

INTERIM MINUTES

Council/Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 06/15/2023 Meeting

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex- 66 Prospect St. Ridgefield, CT 06877 and via Zoom

*COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Julia Pemberton
Treasurer -Lynne Vanderslice / Secretary Kevin Moynihan
HVMPO Chairman Rudy Marconi / Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton
SWRMPO Chairman Lynne Vanderslice / Vice Chairman Kevin Moynihan*

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... First Selectman Dan Carter- COG/HVMPO
Bridgewater..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Brookfield First Selectwoman Tara Carr – COG/HVMPO
Danbury Absent- COG/HVMPO
Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally- COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich..... Selectwoman Lauren Rabin - COG/SWRMPO
New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan- COG/SWRMPO
New Fairfield Absent- COG/HVMPO
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass – COG/HVMPO
Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal- COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton- COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi- COG/HVMPO
Sherman Absent COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Chief of Staff Bridget Fox-SWRMPO
Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO
Westport..... Absent- COG/SWRMPO
Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice- COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Rick Schreiner- HVMPO
Transit Representative..... Matt Pentz and Barry Diggs -SWRMPO
CTDOT Kevin Tedesco (Non-voting MPO member)
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: CTrides Outreach and Engagement Specialist Bryan Walsh. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Charles Vidich, Kristin Floberg, Victoria Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter. WestCOG Sustainable CT Summer Fellows Lilly Adamo and Nick Lombardo. Also in attendance were Newtown Police Chief David Kullgren, Eversource Community Relations Specialist Chris Farrell, Eversource President of Connecticut Electric Operations Steve Sullivan, Manager, Community Relations and Economic Development at Eversource Jack Arsego, and Eversource Director of Community Relations for Connecticut Jeff Pugliese, John Wardzala and Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, Ridgefield IT Director Andrew Neblett, Outreach Organizer Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's Office, Geoffrey Morris from ECDC, Director of the Office of Telecommunications and Broadband at CT DEEP Kevin Pisacich, DEEP Research Analyst Nadya Hoolahan, DEEP Senior Public Engagement Specialist Keri Oram, FHI Studio Principal/Vice President Ken Livingston, Paul Hearn from Baralmar Advisors LLC, James Root from the Sierra Club and Dimitris Koutoumbas from the Connecticut Urbanist Association.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meetings were called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chair Rudy Marconi and SWRMPO Chair Lynne Vanderslice.

FEATURED PRESENTATION: CT DEEP Director of the Office of Telecommunications and Broadband Kevin Pisacich, DEEP Research Analyst Nadya Hoolahan, and DEEP Senior Public Engagement Keri Oram provided an update on the Connecticut Statewide Broadband Initiative.

FEATURED PRESENTATION: Eversource President of Connecticut Electric Operations Steve Sullivan, and Eversource Director of Community Relations for Connecticut Jeff Pugliese, provided an update on Electric Rates and Storm Prep and Response.

Approval of the 05/18/2023 HVMPO/SWRMPO Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the minutes of the 05/18/2023 meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally the minutes of the 05/18/2023 were unanimously approved.

Approval of the COG 05/18/2023 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the minutes of the 05/18/2023 COG meeting were unanimously approved.

****COG Action Items:**

EDA Planning Partnership Grant Resolution: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan the EDA Planning Partnership Grant Resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution of Acceptance of the EPA Community Grant: Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice the Resolution of Acceptance of the EPA Community Grant was unanimously approved.

Regional Service Spending Plan and Authorizing Resolution: Francis provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally the Regional Service Spending Plan and Authorizing Resolution was unanimously approved.

FY 2023-2024 Budget: Francis provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally the FY 2023-2024 Budget was unanimously approved.

Personnel Policy: Francis provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice the Personnel Policy was unanimously approved.

USDOT PROTECT Grant Application: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice the USDOT PROTECT Grant Application was unanimously approved.

Regional Election Advisor Program: Francis provided the overview. After review and discussion, the Regional Election Advisor Program is tabled to the July meeting.

Memo and Resolution of Acceptance – Regional Firearms Training Facility PIP: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the Memo and Resolution of Acceptance – Regional Firearms Training Facility PIP was unanimously approved.

Community Connectivity Grant Program Letters of Support: WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Floberg provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally the Community Connectivity Grant Program Letters of Support were unanimously approved.

MPO Information Items:

Municipal Grant Program (MGP 13b): WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanella provided the review.

Section 5310 Grant Program: Todd Fontanella provided the review.

COG Information Items:

Highlands Conservation Act: WestCOG's Mike Towle provided the overview.

Sustainable CT: Mike Towle provided the overview and introduced Summer Interns Lilly Adamo and Nick Lombardo.

Regional Value Capture Study: WestCOG's Todd Fontanella provided the update.

MNCW New Canaan Branch Noise Abatement Study Update: Todd Fontanella provided the update.

Next meeting: MPO/COG Thursday, July 20th 2023

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.