

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING OF September 11, 2014

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Burlington, Ted Shafer
Colebrook, Thomas McKeon
Goshen, Robert Valentine
Hartland, Wade Cole
New Hartford, Dan Jerram
North Canaan, Douglas Humes
Torrington, Elinor Carbone
Winchester, Candace Bouchard

Canaan (Falls Village), Patricia Allyn Mechare
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway
Harwinton, Michael Criss
Morris, Barbara Bongiolatti
Norfolk, Susan Dyer
Sharon, Brett Colley
Warren, Craig Nelson

Others in Attendance:

William Pizzuto, UConn
Fiona deMerell, UConn
Hon. Kevin Witkos, Senator
Hon. Clark Chapin, Senator
Johanna DuZurik, THS
Larry Rich, THS
Christopher Stone, DEEP
Kim Hudek, DEEP
Cosmo Ignoto, ConnDOT
Steve Sliver, CL&P
Media Representatives

Judy DiLaurenzio, UConn
Angela Brightly, UConn
Hon. Roberta Willis, State Representative
JoAnn Ryan, NW Chamber
Derreck Bonnett, THS
Karen Prince, HVRHS
Nisha Patel, DEEP
Eric Baim, THS
Neil Ryan, ConnDOT
Chuck Burnham, CL&P

COG staff in attendance:

Richard Lynn, NHCOG Staff
Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOG Staff

Darlene Krukar, NHCOG Staff

1. Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting held at the Cooperative Extension Meeting Room, Torrington was called to order by Secretary Sue Dyer at 10:08 a.m. Sue asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. JoAnn Ryan distributed a flyer on the Northwest CT United Way Agency and talked about the All Aboard Litchfield County program and distributed maps as to where the trains are located. Doug Humes introduced Cosmo Ignoto, Transportation Maintenance Director from ConnDOT District 4, who spoke briefly on his responsibilities for the northwest corner towns.
2. Regional Forum: The Mission and Vision of UConn Torrington. Elinor Carbone stated that the UConn Campus is one of the state's best regional assets and certainly one of the best in Litchfield County and introduced the directors for the UConn Torrington Campus. William Pizzuto stated that the Torrington campus is 48 years old but remains a bit of a mystery to many area residents. He stated that a major goal is to get more people to understand what the campus offers. Judy DiLaurenzio gave

background on how the campus came about through the generosity of community members. She stated some of the programs offered do require that students transfer to the Storrs campus to finish their degrees but many people do not realize the Torrington campus added a four-year degree program 10 years ago. She stated that the state has invested about \$1 million into improvements at the campus which include renovated classrooms, new classroom furniture and technology, new lighting and air conditioning with more projects on the list. ECE (Early College Experience) and AP classes are offered for high school students. The ECE courses are taught by high school teachers using the college curriculum and the student receives both high school and college credits. She then listed the degrees that they offer. Fiona deMerell stated that they provide education for a great number of older students and they have a campaign "Finish what you Started" to attract adults that didn't finish their degrees. She spoke on how the UConn Campus connects with the community. Roberta Willis stated that she is the Chairman of the General Assembly's Higher Education Committee. She stated that people have the misconception that the Torrington Campus is a two-year school, a branch, or an agriculture school and it is an incredible asset to the region where you can get a four-year degree and walk across the stage at Storrs with everyone else at graduation. She stated that there is a collaborative between the Community College and Torrington UConn. Michael Criss asked if master's degrees and doctorate programs could be added. Discussion followed. Roberta Willis suggested that the NHCOC send a letter to the President of UConn in support of the UConn Torrington campus.

3. Summary and Discussion of DEEP's Proposed Modifications to the "General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems" and the implications for the Northwest Hills Region. Chris Stone gave a power point presentation on the proposed stormwater regulations in Connecticut. DEEP will be having a public hearing on the proposed regulations in the near future. Mr. Stone stated that DEEP has had limited compliance with the current MS4 General Permit to date. He stated the biggest water quality issues with run-off are bacteria, phosphorus, and nitrogen. He stated the primary issues to address in the new permit are impaired waters, illicit discharges, and more detailed planning. The MS4 has six minimum control measures in the tier one and fewer requirements are needed in tier two. Discussion followed. Bob Valentine asked why DEEP needs to charge for permits. He stated the proposal is an onerous unfunded mandate with significant municipal financial implications and asked for clarification on what is considered impairment. Chris Stone stated DEEP is already looking at modifying the draft provisions for street sweeping/CB cleaning and leaf collection due to recent input from concerned parties including the NHCOC. He stated that a major goal of the permit is to educate residents about the importance of protecting water quality. Chris Stone stated a revised draft of the proposed regulations will be available in the fall. Discussion followed.
4. Request for Endorsement of "NHCOC Goals and Outcomes for FY 2014-2015" and Additional Consultant Services. Jocelyn and Rick reviewed the proposed NHCOC goals and objectives for this year, and the associated consultant studies. Pat Mechare stated that she feels that the NHCOC should hire more staff rather than use consultants for the proposed work activities. She stated that this would serve to increase capacity over the long term for COG planning activities and programs. The COG's Executive

Committee discussed this option, but the majority supported hiring consultants instead of additional staff due to uncertainty about future funding from the State. Discussion followed. On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Mark Lyon, NHCOC members unanimously endorsed the draft NHCOC goals and outcomes for FY 2014-2015 as presented in the agenda packet. On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Mark Lyon, NHCOC members unanimously endorsed the proposed consultant project list as presented in the agenda packet.

5. Administrative Items.

- a.* On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Craig Nelson, the NWCCOG treasurer's report for 6/2014 and 7/2014 were unanimously approved.
- b.* On a motion by Tom McKeon and seconded by Dan Jerram, the LHCEO financial statements for 6/2014 and 7/2014 were unanimously approved.
- c.* On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Doug Humes, the NHCOC minutes from 7/10/2014 regular meeting and the financial statements for 6/2014 and 7/2014 were unanimously approved. Dan Jerram abstained.
- d.* After discussion, on a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Ted Shafer, the STIP amendment pertaining to funding for CTfastrak Marketing was unanimously opposed. Doug Humes abstained.

6. Committee Updates.

- a. Recycling Advisory Committee.* Sue reported the next HHW collection day is September 13, 2014 at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant and a shred it day and e-collection will be held at Litchfield High School on the same day.
- b. Litchfield County Dispatch.* Mark Lyon and Pat Mechare reported that LCD has a legislative committee. Pat Mechare stated that the state funding for LCD has been proposed for reduction and Rick Lynn and Dan Soule are working on a position paper in opposition to this. She stated that a special meeting of the COG may be needed to fully address this issue of concern.
- c. Update on DEMHS Region 5 and Authorization for NHCOC to Serve as Fiduciary Agent for 2014 HSG.* On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Craig Nelson, NHCOC members unanimously approved having the NHCOC staff serve as the fiduciary agent for the 2014 HSG.

7. Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. Sue Dyer requested a motion to add a resolution to the agenda. On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Pat Mechare, NHCOC members unanimously approved adding action on a resolution to the agenda. Jocelyn Ayer stated that the COG receive notice from OPM that the COG is being awarded a Regional Performance Incentive Grant for the Collaborative Shared Economic Development Services in the amount of \$249,000 and we need a resolution authorizing Don Stein as chairman to sign the contract. On a motion made Bob Valentine and seconded by Pat Mechare, NHCOC members unanimously endorsed the resolution to authorize Don Stein to sign the RPI grant award.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.