

## MINUTES

### Regional Planning Commission of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCNV Conference Room  
60 North Main Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
(Waterbury Savings Bank Building – North Lobby)  
Waterbury, CT

7:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 11, 2007

**Attendance:** Richard Minnick, Beacon Falls; Maria Hill, Bethlehem; Martin Cobern, Cheshire; Joseph McEvoy, Naugatuck; Harold Cosgrove, Oxford; Harmon Andrews, Southbury; William Guerrero and Robert Flanagan, Thomaston; James Sequin, Waterbury; Ruth Mulcahy, Watertown; Linda Fercodini, Wolcott; Kay Campbell, Woodbury.  
**Guests:** Ed Jurzinski, Beacon Falls  
**Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Sam Gold, Senior Planner; Joseph Perrelli, Regional Planner; Jeffrey Cormier, GIS Specialist / Regional Planner.

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

Robert Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Those present introduced themselves and recited the pledge of allegiance. There was no public comment.

#### 2. Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of May 1, 2007 Minutes* — On a motion by Kay Campbell, seconded by Harmon Andrews, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting.

- b. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent COGCNV correspondence :

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	Memorandum from Regional Planner Joe Perrelli submitting Local Road Accident Reduction Projects to ConnDOT from Naugatuck, Waterbury, and Watertown.
July 9, 2007	Letter to DECD transmitting staff suggestions for scoping of the environmental impact statements for the Waterbury Transportation Center.
July 11, 2007	Email from state legislative staff about the program review schedule for a study of RPOs — study briefing on September 18 and public hearing on September 25.

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 17, 2007	Letter to DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy thanking her for meeting COGCNV staff, USGS, and PRWC on the development of a refined watershed and ground water model to assist local land use commissions in the making better land use decisions.
August 3, 2007	Memorandum for Senior Planner Sam Gold to local land use commissions summarizing the impact of recent Connecticut court cases.
August 6, 2007	Letter from Virginia Mason to Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission with regional comments on the draft plan, as required under Sec. 35a of the CT General Statutes.
August 8, 2007	Letter to building owner stating maintenance deficiencies in the building and requesting prompt response to the problems.
August 10, 2007	Letters to the Cheshire Town Manager and Chairmen of the Waterbury Planning Commission and Wolcott Planning and Zoning Commission, requesting the appointment of an RPC representative to fill vacancies.
August 18, 2007	Letter to Southbury in support of Grace Meadow elderly housing upgrade under the Small Cities grant program.
August 23, 2007	Dept of Emergency Management & Homeland Security guidelines and application for FY 2007 regional collaboration program.
August 30, 2007	Letter to Middlebury in support of its proposed rehabilitation and renovation of the Middlebury Town Hall under the Small Cities grant program.
September 10, 2007	Email with guidelines for a new OPM Regional Performance Incentive program.

### 3. **Election of FY2007-08 Officers**

Bob Flanagan presented the Nominating Committee's FY2007-08 slate of RPC officers: Linda Fercodini as Chairman, Martin Cobern as Vice-Chairman, and Robert Flanagan as Secretary. On a motion by Harold Cosgrove, seconded by Richard Minnick, it was unanimously

VOTED: To elect the FY2007-08 slate of officers.

### 4. **Regional Plan Update**

Peter Dorpalen, Virginia Mason, and Samuel Gold gave an overview of a draft of the new Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The plan updates the 1998 Plan. Major changes include a new, more readable layout and discussion of agriculture. Draft chapters and a schedule of upcoming planning steps was distributed. A complete draft is expected by the November RPC meeting.

## 5. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Naugatuck River Greenway* — Samuel Gold reported that the National Parks Service expressed interest in assisting with the Greenway Project. An application to the NPS Rivers and Trails Assistance Program was submitted in August for technical assistance for Thomaston and Waterbury. Money for an engineering and routing study for the Greenway has been put in a federal appropriations bill by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Congressman Chris Murphy.
- b. *Congestion Management Study* — Joseph Perrelli reported that regional roads have been selected for the CMS study. The analysis will include more roads than the previous study. Staff will drive roads in all municipalities but Bethlehem and their average driving speed will be recorded by a GPS receiver.
- c. *Pedestrian Safety Study* — Samuel Gold reported that work has started on a regional pedestrian safety study. Joseph Perrelli has begun collecting pedestrian accident data for the region.
- d. *GIS Parcel Mapping Project* — Virginia Mason reported that COGCNV would be using transportation planning money to subsidize the cost of digitizing parcel maps in the six towns without them. COG would also be purchasing a license for Oxford's map data. An RFP is being worked on for the project. The project would have to be completed by June.

## 6. **Emergency Planning**

- a. *Disaster Mitigation Planning* — Virginia Mason reported that there are two contracts the 2005 contract for Cheshire, Wolcott, Waterbury, and Prospect. Draft disaster mitigation plans for Waterbury and Cheshire are currently being reviewed by FEMA. Wolcott's draft plan is being reviewed by the town and Prospect's draft plan was just completed by the consultant. Once plans are approved by FEMA, they go back to the town for approval. The application for disaster mitigation planning funds for the remaining six towns without plans needs to be resubmitted to DEP on new forms.
- b. *Emergency Planning Program* — Peter Dorpalen reported that there is a new round of funding for DEHMS. This round looks at funding projects on a regional level. The CNVR is in DEHMS Region 5, which including all of the northwest corner of Connecticut. DEHMS wants COGCNV to take the lead for emergency planning for the entire region. The result of this planning work will be a region-wide emergency operations plan. DEMHS is offering a \$22,000 grant for the regional planning organization (RPO) that takes the lead in doing the planning for all DEHMS Region 5. During meetings with the other RPOs, it was decided that DEHMS' requirement that a single RPO be responsible for regional planning for the entire region would be untenable. It was decided that the \$22,000 grant would not be pursued and let the responsibility for creating the regional emergency operations plan fall back to DEMHS.

Virginia Mason reported that COG has endorsed the process in which regional mayors and first-selectmen would have final say in the regional emergency operations plan. The chief elected officials or their proxies would meet twice a year with various regional emergency planning officials in order to stay involved. Mason also reported that DEP is also looking to identify one or two sites in each town and a couple regionally for putting disaster debris.

## 7. **Points of Interest/Local Activities**

Wolcott — Linda Fercodini reported that:

- An over 55 project broke ground at the beginning of Route 69 over the Waterbury line. Another one on Meriden Road has been halted. An over 55 complex was approved on Cole Road.
- A traffic engineering study for the Old Guirleytown was approved.
- There are three referendums – roads, commercial center, and the purchase of land by the high school.

Woodbury — Kay Campbell reported that:

- Woodbury approved a new senior center, to open in October.

Naugatuck — Joseph McEvoy reported that:

- Hershey is leaving Naugatuck. A plan to put a commercial development on the site — a big box realtor and a national restaurant chain — was rejected, and the site will remain industrial.

Beacon Falls — Rich Minnick reported that:

- Depot Street bridge is in the semi-final planning stages of being repaired with the State.
- Two age-restricted housing complexes sales have slowed down. Litigation is pending with a third age-restricted development.
- There will be a meeting on a large commercial development being built at Rte 8 and 42.

Waterbury — Jim Sequin reported that:

- The number of housing proposals has dropped off.
- Waterbury has a cease and desist against the stone crushing operation of Blue Stone Quarry near the state forest on Thomaston Avenue. The quarry is operating illegally. Next week, the zoning board of appeals will hear Mr. Hitchko's appeal.
- The Kohl's development by the Cheshire border might break ground before Christmas.
- Waterbury is in final negotiations with Woodard & Curran and Shipman & Goodman on new land use regulations.

Bethlehem — Maria Hill reported that:

- A sidewalk that runs from the school towards the center of town has been constructed.

Oxford — Herman Schuler and Harold Cosgrove reported that:

- Oxford High School has opened.
- A GE power plant is under negotiation to move in.
- The town is looking at establishing walking trails.
- Oxford had an incident on Friedman Road. Someone has been taking out fill for ten years and exceeded his limit by 144,000 cubic yards. The town is in the process of inspecting the roads.

Cheshire — Martin Cobern reported that:

- There will be a town-wide memorial service on September 29 for the home invasion/triple murder that took place.
- WS Corporation has come forward with an application for their lifestyle center and a hotel. Hearings start on September 24.
- Sinkholes have developed in the southwestern and western parts of town from old, abandoned barite and copper mines. A lawsuit has been filed against the town for not properly informing the homeowners of the problem.

Thomaston — William Guerrera reported that:

- The age restricted housing has broken ground on South Main Street.
- There have been issues of zoning violations and zoning enforcement.
- The mill rate was settled at 24.99.

Southbury — Harmon Andrews reported that:

- Lights on Settlers Field were turned down by the Field's Board.
- Senior Center that opened in May is very active.
- Probate Court is moving to the Town Hall out of the Police Department.

Watertown — Ruth Mulcahy reported that:

- Non-stop applications for housing subdivisions, industry, schools, and commercial development.
- Tamarac Energy sent a notice about building a wood burning plant on Echo Lake Road.

**8. Other**

Robert Flanagan was presented a plaque for his service as Chairman of the Regional Planning Commission.

Peter Dorpalen reported that the Municipal Training Program is moving forward, with five towns participating. He reported on a legislative review of Connecticut RPOs at the Legislative Office Building on September 18 and a hearing on the September 20. OPM has a new Regional Performance Incentive Program to fund projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of towns working together rather than providing the service individually.

Virginia Mason reported that as a result of the land use academy being funded by OPM's Office of Responsible Growth, only regions that are underserved will be able to use the land use academy. She asked if the RPC members wanted COG to schedule a three-session land use workshop.

She also stated that there would be a Stormwater: Reducing Runoff seminar in Bethlehem in October and if others wanted one in their town to let her know.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Samuel Gold  
Senior Planner

for

Bob Flanagan  
RPC Secretary