



WCEDD Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2025, at 1:00 pm

Meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Members in attendance

- Rudy Marconi, Chair Town of Ridgefield, First Selectman
- Julia Pemberton, Vice Chair Town of Redding, First Selectman
- Shannon O'Toole Giandurco Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director,
- Jennie Ripps Owl's Brew, Small Business Owner
- Tom Long SVP, Communications & Operations, The WorkPlace
- Lisa Mercurio AdvanceCT, Vice President, Business Development
- Andrea Rynn Nuvance Healthcare
- Lisa Scails Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, Executive Director
- PJ Prunty Bright Ravens, Director of Development
- Hal Kurfehs Scalzo Real Estate
- Eric Erdtmann Fairfield County Bank
- Jason Patlis The Maritime of Aquarium at Norwalk, Executive Director
- Leah Kagan City of Stamford, Economic Development Director
- Bryce Chinault Yankee Institute, Director of External Affairs

Franics Pickering, Mike Towle, Betsy Paynter, Kristin Floberg and Jaci Reelick were in attendance from WestCOG

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by chairman Rudy Marconi

Public Participation

No public participation

Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Rudy Marconi made a motion to approve the October WCEDD minutes, second by Tom Long. All in favor.

2025 Legislative Update:

- Bryce Chinault the Director of External Affairs with the Yankee Institute provides updates on the legislative process and expected bills for 2025. It was noted that the legislative session concludes on June 4th, 2025. Including topics on Fiscal Guardrails, Housing, Healthcare, Health Insurance, Energy, Education, Child Care, Worker's Rights, Technology, Economic Development. It was noted by Jason Patlis that the governor didn't mention resiliency and/or climate change, environmental issues with the coastal communities in his address

WestCOG Planning Activity:

- Agricultural Farm Viability Study overview. Kristin Floberg provides an overview. Dept of Agriculture's Ag-Viability Grant Program funded the study. The Plan is completed and will be available on WestCOG.org.
- FEMA activity update: Jaclyn Reelick provides an update on FEMA grant funds that are available for 2025.

Chamber of Commerce Updates:

Betsy introduces new Chamber of Commerce Directors:

- Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, Executive Director, The Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, provides an update on the Chamber activity.

Member Discussion:

Betsy asked members about economic development priorities they see for 2025.

Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly 2025 WCEDD meeting schedule, @ 1pm via WestCOG Zoom:
 - Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 1pm
 - Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 1pm
 - October 9, 2025 at 1pm

Adjournment

Hal Kurfehs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05, second by Rudy Marconi. All in favor.

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