



# WCEDD Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm | Web Conference

## Members in attendance

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| - Rudy Marconi, Chair | Town of Ridgefield                      |
| - Jessica Vonashek    | Town of Norwalk                         |
| - Hal Kurfehs         | Scalzo Commercial & New Development     |
| - Jennifer Orlikoff   | Stamford UConn                          |
| - PJ Prunty           | The Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce |
| - Robert Malozzi      | Bankwell                                |
| - Lisa Mercurio       | AdvancedCT                              |
| - Lisa Scails         | Cultural Alliance of Western CT         |
| - Andrea Ryan         | Nuvance Healthcare                      |
| - Tom Long            | The WorkPlace                           |

Francis Pickering, Mike Towle, and Betsy Paynter were in attendance with WestCOG.

## Meeting Call to Order

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

## Public Participation

There was no public participation.

## Approval of January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion. Hal Kurfehs made a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes, Rudy Marconi seconded the motion.  
All in favor.

## Small Business Grants & Loans:

Sheila Hummel joined the WCEDD Zoom meeting to present and review the CT Small Business Boot Fund, CT Communities Challenge grant and the Connecticut Investment Fund opportunities. Discussion around the interest rate of 4.5% now, but there's a chance the rates will rise possibly in the future. Organizations to share this funding opportunity with members and networks.

- Presentation by Sheila Hummel from CTDECD on The CT Small Business Boost Fund
  - CT Small Business Boost Fund - <https://ctsmallbusinessboostfund.org/>

Discussion of the small business support available by local municipalities, leveraging ARPA funds to support small business owners in Norwalk, Stamford and New Milford.

- City of Stamford - <https://www.choosestamford.com/business-services/small-business-resource-center/stamford-grant>
- City of Norwalk - <http://norwalkforbusiness.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Grant-Guidelines-2023.pdf>
- New Milford - [https://www.newmilford.org/filestorage/7526/19046/39004/Small\\_Business\\_Assistance\\_program.pdf](https://www.newmilford.org/filestorage/7526/19046/39004/Small_Business_Assistance_program.pdf)

## Broadband Study Update

Mike Towel provided an update on the Broadband Study underway in Western CT. They are preparing studies for a few municipalities including Ridgefield, New Fairfield, Brookfield, and Wilton.

## WestCOG Planning Activity:

Betsy provides an update on these two topics.

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - [https://westcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023\\_WestCOG\\_Metropolitan-Transportation-Plan\\_Final-Draft.pdf](https://westcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023_WestCOG_Metropolitan-Transportation-Plan_Final-Draft.pdf)
- Affordable Housing Finance Study
- Business Sector Diversity Study

## Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly 2023 WCEDD meeting schedule:
  - July 13, 2023 @ 1pm via WestCOG Zoom
  - October 12, 2023 @ 1pm via WestCOG Zoom

## Adjournment

Robert Malozzi made a motion to adjourn, Hal Kurfas second, all in favor.

*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](mailto:help@westcog.org). 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](mailto:help@westcog.org). Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em [help@westcog.org](mailto:help@westcog.org). 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](mailto:help@westcog.org).*