

## MINUTES

### Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCNV Conference Room

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

Wednesday, July 18, 2007, 9 A.M.

**COGCNV Members:** Susan Cable, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Michael Bronko, Mayor, Naugatuck; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Maura Martin, First Selectman, Thomaston; Michael Jarjura, Mayor, Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Joseph Seacrest, Alternate, Watertown; Thomas Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Paul Hinckley, Alternate, Woodbury.

**Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Jeffrey Cormier, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist, Joseph Perrelli, Regional Planner.

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

Vice-Chairman Tom Dunn called the meeting to order at 9:03am. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance, and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

#### 2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of May 11, 2007 COGCNV Meeting* — On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve agenda items *2a. Minutes of June 8, 2007 Meeting, 2b. July 2007 Financial Report, 3. DEP Agreements on Pre-Disaster Mitigation – Authorization, and 4. July 2007 Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program – Reconstruction of Guernseytown Rd (Project No. 0153-0111).*

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of June 30, 2007, the Council was 100% through the fiscal year and had expended 87.63% of the \$687,231 operating budget. Of the total budgeted amount which includes pass-through funds, 35.34% of the \$2,050,402 budget had been expended. The STIF account totaled \$3,749. The Webster Checking account balance was \$4,816. The STIF Reserve Fund had a balance of \$204,962. Funds from the Reserve fund are being used to facilitate cash flow, but will be returned to the account, once reimbursement is received from program grants.

- c. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence.

undated	Letter from FHWA to ConnDOT notifying the state that its Urban Partnership application was not selected ( 9 out of 27 were accepted).
June 7, 2007	Letter from DEMHS Commissioner James Thomas thanking Assistant Director Virginia Mason for COGCNV's organization of the June 2, 2007, CERT search and rescue exercise.
June 12, 2007	Letters to DEP Commissioner stating COGCNV support for open space applications in Beacon Falls and Southbury.
June 15, 2007	Letters to DEP's Housatonic River Natural Resources Restoration Project stating COGCNV's support for two Southbury applications.

June 20, 2007	Letter from Virginia Mason with comments on an environmental impact evaluation of the expansion of the public water system and regional interconnect in Middlebury and Southbury.
June 25, 2007	Letter to DEP with staff support for Oxford's open space application.
July 2, 2007	Letters to mayors and first selectmen transmitting FY08 COGCNV dues.
July 3, 2007	Letters to mayors and first selectmen transmitting FY08 HHW administrative fee invoices to participating municipalities.
July 9, 2007	Letter to DECD transmitting staff suggestions for scoping of the environmental impact statements for the Waterbury Transportation Center.
July 11, 2007	Press release from U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro's office announcing transportation and economic development funding for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District including \$300,000 for a design study for the Naugatuck River Greenway, and \$1.6 million for Beacon Fall's Depot Street Bridge.
July 11, 2007	Letter to ConnDOT transmitting the fourth quarter progress report for the COGCNV's regional transportation planning program
July 12, 2007	Email from Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office, with a press release announcing that \$300,000 for the engineering design study for the Naugatuck River Greenway and \$1.6 million for the Beacon Falls Depot St bridge have been approved by the House Appropriations Committee.
July 13, 2007	Memorandum from the state Transportation Strategy Board stating that the structure of transportation investment areas will be changed following the release of recommendations from the Governor's ConnDOT task force.
July 18, 2007	Letter from Watertown Town Manager Chuck Frigon stating that Joseph Seacrist is representing Watertown for the July 18 COGCNV meeting.

3. **DEP Agreements on Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans – Authorizations**

See item 2a. Virginia Mason reported that the grants would be for pre-disaster mitigation plans for Middlebury, Bethlehem, Southbury, Thomaston, Beacon Falls, and Naugatuck. Virginia Mason reported that she had previously asked the chief elected officials of the towns and there was agreement to use the same consultant used for Prospect, Wolcott, Cheshire, and Waterbury. The CEOs present expressed continued agreement.

4. **July 2007 Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program**

See item 2a.

5. **Update on New Hartford v. CRRA**

Mayor Michael Jarjura gave an update on the status of the CRRA lawsuit and Enron bankruptcy proceedings. Jarjura reported that \$140 million of the \$225 million lost in the Enron debacle was recovered in bankruptcy proceedings. It was decided to return up to \$18 million of the settlement to the towns. Settlement money has been used to pay off all CRRA debt and some will be put aside to cover

landfill closing costs and the costs of siting a new landfill. Currently there are three lawsuits pending in Texas against various financial institutions. Jarjura is optimistic that these lawsuits in Texas could go in CRRA's favor and return between \$40 and \$80 million. Comments made by the judge in the New Hartford v. CRRA case could put the court cases in Texas in jeopardy. The decision was made by CRRA to appeal the New Haven v. CRRA decision. Mark Cooper stated that it was the boards priority to keep tipping fees low. CRRA has used part of the settlement to pay off all indebtedness.

## 6. Project Updates

- a. *NVCC Municipal Training Program* – Peter Dorpalen reported that six towns have committed to the municipal training academy program at NVCC. NVCC has estimated the program will cost \$78,000. Each of the six towns needs to designate a contact person and a person for the program steering committee. The steering committee will decide what courses are offered. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Susan A. Cable to enter into an agreement with Naugatuck Valley Community College concerning the Municipal Training Academy.

- b. *DEHMS Update* – Virginia Mason presented three items regarding DEHMS:

*Draft Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Bylaws* – A motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Mark Cooper, was made to endorse the Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team Bylaws. During the discussion, there was an objection to section 3.1 of the bylaws which requires designees of the chief elected official to be appointed for individual meetings rather than being a permanent designee. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

VOTED: To amend the motion to include a strong objection to section 3.1, because it does not allow chief elected officials to appoint a permanent designee.

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team Bylaws presented in COGCNV Memorandum 071107, with strong objection to section 3.1.

- c. *COGCNV as Fiduciary Agent for DEHMS Region 5*

On a motion by Mark Cooper, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add items “COGCNV as Fiduciary Agent for DEHMS Region 5” and “2007 DEMHS Grant Authorization” to the agenda.

Virginia Mason reported that COGCNV has been asked to be the fiduciary agent for DEHMS Region 5. Mason reported that COGCNV would not be taking on any other responsibilities for Region 5. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize COGCNV to be the fiduciary agent for DEHMS Region 5.

- d. *2007 DEMHS Grant Authorization* – Peter Dorpalen reported that authorization is needed for COGCNV to enter into an agreement with DEMHS for the 2007 grant. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Theresa Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Susan A. Cable to enter into an agreement with DEMHS for the 2007 grant.

- e. *Naugatuck River Greenway* – Samuel Gold reported that in June he took National Park Service representative John Monroe on a tour of the Naugatuck River Greenway corridor. John Monroe expressed interest in assisting with the greenway project and specifically providing assistance to efforts in Thomaston and Waterbury. He suggested that Thomaston apply for assistance under the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and that Waterbury apply for consultations under the program. On a motion by Theresa Caldarone, seconded by Michael Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Thomaston and Waterbury's applications to the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

- f. *STP Urban Highway Program* – Peter Dorpalen reported that the amount of money the region is receiving is not keeping up with project costs. Dorpalen emphasized the importance of keeping projects on schedule.
- g. *Regional Plan of Conservation and Development* – Peter Dorpalen reported that staff has been working on the Plan, and Glenda Prentiss is working on a draft layout for the document.

## 7. **Regional Business**

*Wage and Benefits Survey* – Peter Dorpalen reported that the deadline has passed and only a few completed surveys were received. Dorpalen asked members to ask their municipal contacts to complete the survey or contact him with any questions.

## 8. **Other**

There was no other business.

- 9. **Adjournment** — At 10:00 am, on a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Theresa Calderone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Samuel Gold  
Senior Planner

for

Michael Bronko  
Secretary