



WestCOG Foundation, Inc.

Meeting Agenda

Time. Thursday, October 22, 2026– 12:00pm

Location. The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex-66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 Ph-475-323-2060

Virtual Option. <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88222966740> (ID: 882 2296 6740)

1. **Call to order:** Hon. Rudy Marconi, Chairman
2. **Foundation Action Items**
 - a. Approval of March 19, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 2a, pp. 1-2
 - b. Membership Update
 - c. Authorization to Accept and Pass Through Funds.....Attachment 2c, pp. 3-4
3. **Information Items**
4. **Other Business**
5. **Adjournment**



WestCOG Foundation, Inc. Meeting

Thursday March 19th, 2026

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex

66 Prospect St.

Ridgefield, CT 06877

Ph-475-323-2060

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222966740> (ID: 882 2296 6740)

Members in attendance:

Bethel.....First Selectman Dan Carter
Bridgewater.....Vacant
Brookfield.....First Selectman Steve Dunn
Danbury.....Mayor Roberto L. Alves
Darien.....First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky
Greenwich.....Vacant
New Canaan.....Vacant
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford.....Vacant
Newtown.....Vacant
Norwalk.....Vacant
Redding.....First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi (Chairman)
Sherman.....Absent
Stamford.....Absent
Weston.....First Selectman Samantha Nestor
Westport.....Vacant
Wilton.....Vacant

Minutes

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of September 19, 2024 meeting minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the minutes of the September 19, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Update

The following towns were added as WestCOG Foundation members:

New Fairfield.....First Selectman Pat Del Monaco

No vote is required on this item.

Election of New Officers:

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass it was unanimously approved that Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi will remain Chairman of the WestCOG Foundation.

Information Items

Financial Update

WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided an update.

Neighborhood Assistance Act

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview.

Other business: There was no other business discussed.

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



TO: WestCOG Foundation, Inc.
FROM: Francis R. Pickering, Executive Director
DATE: October 16, 2026
RE: Authorization for WestCOG Foundation to Accept and Pass Through Funds

Purpose

To authorize the WestCOG Foundation, Inc. to accept, hold, administer, and disburse donations, sponsorships, grants, and other contributions in support of programs and projects operated by the Foundation or the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), including arrangements in which funds are passed through to project partners or vendors.

Background

The WestCOG Foundation, Inc. was established to provide a charitable, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code capable of receiving donations and other contributions in support of eligible regional programs and projects. This function complements the work of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), particularly where an initiative lacks its own nonprofit organization to receive charitable contributions. Although the Foundation has largely remained dormant to date, this has principally reflected the absence of requests for assistance in receiving and administering charitable contributions. The proposed authorization would put an original purpose of the Foundation into practice.

Discussion

The immediate opportunity is GIS Day, an annual event organized by the Connecticut GIS Network that brings together GIS and planning professionals from across Connecticut for professional development, networking, and knowledge sharing. WestCOG has participated in the GIS Day Steering Committee for approximately ten years. The event relies on donations and sponsorships, but the Network is not a formally incorporated nonprofit and has difficulty receiving, holding, and disbursing funds. It has asked WestCOG to assist through the Foundation, which could receive contributions and pay event expenses, including payments to Yale University and other vendors.

The same arrangement could support other regional initiatives, such as development of the northern section of the Western Connecticut Trail, for which there is currently no nonprofit organization available to receive charitable donations.

Funds would be accounted for by project and used for their designated purposes, subject to applicable law, donor restrictions, the Foundation's governing documents, and appropriate financial controls. The authorization would not itself approve new expenditures of Foundation funds or commit the Foundation to projects outside its established authority.

This authorization is limited to the Foundation's financial administration role: receiving, holding, accounting for, administering, and disbursing funds contributed for the designated purposes. It does not authorize the expenditure or commitment of other Foundation or WestCOG funds, nor does it independently authorize the Foundation to initiate, operate, or undertake new programs or activities. Any such expenditures or activities would remain subject to applicable governance and approval requirements.

Next Steps

Upon Council approval, the Foundation may establish arrangements to receive and administer contributions for eligible Foundation or WestCOG programs and projects, beginning with GIS Day as appropriate. Staff will coordinate project-specific accounting and disbursements in accordance with applicable requirements.

Suggested Motion:

"To authorize the WestCOG Foundation, Inc. to receive, hold, administer, and disburse donations, sponsorships, grants, and other contributions in support of eligible programs and projects operated by the WestCOG Foundation, Inc. or the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, including payments to project partners and vendors, consistent with applicable legal requirements, donor restrictions, and the Foundation's governing documents; provided that this authorization is limited to financial administration and does not independently authorize the Foundation to initiate or undertake new programs or activities."