

7/21/2016 MINUTES

**WESTERN CT ECONOMIC
ADVISORY GROUP**

Held at the WestCOG Stamford Office
888 Washington Blvd. 3rd Floor Stamford, CT 06901

MEMBERS

Hal Kurfels	VP Coldwell Banker Commercial, Brookfield Economic Development Commission
Janice Chrzescijanek*	Bethel Economic Development Commission
Jackie Lightfield	Stamford Partnership, Greater Norwalk Arts Council
Lisa Mercurio	Business Council of Fairfield County
Valeria Bisceglia	Business Advisor, CT Small Business Development Center
Joe Ercolano	Associate Director, CT Small Business Development Center
Stephen Bull*	Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce
Paul Steinmetz*	Director of Community Relations & Public Affairs, Western CT State University
Thomas Madden	Director of Economic Development, City of Stamford
Lisa Scails*	Executive Director, Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut
Jayne Stevenson	First Selectman Darien
Jim Marpe*	First Selectman Westport
Eugene Schreiner	First County Bank

ALSO ATTENDING

First Selectman Julia Pemberton of Redding*, First Selectman Peter Tesei of Greenwich*, First Selectman Nina Daniel of Weston, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT*, WestCOG Director Francis Pickering and staff members Jon Chew, Elizabeth Esposito, and Soumya Sudhakar.

**Attended by phone*

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by Associate Planner Elizabeth Esposito.

Ms. Esposito reviewed the purpose of the Western CT Economic Advisory Group, which is to guide and provide feedback to WestCOG to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

PRESENTATIONS

Western CT CEDS – Introduction and Summary Background: A presentation on this topic was made by Elizabeth Esposito and Soumya Sudhakar, Summer Intern for WestCOG. Ms. Esposito explained with a PowerPoint the CEDS process and why it is important to complete. Ms. Sudhakar continued the presentation with highlights from the data analysis of regional demographic and economic conditions

which she has been doing over the course of her internship. The presentation was made available to all attendees following the meeting at was posted on the WestCOG website.

DISCUSSION

Attendees discussed the presented data and ways to improve it. They also engaged in discussion concerning the next steps for the group.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in mid to late September. The meeting will focus on industry segmentation. Advisory Group members will be polled for their availability.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.