Western Connecticut Council of Governments

December 15th, 2021 at 10:45 am
Location: Ridgefield Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect St, Ridgefield, CT 06877
Webinar Attendee Registration:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BOFxaFvVQuCm1i_oUOQEFQ

Agenda

1. Meeting call to order: Hon. Rudy Marconi, Chairman

2. Public Participation: limited to topics on this agenda and to 2 minutes per speaker.

3. Action Items:
   a. Approval of November 18th, 2021, meeting minutes Attachment 3a, pp. 1-2
   b. 2022 Annual Dues Attachment 3b, p. 3
   c. Resolution to Accept Regional Service Grant Funding Attachment 3c, p. 4
   d. Resolution to Accept EDA Long-Term Recovery Grant Funding Attachment 3d, p. 5
   e. WCEDD Appointments Attachment 3e, p. 6

4. Information Items:
   a. Audit Review
   b. Strategic Vision and Planning
   c. Legislative Luncheon
   d. 2022 Policy Priorities
   e. COVID-19 Review
   f. Open Space Inventory
   g. Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)
   h. Economic Development
   i. Broadband RFP
   j. 319 Grant – Zoning Technical Support Attachment 4j p. 7

5. Next meeting: Thursday, January 20th, 2021

6. Adjournment

ENGLISH: For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org.

ESPÁÑOL: Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org.

PORTUGUÊS: Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entreem contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org.

FRANÇAIS: Pour obtenir de l'aide linguistique ou d'autres mesures d'adaptation, contactez WestCOG au moins cinq jours ouvrables avant la réunion à help@westcog.org.

POLSKI: W przypadku pomocy językowej lub innej pomocy, skontaktuj się z WestCOG co najmniej pięć dni roboczych przed wydarzeniem w help@westcog.org.

Visit us online at westcog.org

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Telephone/fax 475-323-2060
Western Connecticut Council of Governments

**Disclaimer:** These interim minutes of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the COG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the COG.

**INTERIM Council Minutes**

for the 11/18/2021 Regular Meeting

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association

27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Chairman Rudolph Marconi
Treasurer Julia Pemberton - Secretary Lynne Vanderslice

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bethel.......................... First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker
Bridgewater.................... First Selectman Curtis Read
Brookfield...................... Absent
Danbury......................... Absent
Darien.......................... First Selectman Monica McNally
Greenwich...................... Absent
New Canaan.................... First Selectman Kevin Moyrinh
New Fairfield.................. Absent
New Milford.................... Mayor Pete Bass
Newtown....................... First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Norwalk....................... Absent
Redding....................... Absent
Ridgefield..................... First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman....................... First Selectman Don Lowe
Stamford...................... Absent
Weston......................... First Selectman Samantha Nestor
Westport...................... First Selectman Jennifer Tooker
Wilton......................... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

HARTtransit CEO Rick Schreiner, WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadistylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Betsy Panyner, Victoria Ricks, Cricket Carpenter, and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Also in attendance were Jennifer Johnson from Westport and, James Root from the Danbury Sierra Club.

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No members of the public spoke when asked to do so.

ACTION ITEMS:
Approval of 10/21/2021 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Reed and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the October 21st 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an overview. On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the 2022 Meeting Schedule was unanimously approved.

City of Stamford Water Pollution Authority BRIC Grant Application-Letter of Support: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an overview. On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, the City of Stamford Water Pollution Authority BRIC Grant Application-Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

LOT/CIP New Project/Adjustments: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney gave an overview. On a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the LOT/CIP New Project/Adjustments were unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS:
WCEDD appointments: After Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice offered, Rudy made a motion to appoint Lynne as Vice-Chair of the WCEDD. The motion was seconded by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker. Lynne's appointment of Vice Chair of the WCEDD was unanimously approved.

ARPA Project Coordination: Francis introduced and welcomed Betsy Paynter as WestCOG’s ARPA Project Manager.

Regional Services Update: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave an update.

OTHER BUSINESS: WestCOG Chairman Rudy Marconi and WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering expressed their gratitude to retiring Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn for his service and commitment to their communities and WestCOG during his tenure.

Next Meeting: The December 16th meeting has been canceled. There will be a Special Meeting scheduled on Wednesday December 15, 2021 at 10:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT:
On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice it was voted to unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 pm.
**Proposed WestCOG FY21-22 Annual Contributions**

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Anticipated Sources of Funding

**Local Contributions - Annual Assessment Draft for Approval**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>FY2022-2023 Final by Amount</th>
<th>FY2022-2023 Final by %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>$9,619</td>
<td>3.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>$5,161</td>
<td>1.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookfield</td>
<td>$9,848</td>
<td>3.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>$32,590</td>
<td>10.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darien</td>
<td>$8,851</td>
<td>2.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwich</td>
<td>$28,814</td>
<td>9.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Canaan</td>
<td>$11,314</td>
<td>3.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Fairfield</td>
<td>$9,053</td>
<td>3.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Milford</td>
<td>$24,376</td>
<td>8.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtown</td>
<td>$22,695</td>
<td>7.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>$28,657</td>
<td>9.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>$10,888</td>
<td>3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgefield</td>
<td>$15,459</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman</td>
<td>$7,022</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>$43,501</td>
<td>14.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>$7,914</td>
<td>2.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>$12,277</td>
<td>4.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilton</td>
<td>$11,963</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$300,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For FY22-23 Total Annual Dues will remain unchanged from the previous year.*

**Date of Report: December 13, 2021**

---

Note: Effective 7/1/2017: Approved formula used according to vote at January 23, 2017 COG Meeting 50% Population; 50% Area
Secretary's Certificate/Resolution

I, Lynne Vanderslice, Secretary of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, an organization (the “Organization”) existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, certify that the following are true and complete resolution which were adopted at a duly called and held meeting of the governing body of Western Connecticut Council of Governments on 12/15/2021, and that such resolution have not been amended or modified and continue to be in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Organization execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the “Agreement”) in the amount of $586,111.80 for the 2022 Regional Services Grant.

RESOLVED, that Francis Pickering, as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and document contemplate by the Agreement.

I further certify that Francis Pickering now holds the office of the Executive Director and that he/she has held that office since 2/2/2015.

I am signing this certificate on 12/15/2021

_________________________________________
Lynne Vanderslice, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Certified Resolution

I, Lynne Vanderslice, duly-elected Secretary of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (hereinafter “WestCOG”) do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council’s Board duly held on December 15, 2021 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, in which a quorum of the Council was present and acting throughout and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that Rudy Marconi, Chairman of WestCOG, and Francis Pickering, Executive Director of WestCOG, are empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of WestCOG the Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development for Connecticut’s Statewide Long-Term Recovery Coordination, Resiliency Planning and Technical Assistance Project, and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing all documents and agreements, providing all services, and receiving funds in the amount of $375,000 as stated by the Agreement.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of December 15, 2021

Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut on this Fifteenth Day of December 2021.

I am signing this certificate on 12/15/2021.

_________________________________, Secretary

Lynne Vanderslice
First Selectman, Wilton
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Name/Affiliation</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Elected Official - Chair</td>
<td>Rudy Marconi, Ridgefield First Selectman</td>
<td>203-431-2774</td>
<td><a href="mailto:selectman@ridgefieldct.org">selectman@ridgefieldct.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Elected Official - Vice Chair</td>
<td>Lynne Vanderslice, Wilton First Selectwoman</td>
<td>203-563-0100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org">lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danbury Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>PJ Prunty, Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>203-470-2729</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pj@danburychamber.com">pj@danburychamber.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Robert Malozzi, Bankwell Financial Group LLC</td>
<td>(203)644 2095</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmallozzi@mybankwell.com">rmallozzi@mybankwell.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropy</td>
<td>Mendi Blue-Paca, Fairfield County Community Foundation</td>
<td>203-750-3207</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mblue-paca@fccfoundation.org">mblue-paca@fccfoundation.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>Andrea Rynn, Western CT Health Network</td>
<td>203-240-4072</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org">andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor and Under/Unemployed</td>
<td>Todd Munn or Tom Long, The Workplace</td>
<td>203-610-8528</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmunn@workplace.org">tmunn@workplace.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Brian Griffin, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>203-866-2521</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian@greaternorwalkchamber.com">brian@greaternorwalkchamber.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Utilities</td>
<td>Tracey Alston, Eversource</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:tracey.altson@eversource.com">tracey.altson@eversource.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>Hal Kurfehs, Coldwell Banker Commercial</td>
<td>203-241-4346</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hkurfehs@scalzo.com">hkurfehs@scalzo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Jackie Lightfield, Norwalk 2.0</td>
<td>203-325-4461</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jackie@norwalk2.org">jackie@norwalk2.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
<td>Jessica Vonashek, City of Norwalk</td>
<td>203-984-1304</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcasey@norwalkct.org">jcasey@norwalkct.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities of Concern Disadvantage</td>
<td>Marie Allen, SWCT Agency on Aging</td>
<td>203-333-9288 or 203-814-3661</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mallen@swcaa.org">mallen@swcaa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
<td>Janice Chrzescijanek, Town of Bethel</td>
<td>203-794-8521</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chrzescijanekj@bethel-ct.gov">chrzescijanekj@bethel-ct.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State representative</td>
<td>Lisa Mercurio, Advanced CT</td>
<td>860-571-6218</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmercurio@advancect.org">lmercurio@advancect.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>David Souder, UCONN Stamford</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dsouder@uconn.edu">dsouder@uconn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business owner</td>
<td>Jennie Ripps, The Owl’s Brew</td>
<td>917-378-2817</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennie@theowlsbrew.com">jennie@theowlsbrew.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk Hispanic Chamber</td>
<td>Zayed Rodrigues, Norwalk Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:zayed.rodriguez@gmail.com">zayed.rodriguez@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford Partnership</td>
<td>Jon Winkel, The Stamford Partnership</td>
<td>475-619-9536</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon@stamfordpartnership.org">jon@stamfordpartnership.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Culture</td>
<td>Lisa Scails, Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut</td>
<td>203-798-0760</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lscails@cawct.org">lscails@cawct.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TO:            WestCOG Council Representatives  
FROM:          Francis Pickering       
DATE:          December 13, 2021      

RE:            319 Clean Water Act Grant Funding to implement Riparian Corridor Protection 
                Zoning Strategies  

Background
WestCOG intends to pursue 319 Clean Water Act Grant Funding to implement the strategies 
identified in “The Case for Riparian Corridor Protections.” The grant would fund staff time to work 
with zoning commissions to develop and implement zoning to protect riparian corridors and bring 
communities into compliance with Public Act 21-29 

The zoning strategies recommend buffers to reduce development along riparian corridors. The 
impacts would work towards cleaner water supplies and increased flood resilience. These 
strategies are in alignment with:

- WestCOG POCD
- WestCOG HMP
- The Still River Watershed Plan
- Saugatuck River Watershed Plan
- Mianus River Watershed Plan
- Five Mile River Watershed Plan
- Norwalk River Watershed Plan

Additionally, after reaching out with zoning commissioners in the region, seven communities 
actively welcomed the technical support, no community declined support:

- New Fairfield
- Newtown
- New Canaan
- Weston
- Ridgefield
- Greenwich

References

- DEEP’s 319 Clean Water Act grant program:
  https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/NPS/Request-for-Proposals-for-Nonpoint-Source-Management-Grant-Program

- Public Act 21-29:  

- The Case for Riparian Corridor Protections  
  https://westcog.org/regional-planning/zoning-strategies/