



WCEDD Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm | Web Conference

Members in attendance

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| - Rudy Marconi, Chair | Town of Ridgefield, First Selectman |
| - Jessica Vonashek | City of Norwalk, Economic Development |
| - Hal Kurfehs | Scalzo Commercial & New Development |
| - Leah Kagan | City of Stamford, Economic Development |
| - Janice Chrzescijanek | Town of Bethel, Economic Development |
| - Jennie Ripps | Owner of Owl's Brew, Stamford |
| - Brian Griffin | Norwalk Chamber of Commerce |
| - Jason Patis | Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk |
| - Jorge Sousa | City of Danbury, Economic Development |
| - Andrea Rynn | Nuvance Healthcare |
| - Anthony Anthony | State of CT, Director of Marketing |
| - Lisa Mercurio | Advance CT |
| - Lisa Scalis | Executive Director, Cultural Alliance of Western CT |
| - Ashley Gaudiano | executive Director, United Way of Western CT |
| - Jennifer Orlikoff | Dean, UCONN Stamford Campus |

Michael Towle, and Betsy Paynter attended on behalf of WestCOG

Meeting Call to Order

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 1:05

Public Participation

No Public participation

Approval of October 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: H. Kurfehs made a motion to approve the October 2023 minutes, J. Orlikoff seconded. All in favor.

WCEDD Member Introductions

Betsy thanked continuing members and welcomed new members. WCEDD Members introduced themselves.

CEDS Action Plan

- Determine goals, objectives, or actions WCEDD can move forward with action in the CEDS.
- Goal 6 – *“Promote the Region’s Attractiveness”*

Betsy introduced the goals of the CEDS and Guest Speakers, Anthony Anthony and Lisa Scailis.

Guest Speakers

Anthony Anthony, Chief Marketing Officer with the State of CT

- Presentation: *“Make it Here”* by the state of CT and an update on Tourism Marketing efforts

Lisa Scails, Executive Director of Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut

- Presentation: “*Arts & Economic Prosperity Study 2022–2023 (AEP6)*”

WestCOG Planning Activity:

- Legislative Update, session begins in February.
- Affordable Housing Finance Study, consultants completing study
- Agricultural Farm Viability Study, in consultant selection phase

Discussion

- Member Updates, round table discussion

Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly 2024 WCEDD meeting schedule, @ 1pm via WestCOG Zoom:
 - April 11, 2024
 - July 11, 2024
 - October 10, 2024

Adjournment

Motion: H. Kurfas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:14pm, Brian Griffin seconded. 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. 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. Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em 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.