



## WCEDD Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8th at 1:00 pm | Teams Meeting

Meeting was held virtually via Teams.

### Members in attendance

- Jason Patlis                      Executive Director of The Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk
- Ashley Guadiano              Chief Operating Officer United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
- Eric Erdtmann                  Fairfield County Bank
- Hal Kurfehs                      Scalzo Realty
- Jennifer Orlikoff                UConn Stamford
- Patrick Donnelly                NWRW
- Andrea Rynn                      Norwell
- Tom Long                         The Work Place

WestCOG Staff: Betsy Paynter, Mike Towle, Todd Fontenella, Francis Pickering

### Meeting Call to Order

*Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 1:01pm*

### Public Participation

There was no public participation

### Approval of October 2025 meeting minutes

*Motion: Andrea Rynn made a motion to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes, Jason Patliss second the motion. All in favor.*

### Current CEDS Goals/Activity Review

Betsy Paynter provided an update on the current CEDS goals for the Western CT region and foster discussion on how to improve these goals in the new CEDS update which will begin later in 2026.

- **Innovation.** Celia Alexander from Stamford economic development, provided an update on innovation hub in the City of Stamford.
- **Transportation.** Todd Fontanella provided an update on WestCOG transportation projects supporting the CEDS in this past year.
- **Workforce Development.** Patrick Donnelly from NRWIB, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, provided a summary of the workforce development activities happening at the agency.

## Member Discussion

### Adjournment

*Motion: Hal Kurfehs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm, Jennifer Orlikoff second the motion. 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).*