

APPROVED MINUTES

Council Meeting

for the 01/29/2024 Special Meeting

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

COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Dan Carter
Treasurer - Jon Zagrodzky / Secretary Julia Pemberton
HVMPO Chairman Julia Pemberton / Vice Chairman Dan Carter
SWRMPO Chairman Toni Boucher/ Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

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..... Selectman Lauren Rabin COG/SWRMPO
New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson- COG/SWRMPO
New Fairfield First Selectman Melissa Lindsey- COG/HVMPO
New Milford..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci- COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
Redding..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi- COG/HVMPO
Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Mayor Caroline Simmons
Weston..... First Selectman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO
Westport..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
Wilton..... Selectman Kim Healy- COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Absent- HVMPO
Transit Representative..... Absent-SWRMPO
CTDOT Olivia Rizzuto (Non-voting MPO member)
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stamford Chief of Staff Bridget Fox, Wilton Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker, CTDOT Planner Kevin Tedesco, John Truscinski from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, Anthony Allen from Save the Sound, and Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, and Jennine Lupo from Jahana Hayes office. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Nick Trabka, Tucker Beckett, Mike Wilson, Victoria Ricks, Charlie Vidich, and Cricket Carpenter.

CALL TO ORDER:

The COG meeting was to order at 12:17 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

Public Participation: Ridgefield resident Vincent Giordano provided a comment on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. He would like the COG to request a present value calculation on \$/ton of greenhouse gases will be reduced by the program.

John Truscinski from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation provided an overview of the request for a letter of support for implementing a network of resilience hubs for a More Resilient Connecticut under the NOAA funding. WestCOG is not in partnership or in contract with CIRCA.

Anthony Allen from Save the Sound provided an overview of the request for a letter of support for a regional stormwater management collaborative to facilitate intra- and inter-governmental coordination on stormwater issues in CT under the NOAA funding. WestCOG is not in partnership or in contract with Save the Sound.

****Approval of the COG 12/14/2023 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the minutes of the 12/14/2023 COG meeting were unanimously approved.

****COG Action Items:**

Resolution for Farm Viability and Norwalk Route 1 Project Execution: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Weston First Selectman Samantha Nestor the Resolution for Farm Viability and Norwalk Route 1 Project Execution was unanimously approved.

CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program: WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci the CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant grant application was unanimously approved.

CRRC Overview: Francis Pickering and WestCOG Data Scientist Tucker Beckett provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the Letters of support for UCONN Connecticut Institute

for Resilience & Climate Adaptation, UCONN Center for Land Use Education and Research, and Save the Sound were unanimously approved.

Other Business: Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi remarked on the EPA taking action to protect firefighters and citizens from PFAS.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.