.

April 20, 2006 Letter to the Pomperaug Health District commending its staff for the Point of Distribution (POD) exercise.

April 28, 2006 Letter from Sam Gold to Watertown's Town Planner review the proposed Wolf Hill Subdivision.

May 10, 2006 Letter to the Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust in support of its application for a state farm viability grant.

- 3. Appointment of a Nominating Committee for FY 2006-2007 Officers and Executive Committee**
By general consensus, it was decided that Richard Crane, Robert Chatfield, and Mark Cooper would serve on the nominating committee for FY 2006-2007 officers and executive committee.

4. FY 2006-2007 Program

- a. *FY 2006-07 COGCNV Budget* — Discussion

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by August Palmer, it was unanimously

VOTED: To go into executive session to discuss salaries, inviting only the executive director into the session.

At 10:23 the COG meeting went into executive session.
Executive session ended at 10:27. No votes were taken.

Peter Dorpalen reported that the FY 2006-2007 budget including a 34% increase in transportation planning funding. In cooperation with OPM, the regional build out analysis will take place next year. Emergency planning work will begin to taper off as the funding decreases. CT Association of Human Services grant is assumed to continue with the assistance to human service directors in the towns. Some increases in line items have been cut back as per discussion at the executive committee meetings. Salary increase will reflect the rise in cost of living and employee health insurance co-pay.

- b. *Unified Transportation Planning Work Program* — Michael Flood reported that the proposed FY 2006-2007 Transportation Planning budget is \$656,105. The federal contribution is \$524,884. The local and state contributions are both \$65,611. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the final draft FY 2006-2007 Transportation Planning Budget and to resubmit it to ConnDOT and FHWA for review.

- c. *OPM Regional Planning Grant Authorization* — Peter Dorpalen reported that authorization is needed for the executive director and/or chairman to sign the grant for the OPM Regional Planning Grant. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Sue Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the chairman to sign the OPM Regional Planning Grant Authorization.

- d. *COGCNV Work Program* — Peter Dorpalen highlighted the proposed projects for FY 2006-2007 including: Regional Plan of Conservation and Development update, the regional build out analysis, and technical assistance to towns. A final draft work program will be presented at the June COG meeting.

- e. *OPM Build-Out Analysis* — Virginia Mason reported that every town will get a build out analysis to a general level. Build out analyses for Woodbury and Watertown will be done at greater detail due to the availability of better assessor's data. This build out analysis will be the model for a statewide analysis. Community Viz software was purchased to be used for this build out analysis. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Sue Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the chairman to sign the letter of intent for the OPM build out analysis.

- f. *FY2005 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Agreement Authorization*. — Virginia Mason reported that for FY 2005 COG will be receiving \$15,000 for emergency planning from DEMHS. On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the chairman to sign the FY 2005 DEMHS agreement authorization.

5. Transportation Improvement Program — May 2006 Amendments

- a. *District 4 — Project 0174-0302* — Michael Flood reported that the right of way phase for traffic signal installation in District 4 was cancelled and ConnDOT is asking for the project's removal from the TIP.
- b. *Thomaston — Project 0140-HXX1 (3 Amendments)* — Michael Flood reported that these three amendments would be for culvert repair on Rte. 109 in Thomaston.

On a motion by Sue Cable, seconded by Michael Milone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the May 2006 Transportation Improvement Program amendments.

6. Housatonic Basin Natural Resources Restoration Project

Mike Powers, Administrative Project Manager, at the Department of Environmental Protection spoke on the Housatonic Basin Natural Resources Restoration Project and how the program can benefit the region. Powers explained that restoration is not remediation. It has nothing to do with cleaning up waste, but is solely concerned with restoring the injury to natural resources. GE dumped PCB's in the Housatonic River up to the 1970's. The river was identified as a federal superfund site and under federal legislation, the trustees of the natural resources injured by the release can join the action to seek damages for injury. The State of Connecticut, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA were all identified as trustees and were parties to superfund settlement negotiations along with the U.S. EPA.

The negotiations with GE took place in the late 1990's and \$15 million was put into the restoration fund. Connecticut received \$7.5 million for restoration. A memorandum of understanding between the four trustees dictates how the money can be spent and stipulates that all expenditures have to be agreed upon unanimously. CT Trustee's Advisory Group (CTAG), of which COGCNV is a member, advises the DEP commissioner. In late 2002, a contract was signed with consultants for phase one which was the creation of a roadmap for the restoration planning process. In December 2003, phase one was completed with the creation of a scope of work. Since then, the project has been on hiatus due to contracting problems and staff retirement at DEP. On January 26th, 2006 a coordinator for the project was hired and a contract was drafted and approved by the Attorney General in April. Now evaluation criteria have to be developed to determine what projects should be funded from the restoration settlement.

Restoration is defined as actions "to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources or natural resource services equivalent to those injured by the release of PCB's." Anyone who can come up a legitimate idea of how to restore the Housatonic Basin, is eligible to propose. Projects for other water bodies besides the Housatonic River are eligible for proposals including the Naugatuck River. Funding for projects outside the Housatonic River can be funded if the project replaces services lost by the contamination of the Housatonic River. Ideas for projects will be solicited this year, a list of proposals will follow and then a natural resource restoration plan will be written and adopted. Then the projects included in the preferred alternatives of the restoration plan will be funded.

7. Regional Business

a. *Economic Development Data & Information (EDDI)*TM— Peter Dorpalen reported that he received confirmation from CERC that the region would get the 20% discount even though only eleven out of thirteen towns are participating. The towns participating will be Beacon Falls, Cheshire, Naugatuck, Prospect, Oxford, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, and Woodbury.

b. *Other regional business*

On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Sue Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add Watertown Land Trust Osuch Property letter of support to the agenda.

c. *Watertown Land Trust Osuch Property Letter of Support* — Virginia Mason reported that the

Watertown Land Trust is seeking funding to purchase a conservation easement for the Osuch Farm property which spans the Watertown and Woodbury town line. The property is in the Nonnewaug Open Space Action Area and is important to the Pomperaug Watershed. On a motion by Leo Bulvanoski, seconded by Maura Martin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the preservation of the Osuch property.

8. Other

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

At 10:47 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