

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 MINUTES

Council/Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 12/14/2023 Meeting

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

COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Julia Pemberton

Treasurer -Vacant / Secretary Vacant

HVMPO Chairman Rudy Marconi / Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton

SWRMPO Chairman Vacant / Vice Chairman Vacant; WestCOG Executive Director presiding

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... First Selectman Dan Carter- COG/HVMPO
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read- COG/HVMPO
Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn- COG/HVMPO
Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves-COG/HVMPO
Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky- COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
New Canaan..... First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson- COG/SWRMPO
New Fairfield First Selectwoman Melissa Lindsey- COG/HVMPO
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass – COG/HVMPO
Newtown..... First Selectman Jeff Capeci- COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton- COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi- COG/HVMPO
Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Mayor Caroline Simmons
Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO
Westport..... First Selectwoman Jennifer Tooker COG/SWRMPO
Wilton..... First Selectwoman Toni Boucher- COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Rick Schreiner- HVMPO
Transit Representative..... Absent-SWRMPO
CTDOT Olivia Rizzuto (Non-voting MPO member)
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair, Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission **Margarita Alban**, Stamford Chief of Staff Bridget Fox, **Director of Advocacy for City and State Zach Van Luling**, **CTDOT Planner Olivia Rizzuto** John Truscinski from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, and Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Mike Wilson, Victoria Ricks, Nicole Sullivan and Kevin Mahoney. Also in attendance were: Chris Rurren and James Root from the Sierra Club

CALL TO ORDER:

The HVMPO and COG meetings were called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi. In accordance with the bylaws and in the absence of the SWRMPO Chair and Vice Chair, the SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering.

Public Participation: Ridgefield Selectman, Chris Murray, spoke to the COG members about setting up a Regional Fair Rent Commission to accommodate new legislation that goes into effect in 2024. Anthony Allen from Save the Sound requested a letter of support for a Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative. John Truscinski requested support from COG members for the establishment of Community Resilience Hubs. Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office introduced herself to the new COG board members and gave information on the support her office provides for the municipalities.

FEATURED PRESENTATION Jonathan Murphy Smalls, the Outreach Assistant from Senator Chris Murphy's office, gave a short presentation on the services that his office can provide the COG municipalities.

***Approval of the 11/16/2023 SWRMPO/HVMPO Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read the minutes of the 11/16/2023 HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved, with abstentions made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves, New Fairfield First Selectwoman Melissa Lindsey and Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci. After review and on a motion made by Westport First Selectwoman Jen Tooker and seconded by Weston First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor the minutes of the 11/16/2023 SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved, with abstentions made by Wilton First Selectwoman Toni Boucher, Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and New Canaan First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson.

****Approval of the COG 11/16/2023 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, the minutes of the 11/16/2023 COG meeting were unanimously approved, with abstentions made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves, New Fairfield First Selectwoman Melissa Lindsey, Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci, Wilton First Selectwoman Toni Boucher, Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, and New Canaan First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson.

****COG Action Items:**

COG Election of Officers: WestCOG Vice-Chair Julia Pemberton provided the following slate of officers, Rudy Marconi for Chairman, Dan Carter for Vice-Chairman, Jon Zagrodzky for Treasurer, Julia Pemberton for Secretary, Steve Dunn as Member-at-Large, Toni Boucher as Member-at-Large, and Jeff Capeci as Member-at-Large. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Weston First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, the slate of officers listed above were unanimously approved.

2024 Proposed Meeting Dates: WestCOG Chairman Rudy Marconi provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the 2024 meeting dates were unanimously approved.

WestCOG 2023 RAISE Grant: WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Toni Boucher, the State Recreational Trails Grant application was unanimously approved.

NOAA CRRC program (Climate Resilience Regional Challenge): WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Toni Boucher it was decided to table these letters of support until the January meeting.

LOTICIP Adjustment: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Toni Boucher the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

***MPO Action Items:**

MPO Election of Officers (HV and SWR): WestCOG Vice-Chair Julia Pemberton provided the following slate of officers for the HVMPO Board, Julia Pemberton for Chairman and Dan Carter for Vice-Chairman. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectwoman Melissa Lindsey, the slate of officers was unanimously approved as presented. WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the following slate of officers for the SWRMPO Board, Toni Boucher for Chairman and Jon Zagrodzky for Vice-Chairman. On a motion made by New Canaan First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Weston First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, the slate of officers was unanimously approved as presented.

2024 Proposed MPO Meeting Dates (HV and SWR): WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci the HVMPO meeting dates were

unanimously approved. On a motion made by New Canaan First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson, and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, the SWRMPO meeting dates were unanimously approved.

MPO Information Items:

USDOT Advanced Transportation Technology & Innovation Program: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview.

USDOT 2024 RAISE Grant Solicitations: WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided the overview.

2024 CTDOT Highway Safety Performance Targets: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided the overview.

COG Information Items:

Draft Legislative Priorities: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview of the updated priorities.

Legislative Reception: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. The Legislative Reception will be in January in Ridgefield

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview.

EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview.

Other Business: There was no other business discussed.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 18th, 2024.

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.