

APPROVED

**10/22/2015 MINUTES OF THE
WESTERN CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Meeting at the Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901

Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker / Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson
Secretary Susan Chapman / Treasurer Gayle Weinstein

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel	First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
Bridgewater	Absent
Brookfield	Absent
Danbury	Absent
Darien	First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
Greenwich	Absent
New Canaan	First Selectman Robert Mallozzi
New Fairfield	Absent
New Milford	Absent
Newtown	First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Norwalk	Development Director Elizabeth Stocker (non-voting)
Redding	Absent
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman	Absent
Stamford	Mayor David Martin
Weston	First Selectman Gayle Weinstein
Westport	First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton	First Selectman William Brennan

OTHERS ATTENDING

State Representative Gail Lavielle, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Dean Esposito of Danbury Consumer Protection, Holly Drinkuth of The Nature Conservancy, Norwalk Transit District Director Kimberly Morton and Westport Transit District Director Jennifer Johnson.

Also Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson, Stamford Traffic Engineer Mani Poola, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, , Richard Schreiner of HARTransit, Kip Koons of Darien, Tracy Alston of Eversource, Margaret Wirtenberg of Weston, WestCOG Director Francis Pickering and WestCOG staff.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 P.M. by Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker.

David Martin welcomed the Council to Stamford and presented each member with a souvenir cap with the Stamford logo.

**REMARKS BY HOLLY DRINKUTH
OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

Matt Knickerbocker introduced Holly Drinkuth, Director of Outreach and Watershed Programs for The Nature Conservancy, who made a presentation on the “Nitrogen Load Model for the Saugatuck River Watershed”, its relationship to clean water and the health of Long Island Sound.

Her PowerPoint portrayed the Saugatuck Watershed as present within the corporate limits of nine out of the eighteen WestCOG member municipalities: Bethel, Danbury, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport and Wilton.

The goal is to enhance the health of the Watershed, coastline and Long Island Sound by working collaboratively to link, maintain and restore habitats which support healthy populations and biological diversity. Various water polluting factors are to be modeled, she said.

The presentation was followed by a discussion, after which Ms. Drinkuth was thanked for her visit.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Margaret Wirtenberg cited the advantage of the recent merger of planning regions for such tasks as planning for the Saugatuck Watershed, which previously had been segmented into north and south by a regional planning boundary.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Approval of 9/17/2015 Minutes

After review and then on a motion made by Gail Weinstein and seconded by Bill Brennan, the minutes of the meeting of 9/17/2015 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Gayle Weinstein reviewed agenda attachments entitled Operating Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Cash Flow.

Voting by Unelected Alternates

Matt Knickerbocker circulated a draft bylaw amendment on this matter. Members were requested to provide comment to Executive Committee members. There was discussion of possible impacts upon attendance by regular members.

Office Consolidation

Matt Knickerbocker gave a report, noting that two finalist locations in Newtown were under negotiation with owners. There was discussion. A recommendation will be made soon by the Executive Committee.

Regional Election Monitors

Francis Pickering gave a report on this topic, noting that \$11,000 in state funds will be made available for this task and that the arrangement is for the staff person hired to report to the state and not to WestCOG.

There was discussion, some members stating that this new regional mandate was duplicative of existing arrangements with the Secretary of State's office and in other ways of limited value.

Organization of Drug Task Force

In response to direction received at the September Council meeting, Associate Planner Elizabeth Esposito presented a second draft of a proposed "Organization of WestCOG Drug Task Force." The draft text was discussed by members. The consensus was it is now ready to proceed.

Legislative Committee

It was noted that five volunteers are needed, to receive and review legislative proposals and recommend WestCOG action.

Funding for Hazard Resilience

Rob Sachnin reviewed an agenda attachment on this topic. There was discussion, including questions to be researched.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

New Web Site

Carl Zimmerman and Liz Esposito updated members on the new Council web site, soon to replace the temporary site currently operating. There was discussion, with members pleased with the draft.

Congestion Management Process (CMP) Report

Senior Planner Alex Karman made a PowerPoint presentation on this topic and distributed a draft excerpt related to I-95.

The broad factors causing traffic congestion must first be documented before specific remedial improvement projects can be proposed, and the CMP Report serves this purpose, he said. There was discussion of the process and its relationship to air quality planning.

NEXT MEETING

Matt Knickerbocker reminded members that the next WestCOG meeting will be hosted by Danbury on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Members were wished good luck in the upcoming municipal election. Retiring member Bill Brennan was thanked for his ten years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Jayme Stevenson the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.