WestCOG
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APPROVED Council Minutes
for the 01/16/2019 Regular Meeting
Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Rudolph Marconi
Treasurer Lynne Vanderslice - Secretary Julia Pemberton

MEMBERS ATTENDING
Bethel - First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker
Bridgewater - First Selectman Curtis Read
Brookfield - First Selectman Steve Dunn
Danbury - Absent
Darien - First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
Greenwich - First Selectman Fred Camillo

New Canaan - First Selectman Kevin Moynihan
New Fairfield - First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford - Mayor Pete Bass
Newtown - First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Norwalk - Mayor Harry Rilling
Redding - First Selectman Julia Pemberton

Ridgefield - First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman - First Selectman Don Lowe
Stamford - Absent
Weston - First Selectman Chris Spaulding
Westport - First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton - First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING
WestCOG staff members in attendance were Kristin Hadjstylianos, Charles Vidich, Kevin M ahoney, Patty Payne, Kristin Floberg, Vicky Ricks and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Rich Schreiner and Alex Dashev of HARTtransit, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Andrea Rynn and Rowena Bergmans from Nuvance Health, James Root from Sierra Club, Rebecca Mucchetti, Susan Consentino and Robert Hendrick from the Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission, residents Karen Heller, Dawn Jolly, Bob Knight, Ashley Audino, Karen Martin, David Budet, Michael Valeri, Sharon Calitro, Harris Falk and Christie Stewart were also in attendance as well as Samantha LaBonne from Eversource and Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center.
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 12:43pm by Chairman Jayme Stevenson.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Sam LaBonne from Eversource gave an update on some programs offered to help manage energy bills including Budget Billing, Winter Protection, Matching Payments and the New Start Program. Customers are encouraged to call your local office to get more information. David Budet, resident from Brookfield, gave a statement about 5G installation near his home. Bob Knight from the Ridgefield Economic Development Committee spoke about 5G and suggested each community complete a needs assessment for correct 5G installation. Michael Velari, resident from Danbury, was given a notice about getting 5G installation on a utility pole on his property and is currently filing an objection. Dawn Jolly, resident of Ridgefield and the founding and managing member of CT Freedom Alliance spoke about medical concerns regarding 5G installation.

PUBLIC HEARING
Kristin Floberg from WestCOG gave a short presentation summarizing the comments received on the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of December 19, 2019 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the minutes of the 12/19/2019 meeting were unanimously approved, with abstentions made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Westport First Selectman James Marpe.

Resolution to adopt the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for HVA Still River Watershed Plan: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the letter of support was unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for Stamford APA Award: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the letter of support was unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Report ending 12/31/19: After review by WestCOG Finance Director Patty Payne and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.
**Legislative Priorities:** After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the legislative priorities for 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers:** After a review of candidates made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass, it was unanimously approved to elect Rudy Marconi as Chairman (replacing Jayme Stevenson); Jayme Stevenson as Vice-Chairman (replacing Rudy Marconi); Julia Pemberton as Treasurer (replacing Lynne Vanderslice); and Lynne Vanderslice as Secretary (replacing Julia Pemberton).

**Employee Introductory Period Revision:** After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the WestCOG employee introductory period revision was unanimously approved.

**LOTCIP Over-Programming:** WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented an overview of the LOTCIP Programming. He stated that by endorsing a project, the COG is not required to reserve funds from its allocation. The CT DOT has committed to funding LOTCIP funds in exceeding 100% of allocations for two other COGs. He further recommended that additional LOTCIP projects be solicited. WestCOG members requested more information (e.g., DOT Commitment to Fund) be made available on previously-endorsed LOTCIP projects. On a motion made by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the COG members unanimously agreed that the COG will not consider the LOTCIP allocation as a “ceiling” and continue to endorse projects and cost adjustments.

**LOTCIP Adjustment:** WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented a requested endorsement of a cost adjustment for Ridgefield Farmingville Road and Ligi’s Way LOTCIP project from $1,530,000 to $2,810,000. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, the COG unanimously approved the increase.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**RPIP Grant Update:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an update on the status of the RPIP Grant proposals.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Vice Chairman Rudy Marconi wanted to thank Jayme Stevenson for her role as Chairman of the COG.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th in Hartford during our Legislative Luncheon. On a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Westport First Selectman James Marpe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:05pm.