

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Casa Dijanna Restaurant
545 Main Street
Watertown, CT

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 12:00 Noon

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, Karen Wilson, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Tom Gormley, First Selectman, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Terry Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Chuck Frigon, Town Manager, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott, Barbara Perkinson, Alternate, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: Tom Kirk, Paul Nonnenmacher, CRRA; Roy Cavanaugh, Director of Public Works, Watertown; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office; Liam Sweeney, Senator Chris Dodd's Office; Stephen Livingston, ConnDOT; Kenny Curran, Congressman Chris Murphy's Office.

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

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

Chairman Tom Dunn called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.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 8, 2010 Meeting* — On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Terry Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2010 COGCNV meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of January 31, 2010, COGCNV was 59% through the fiscal year and had expended 52% of its operating budget. Including pass-through funds, 63% of the total budget has been expended. On a motion by Tom Gormley, seconded by Chuck Frigon, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *Personnel Change* — Peter Dorpalen stated that Regional Planner/GIS Specialist Jeff Cormier had accepted a position with the State of Connecticut and left the employ of COGCNV. GIS Coordinator Glenda Prentiss will become a full time employee and no replacement will be sought for Jeff's position.

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

January 6, 2010	Letters from Chairman Tom Dunn to area legislators stating COGCNV's legislative priorities: full funding of municipal aid, reduced municipal mandates, and restoration of OPM funding for regional planning organizations.
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January 11, 2010	Memo from Regional Planner/ GIS Specialist Jeff Cormier stating that he has taken another position and will be resigning as of January 28, 2010.
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January 15, 2010	Letter to COGCNV Tom Dunn from RPC Chairman Martin Cobern expressing the RPC's concern that the RPC was bypassed relative to COGCNV's approval of the Waterbury Transportation Center. He noted that one of [the RPC's] principal roles is to act as a planning advisory board to guide COG in making decisions regarding regional planning.
January 22, 2010	Letter to Mayor Jarjura thanking him and his staff for meeting with COGCNV staff for a follow-up meeting on the Waterbury Transportation Center to discuss feasible options.
February 3, 2010	Email to COG - DEP open space program - May 3 deadline.
February 5, 2010	Letter from State Representative Rosa Rebimbas to Chairman Dunn in response to his letter on COGCNV's legislative priorities.
February 5, 2010	Email from Jim Ryan of the CEDS program for the Naugatuck Valley Corridor requesting that towns submit a new capital investment questionnaire for economic development projects to be included for funding under the CEDS program. The deadline for submitting a project is March 5, 2010.
February 9, 2010	Email from Peter Dorpalen in response to a legislative request on the cost savings to towns from participation in the regional council of governments.
February 10, 2010	Letter to Oxford stating that its greenway trail proposals are in conformance with the Regional Plan.

3. **The Livable Communities Act and Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program**

Liam Sweeney of Senator Chris Dodd's office said the Senator's Livable Community Act will help communities plan for and create better and more affordable places to live, work and raise families. The legislation, when enacted, will fund regional planning to make communities more livable. The Comprehensive Planning Grant Program will help communities develop comprehensive regional plans that incorporate transportation, housing, community and economic development, and environmental needs. The Challenge Grant Program will enable communities to implement cross-cutting projects according to their comprehensive regional plans. The legislation is designed to ensure that the federal government is a supportive partner for communities' planning and sustainable development.

The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program was enacted by the Obama administration and is for multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, transportation, economic development, and land use in a manner that empowers municipalities to create economic growth. In this process, HUD is seeking feedback from state and local governments and other stakeholders as to how the program should be structured. All comments should be submitted to HUD by March 12, 2010. Funding will be available to support the preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development that address housing, economic development, transportation, and environmental quality in an integrated fashion where such plans do not currently exist; to support the preparation of more detailed execution plans and programs to implement existing regional sustainable development; and to support regions that have sustainable development plans and implementation strategies in place and need support for a catalytic project or program. More comprehensive and detailed information can be found at www.hud.gov/sustainability.

4. **Defining the Role of the Regional Planning Commission within COGCNV Bylaws and Operating Policies**

Peter Dorpalen explained the role of the Regional Planning Commission as the advisory planning group for COGCNV. Typically, the RPC reviews planning work by the organization before it goes to COGCNV for final review and approval. A few changes to the COGCNV bylaws are necessary to comply with changes to state statutes. In the RPC section of the bylaws, the responsibilities of the RPC should be updated to reflect changes in state statutes on regional planning referrals. The RPC section of the bylaws specifies that the RPC is to prepare operating procedures, which COGCNV approves. There are operating procedures for zoning and subdivision referrals, but they need to be updated to include municipal plan reviews and requests for COGCNV support of proposals, plans, and projects. Terry Caldarone said she had requested this item be added to the agenda.

5. **Requested Earmark Application Support**

- a. *Waterbury, Naugatuck River Greenway Construction* — Sam Gold said COGCNV received a request from the Waterbury Mayor’s Office for an earmark for the Naugatuck River Greenway Project. Terry Caldarone thanked COGCNV and Sam Gold for their contributions and efforts on this project. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Gormley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Waterbury’s requested earmark application for the Waterbury, Naugatuck River Greenway construction.

- b. *Naugatuck, Parking Garage as Part of Downtown Revitalization Project* — Bob Mezzo described this project, which is part of the Renaissance Place program. In development of an agreement with the partners involved, requirements include a structure for parking. Naugatuck has submitted requests to the members of its federal delegation for this project and is now seeking COGCNV support. On a motion by Bob Mezzo, seconded by Jerry Sitko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Naugatuck’s requested earmark application for the Naugatuck Parking Garage as part of its downtown revitalization project.

6. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Status of Transportation Project Funding in Connecticut* — Peter Dorpalen said unfunded transportation projects throughout the state outnumber those that will be funded. The final phase of the I-84 upgrade in eastern Waterbury is one of the projects that will not be moving forward in the next five years. The amount of program funding and discretionary funding is down. At a recent regional planning coordination meeting, the transportation commissioner stated the emphasis will be on stabilization and rehabilitation of structures, as well as on projects that are already well underway. Given the short turnaround, he complimented the towns with municipal ARRA stimulus projects for their timely response. There is a request for a contingency project in case there is a hitch with one of the projects. There is a possibility of a second round of funding for the ARRA program, which is expected to have a 90 day turnaround.

- b. *TIP Amendment — ARRA Contingency Project* — Joe Perrelli said ConnDOT recommended that if funding becomes available from other projects, the Cheshire, Repair of Rt. 70 bridge over Brood Brook project move forward. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Jerry Sitko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February TIP amendment, Rt. 70 over Brood Brook (#25-137) in Cheshire, as a substitute ARRA project in the event that any proposed ARRA project in the region will not meet the March 2, 2010 deadline.

- c. *Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Safety Study Report* — Joe Perrelli discussed the findings of the study and

said the report was presented to the RPC who recommended it for approval by COGCNV. The study assesses existing conditions and identifies hazards for bicycles and pedestrians in the region. On a motion by Tom Gormley, seconded by Chuck Frigon, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Study in the CNVR: An Assessment of Existing Conditions.

- d. *Naugatuck River Greenway Routing Study* — Sam Gold reported that progress is being made towards a draft Naugatuck River Greenway Routing Study. Two public workshops will be held in March. The report and cost estimates are anticipated to be ready in May or June of 2010.

7. Regional Business

Sam Gold said he sent an email to chief elected officials concerning the state municipal grant program for elderly and disabled transportation. Applications are due back by April 5. The eight towns that are part of the Greater Waterbury Transit District have a regional application which is being prepared by Dr. Yvonne Smith-Isaac.

8. Other

- a. *CRRA Municipal Services Agreement* — CRRA President Tom Kirk spoke about CRRA's post-2012 plans. He discussed tip fees, the closure of the Hartford landfill, and bond monies promised by the legislature. As a state agency, CRRA is required to utilize private industry to operate the landfills. Towards this end, RFQs and RFPs are being solicited. Municipal service agreements with most towns will expire in 2012. Market competitive contractors will enable CRRA to offer net cost of operation services. There will be options for municipalities that elect not to sign a service agreement. Drafts of municipal service agreements will be provided to chief elected officials within the next few weeks.
- b. *Emergency Planning* — Virginia Mason said an REPC meeting will be held to reallocate unexpended funds. A memo will be sent when a date is selected and more information is available.

9. Adjournment

At 1:05 p.m., on a motion by Terry Caldarone, seconded by Tom Gormley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant

for

Robert Chatfield
Secretary