



# WCEDD Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024 at 1:00 pm | Web Conference

## 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,
- Ashley Gaudiano                              United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut, Senior Vice President
- Jennifer Orlikoff                              UCONN Stamford Campus, Dean
- 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
- Don Poland                                      Managing Director/SVP, Planning & Strategy, Goman+York Property Advisors
- Lisa Scails                                        Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, Executive Director

Todd Fontanella, Mike Towle, Francis Pickering and Betsy Paynter attended on behalf of WestCOG

## Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm by chairman Rudy Marconi

## Public Participation

No participation

## Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Orlikoff made a motion to approve the July WCEDD minutes, second by Rudy Marconi. All in favor.

## Featured Presentation

- “Regional Value Capture Feasibility Study” presented by AECOM staff and Todd Fontanella, Principal Planner, WestCOG. Discussion followed the presentation about the value of the train extending to New Milford and the various properties along the train lines within the region.

## Workforce Development

- Technology Regional Sector Partnership update provided by Mark Lazarus, Tech Ready Career Training Program, Program Manager at The WorkPlace. He described the various programs for technology being offered to young adults in the region and also the companies he's working with the place students after course completion.

## WestCOG Planning Activity:

- Jaci Reeylick gave an overview of WestCOG's EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Assessment grant application which is due in November 2024. There's an opportunity for \$500,000 to be granted to WestCOG to then

provide brownfield assessment grants within the region for blighted, contaminated properties. These assessments would then lead to repurposing strategies.

- Jaci Reeylick gave an update on the Georgetown Sewer Study which is in the early phases of securing a consultant and then to kick off the sewer study.

## Member Updates

- Discussion about garbage and trash along with the new state redevelopment agency, MRA and the recently purchased Mensrea Island and the project to take place there in Norwalk.

## Adjournment

Jennifer Orlikoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Rudy Marconi. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:help@westcog.org).*