

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley
COGCNV Conference Room
Old Waterbury Savings Bank Building
60 North Main Street, Third Floor
Waterbury, CT
Thursday, February 26, 2009, 9 a.m.

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Michael Bronko, Mayor, Naugatuck; Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers, First Selectman, Oxford; Maura Martin, First Selectman, Thomaston; Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Chuck Frigon, Town Manager, Watertown; Thomas Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Paul Hinckley, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: Roy Cavanaugh, Director of Public Works, Watertown; Kenny Curran, Congressman Chris Murphy's Office; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Joseph Perrelli, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Jeff Cormier, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

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

Chairman Susan Cable called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of January 9, 2009 Meeting* — On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Jeff Hamel, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 9, 2009 COGCNV meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of the end of January, COGCNV was 59% through the fiscal year and had expended 51% of its operating budget. Of the total budget, including pass-through funds, 38% has been expended.

On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Theresa Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

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

January 23, 2009 Memorandum from OPM requesting that COG remind municipalities that discretionary state funding could be affected if a municipality does not have a local plan of conservation and development updated within the last ten years, beginning July 1, 2010.

- February 9, 2009 Email to area legislators alerting them that the Governor's Budget includes \$40 million for regional incentive grants but it eliminates state funding for the RPOs which often serve as facilitators for regional services.
- February 25, 2009 Email from Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office, inviting towns to submit earmark projects.

3. Transportation Improvement Plan Amendments

Jeff Cormier explained that there are two February 2009 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

The first amendment concerns moving the construction phase for the Waterbury bus garage, Project No. 0431-0006, from the current TIP to FYI. The second amendment involves statewide bus replacements, and adds a phase in 2009 to enable the use of reinvestment and recovery funds for Project No. 170-XXXX. On a motion by Jerry Sitko, seconded by Paul Hinckley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February 2009 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

4. Economic Stimulus Package — Status of Shovel-Ready Transportation Projects

Joe Perrelli reviewed the work that COGCNV staff, ConnDOT, and local officials have completed over the last few months to develop a list of potential shovel-ready projects for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). He discussed three important points raised in a February 6 meeting with ConnDOT, and how these points have since been modified. Mr. Perrelli distributed a memo which explains the situation in depth, a list of municipal shovel-ready transportation projects received by the initial February 23 deadline, and a recent email from ConnDOT outlining updates to information and direction previously provided to municipalities and RPOs.

5. Elimination of State Regional Planning Funding in Governor's Budget

Mr. Dorpalen discussed Governor Rell's proposal to increase regionalization throughout the state, including regional incentive grants and municipal capital expenditure grants. However, the funds allocated for regional planning organizations have been cut out of the governor's budget proposal. Very often when it comes to setting up and organizing the types of regional programs the governor is urging, it is done through regional planning organizations. Mr. Dorpalen provided a list of regional projects and initiatives that COGCNV has undertaken. There is state legislation obligating RPOs to do regional referrals, including reviews of zoning and subdivision proposals near town lines. A regional plan of conservation and development is also required by the state. These are mandates that the state is proposing to no longer fund. COGCNV has other sources of funds, but it is the funding from OPM that allows RPOs to do special projects and comply with state mandates.

Susan Cable recommended a letter be sent to area legislators concerning the importance of regional planning organizations and their benefit to municipalities. All chief elected officials present indicated their willingness to sign the letter. Ms. Cable also suggested that the CEOs come to the next COG meeting with ideas of how the towns might share resources that would be applied for through COGCNV.

On a motion by Jerry Sitko, seconded by Chuck Frigon, it was unanimously

VOTED: To prepare a letter to area legislators stressing the necessity of regional planning organizations and their importance in regionalization, with the letter to be signed by all chief elected officials of COGCNV.

6. **GIS Municipal Parcel Mapping — Parcel Maintenance and Update**

Virginia Mason reported that GIS parcel mapping for Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, and Thomaston is complete. Meetings with Middlebury and Cheshire will take place next week; Naugatuck's meeting took place on Monday. Parcel mapping for Wolcott will begin soon. A meeting with Oxford will take place in March. By June 30, COGCNV municipalities must make a decision as to whether they wish to continue as a group with GIS updates through the consultant.

7. **State Municipal Matching Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation**

Sam Gold stated that he sent informational letters to the municipalities in the Greater Waterbury Transit District concerning the Dial-A-Ride program. ConnDOT reported that the governor has not included funding for the program in her proposed budget, but they would still like participating municipalities to submit the required paperwork in case the funding is reinstated.

8. **Project Updates**

a. *Emergency Planning* — Virginia Mason reported that Stage 1 of the FY07 grant is complete. The FY08 application is due in August.

b. *HomeCT* — Ms. Mason said Thomaston has its grant, and she will begin work on the RFP for the consultant next week. A presentation was made to Watertown and she is awaiting further word.

c. *Social Service Client Software* — Peter Dorpalen said that seven towns participated in the training session for the database. The session went well, and several towns are up and running with the software. Based on feedback from the training session, the consultant made several revisions to the software. The towns now have these revisions.

9. **Regional Business**

Susan Cable reiterated the need for the municipalities to stick together and work cohesively as a COG.

10. **Other**

a. *Pre-Disaster Mitigation* — Virginia Mason reported that Bethlehem and Thomaston held public hearings and are now awaiting final approval from FEMA. Public hearing dates are scheduled for Beacon Falls, Middlebury, and Southbury in March. Naugatuck's public hearing is still to be scheduled.

b. *Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan* — Sam Gold said a locally coordinated human services transportation plan meeting will be held on March 2. United Way will be providing a transportation information hotline, which will be a one stop resource for individuals to find out about transportation that is available from various sources.

c. *Naugatuck River Greenway* — Sam Gold stated that Waterbury has selected a consultant to perform a routing study. COGCNV is now working on the selection process for a regional routing study. The four towns involved have been asked to appoint individuals to the selection committee.

d. *Reverse Auctions* — Paul Hinckley discussed the concept of reverse auctions being done on a municipal basis. This could be done on a regional level for required services and supplies. Mr. Hinckley will look into this further and report in the future.

11. **Adjournment** — at 9:44 a.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Mike Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant

for

Michael Bronko
Secretary