



WCEDD Meeting Minutes

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

Members in attendance

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| - Rudy Marconi, Chair | Town of Ridgefield |
| - Jessica Vonashek | Town of Norwalk |
| - Hal Kurfehs | Scalzo Commercial & New Development |
| - Leah Kagan | Economic Development, City of Stamford |
| - Janice Chrzescijanek | Economic development, Town of Bethel |
| - Tom Long | The Workplace |
| - Brian Griffin | Norwalk Chamber of Commerce |

Francis Pickering, Michael Towle, and Betsy Paynter attended on behalf of WestCOG

Meeting Call to Order

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 1:04

Public Participation

No public participation

Approval of July 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: H. Kurfehs made a motion to approve the July 2023 minutes, Rudy Marconi seconded. All in favor.

- **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)**

M. Towel presented the CPRG program. Details of the COGs activity and the states plan. The Group discussed areas of green house gases, how this affects business, and the participation of property owners and business owners.

EDA Grants Regional Outreach

- B. Paynter presented the EDA grant overview so land use, economic development and business can be kept in mind as projects are planned. The EDA could be a partner in funding to bring large businesses, Commercial Brokers, Land Use & Economic development professionals.

WestCOG Planning Activity:

- F. Pickering provided and updated on the Affordable Housing Finance Study and the Agricultural Farm Viability Study. Consultants are working to provide content and strategy with the working committees.

Broadband Study Update

M. Towel provided an update on the Broadband study. It's almost complete R. Marconi gave an overview of Ridgefield's RFP for proposals on engineering a broadband system in Ridgefield.

Discussion

The groups discussed the WCEDD roster. WCEDD to include a range of business sectors and local economic development. B. Paynter to revisit in 2024.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Adjournment

Motion: B. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:56pm, J. Chrzescijanek seconded. All in favor.

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