



MINUTES OF THE NHCOC MEETING

December 14, 2023

In-person

Member/Representative Attendance:

(R = Remote attendance)

R	Barkhamsted , Don Stein	✓	Harwinton , Michael Criss	✓	Roxbury , Patrick Roy
✓	Burlington , Doug Thompson	✓	Kent , Marty Lindenmayer	✓	Salisbury , Curtis Rand
	Canaan , David Barger	R	Litchfield , Denise Raap	✓	Sharon , Casey Flanagan
✓	Colebrook , Bradley Bremer	✓	Morris , Tom Weik	R	Torrington , Elinor Carbone
✓	Cornwall , Gordon Ridgway	✓	New Hartford , Dan Jerram	✓	Warren , Greg LaCava
✓	Goshen , Todd Carusillo	✓	Norfolk , Matt Riiska	✓	Washington , Jim Brinton
	Hartland , Magi Winslow	R	North Canaan , Brian Ohler	✓	Winchester , Bob Geiger

Others in Attendance:

NHCOC Staff: Sarah Better, Kathryn Faraci, Leo Ghio, Rista Malanca, Rob Phillips, Jean Speck.

Guests: Tim Waldron & Daniel Davis - Eversource, Kevin Tedesco CONNDOT, Mark Daley & Burt Hunter - MIRA, member of the press.

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Mike Criss called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Public Comment: none

Welcome new board members: VC Mike Criss welcomed new board members, and shared two important upcoming training opportunities for new officials presented by DEMHS (information and registration can be found on the [DEMHS training website](#))

- Basic WebEOC training – January 13th
- Incident Command for Elected Officials

Nominations: close nominations

Dan Jerram reported on behalf of the nominating committee recommended the following members to the executive committee: Mike Criss, Dan Jerram, Tom Weik, Elinor Carbone, Patrick Roy, Gordon Ridgeway. There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Greg Lacava/Denise Raap – to close nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION – By Jim Brinton/Curtis Rand to accept recommended slate from nominating committee – motion carried unanimously.

New chair Dan Jerram assumed chair of the meeting @ 1006.

Report of Executive Director:

- *Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day recap* – ED Phillips reported ~530 vehicles came through, reported on improvement of previous wait times for participants. Next event is in June in Falls Village.
- *Appointment of the 2024 Legislative Committee* – planning legislative breakfast with state legislators. 2024 is a short session from February 7th to May 8th. **MOTION: Tom Weik/Greg**

LaCava – to appoint the 2024 Legislative Committee with members Mike Criss, Brian Ohler, Patrick Roy, Todd Carusillo, Elinor Carbone, Denise Raap – Motion carried unanimously.

- Breakfast with Chamber and Area - TBD
- ED Activity Log – October to December – distributed to members.

NHCOG Staff Introductions, Areas of Primary Responsibility and Updates: COG staff presented a slide deck (attached) to introduce and update members on roles, goals and initiatives of the areas of focus.

- **ACTION – Approval of Recommended Members to the Northwest CT Economic Development Collaborative (NWCT EDC) Special Committee, Including NHCOG Representative Members (4) (Attachment A)**
MOTION by Dave/Matt Riiska to adopt the proposed membership of the NWCT EDC Special Committee as submitted – motion carried unanimously.
- **ACTION – Appointment of the Recommended Slate of NWCT EDC Members to the NWCT EDC Executive Committee (Attachment A)**
MOTION by Matt Riiska/Doug Thompson to appoint the recommended slate to the NWCT EDC Executive Committee as submitted – motion carried unanimously.
- **ACTION - STIP Amendment Approval – Intersection Improvements and Sidewalk Installation at Routes CT109 and CT61 in Morris (Attachment B)**
MOTION by Patrick Roy/Todd Carusillo to approve the STIP amendment as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Status and Objectives of the MIRA Dissolution Authority and the Future Disposition of Transfer

Stations: Mark Daley, President and CEO of MIRA, and Burt Hunter, Chair of the MIRA Dissolution Authority board of directors, provided an update on the MIRA Dissolution Authority work. See attached slide deck. [[REFERENCE PA 23-170](#)]. Discussion among the members to create a subcommittee to address the topic, ownership of the Torrington transfer station.

Currently there are 12 towns still in MIRA: Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, New Hartford, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Harwinton, Winchester.

Chair Jerram posed the question to Mr. Daley regarding the possibility/eligibility of NHCOG to take over ownership of the Torrington transfer station and becoming a regional resource recovery authority. He remarked that yes, NHCOG would meet the DEEP goals of creating more regional authorities rather than a town-by-town approach.

[REFERENCE: the [MIRA Dissolution Authority](#) meets monthly and anyone can attend.]

MOTION by Todd Carusillo /Curtis Rand to create a special committee on MSW and appoint members Dan Jerram, Denise Raap, Todd Carisullo, Matt Riiska. Motion carried unanimously.

DEMHS Update: Henry Pazscuk introduced himself and briefly gave information on DEMHS. Highlighted the importance for all newly elected officials to attend the upcoming WebEOC basic training on January 13th. Also mentioned the 2024 CCM Emergency Management Conference will be held at Camp Niantic. Deadline for submitting updated LEOPs is January 1st, 2024 in order to be eligible for EMPG funding.

Administrative Items:

- ACTION - Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for the October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting (Attachment C)
 - **MOTION –By Mike Criss/ Todd Carusillo to approve the October 12th minutes as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously with David Barger abstaining.
- b) ACTION - Approval of Financial Statements for September and October (Attachment D)
 - **MOTION – By Mike Criss/Patrick Roy to approve the financial statements for September and October as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously.
- c) ACTION – Approval of 2024 and January 2025 NHCOG Meeting Schedule (Attachment E)

- **MOTION – By Mike Criss/Patrick Roy to approve the 2024 and January 2025 NHCOG Meeting Schedule as amended to hold Jan, Feb, March meetings remotely and to offer hybrid meetings or in-person in the region on an as needed basis.** Motion carried unanimously.
- d) ACTION - Resolution to support EMPG Regional Hazardous Materials Teams Grant for 2023-2024 Period in the Amount of \$75,000 (Attachment F)
 - **MOTION – By Patrick Roy/Todd Carusillo to resolution to support EMPG Regional Hazardous Materials Teams Grant for 2023-2024 Period in the Amount of \$76,500.** Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business from the Membership for Regional or Member Benefit and/or Meeting adjournment.
MOTION by Patrick Roy/Todd Carusillo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff

Community and Economic Development

Rista Malanca, AICP

Director of Community and Economic Development

rmalanca@northwesthillscog.org

Office Phone: 860-491-9884 x 102

Education & Professional Expertise

B.S. Degree, UConn - Corporate & Small Business Operations

A.S. Degree, NCCC - Business Management

AICP Certification

17 years of Municipal experience in NW CT

Previously CZEO, Wetlands Agent & Flood Plain (Note: Have not maintained certifications, but continue to stay informed of all aspects of Land Use)

Specialize in:

Project development and management

Grant writing and administration

Brownfield redevelopment

Land use & regulations implementation

Trail and Greenway development

Adaptive reuse projects

Communication & relationship building



**Life-long
(4th generation)
resident of
Winsted.**

**My family and I
live here, work
here and play
here!**



5-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- ▶ Current EDA Award -Partnership Planning Grant \$60,000 per year for 3 years (2022, 2023 & 2024)
- ▶ Other EDA grants for implementation available
- ▶ Framework for regional Economic Development priorities over the next 5-years. Guides how our time and funding be spent.
- ▶ Current CEDS is expired. Need to have new plan in place by May 1, in order to get invited to “Apply” for year 3 funding.
- ▶ Goal: NHCOC adoption of CEDS at March Board Meeting.
- ▶ Plan requires input from a broad-based committee that representative of the regions industries and stakeholders. Who from your community would you like to invite to the Committee?
- ▶ Create “List of Priority Regional infrastructure Projects” to be included in CEDS

DRAFT - Potential Goals

Attracting and retaining younger generations and families to the region

- Reshape the regional housing market
- Create Walkable and Bike Friendly Communities
- Promote and improve access to outdoor recreational areas

Focus on supporting existing businesses

- Workforce Development & Attraction
- Infrastructure Improvements to support growth
- Robust Business retention and expansion efforts

Be positioned to attract new businesses, with a focus on entrepreneurs and small businesses

- Redevelopment of Brownfields and underutilized properties
- Leverage State & Federal resources, such as the Municipal Redevelopment Authority, Enterprise Zones and City and Town Development Act
- Marketing Strategy
- Identify and support expansion of existing infrastructure to accommodate new development

Position NW CT as a tourism destination and promote Arts & Culture

- Support the Creative Economies
- Re-brand Discover Litchfield Hills and develop a marketing strategy that will promote the region as a destination
- Promote Historic and Cultural Districts

Other goals or initiatives?

Transportation Programs

Kathryn Faraci
Transportation Planning Director

kfaraci@northwesthillscog.org

Office Phone: 860-491-9884 x 103

Educational & Professional Expertise

- ▶ B.S. Degree, **Babson College** - Marketing and Economic Analysis
- ▶ 35 years with **CT Department of Transportation**
- ▶ Former Deputy Director of **CT Highway Safety Office**
- ▶ Former Supervisor of **CTDOT Intergovernmental Affairs Unit**
- ▶ Currently **DEMHS ESF#14 Chairman**

Areas of Focus:

- ❖ Unified Planning Work Program
- ❖ FTA Section 5310 Non-Traditional Program (aka RITS)
- ❖ Municipal Grant Program
- ❖ LOTCIP
- ❖ TRIPS
- ❖ Community Connectivity
- ❖ Transportation Regional Plan
- ❖ Transportation Safety Plan
- ❖ Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan



Governors Highway Safety Association
The States' Voice on Highway Safety



Transportation Programs

- ▶ **Unified Planning Work Program** - Outlines work tasks necessary to conduct priority trans. planning activities for NHCOC region. https://northwesthillscog.org/nhcog-upwp-2024_2025/
- ▶ **Rural Independent Transportation Program (RITS)** - Administrative oversight of GEER, Northwestern CT Transit District and Sullivan Center transit services. <https://northwesthillscog.org/rural-independent-transportation-system-rits/>
- ▶ **State Matching Grant Program for Demand Responsive Trans.** - Annual program for elderly and disabled transportation. Max. Subsidy \$136,366/year
Geer - Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, North Canaan, Sharon, and Salisbury.

Transportation Programs cont.

- ▶ **Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)** - Provides State funds to urbanized municipalities in lieu of Federal funds. NHCOC receives approx. \$1 million/year (Burlington, Litchfield, Winchester, Torrington, and Harwinton)
- ▶ **Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIPS)** - last solicitation NHCOC submitted 13 projects - total over \$20 million.
- ▶ **Community Connectivity** - Program was dev. for infrastructure improvements identified through RSA's or other planning initiatives.
- ▶ **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program** - Four-year planning document and reflects first 3 years of State CTDOT Capital Plan.

Current Obligated STIP Projects

REGION	PROJECT	PHASE	PROGRAM	ROUTE	TOWN	DESCRIPTION
Northwest Hills						
3	0150-0137	PE	BRFP	US 202	WASHINGTON	NHS - REHAB BR 00906 O/ SHEPAUG RIVER (PD)
3	0029-0104	CON	BRZ	VARIOUS	COLEBROOK	REPLACE BR 05141 & PRESERVE BR 05146
3	0150-0136	CON	BRZ	TUNNEL ROAD	WASHINGTON	REPLACE BR 05158 O/ SHEPAUG RIVER
3	0150-0136	CON	BRZ	TUNNEL ROAD	WASHINGTON	REPLACE BR 05158 O/ SHEPAUG RIVER
3	0162-0157	CON	BRZ	CASE AVENUE	WINCHESTER	REHAB BR 05127 O/ MAD RIVER
3	0149-0088	CON	STPA	CT 45	WARREN	REPAIR EMBANK. ON LAKE WARAMAUG BRK
3	0028-0210	PE	STPA	PROSPECT HILL RD	COLCHESTER	REPLACE BR 00395 O/ ROUTE 2 (PD)
3	0097-0095	CON	STPR	US 44	NORFOLK	REPLACEMENT OF RETAINING WALLS ON US 44
3	0054-0087	PE	STPR	CT 4/CT 63	GOSHEN	UPGRADE ROTARY AND PED. IMPROVEMENTS (PD)
3	0065-0116	PE	STPR	CT 4	HARWINTON	REPLACE NON-NBI BR 01947 O/ BROOK (PD)
3	0073-0194	PE	STPR	US 202	LITCHFIELD	REPLACE BR 02231 O/ STILL BROOK (FD)
3	0073-0194	ROW	STPR	US 202	LITCHFIELD	REPLACE BR 02231 O/ STILL BROOK
3	0067-0123	PE	TAPR	VARIOUS	KENT	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS (FD)

Transportation Plans

➤ Regional Transportation Plan

- ❖ Outlines strategies and proposed projects addressing transportation issues and needs.
- ❖ Identifies priority projects and planning objectives
- ❖ Conducted every 5 years for a 30-year timeline
- ❖ Provides support for future funding

➤ Regional Safety Plan

- ❖ Originated from 2017 CT Strategic Highway Safety Plan to mitigate injuries and fatalities in CT.
- ❖ Identify high crash locations and effective countermeasures and strategies to reduce motor vehicle and bike/ped crashes
- ❖ Plan prioritizes regional projects for better position to receive available safety funding

Rural Health Network Development

Leonardo Ghio, MBA
Project Director

lghio@northwesthillscog.org

Office Phone: 860-491-9884 x 105

Educational & Professional Expertise

- ▶ MBA Healthcare Leadership, Post University
- ▶ B.A. Psychology, Southern CT State University
- ▶ Co-Chair of the Northwest Coordinated Access Network
- ▶ Steering Committee Member of the CT Age Well Collaborative
- ▶ Co-Founder and former CEO of a mobile primary care practice
- ▶ Founder of New Milford Chore Services
- ▶ Vice President of the Wheels Program of Greater New Milford
- ▶ 7 Years of experience at the municipal level and 2 years at the regional level

Areas of Focus:

- ▶ Adolescent Mental Health Network
- ▶ Regional Opioid Response Fund
- ▶ Regional Health & Human Services Newsletter and [Resource Map](#)
- ▶ Homeless Response System
- ▶ Produce Rx Program



Connecticut
Age Well
Collaborative



Northwest Hills Community Health Network of CT

- ▶ NHCOG is the FIRST organization in CT to receive Rural Health Network Development funding from the Health Services & Resources Administration
- ▶ \$300,000 per year, for four years
- ▶ Focusing on increasing access to mental health services for adolescents ages 13 through 18

- ▶ Project Goals:

- ▶ Employ screening for early identification and intervention of behavioral health concerns
- ▶ Increase access to adolescent mental health services
- ▶ Provide robust Care Coordination and follow-up
- ▶ Develop provider workforce pipeline partnerships
- ▶ Add new providers to the network



▶ Funded Partners:



GREENWOODS
COUNSELING & REFERRALS, INC.



McCall Behavioral
Health
NETWORK



Community
Health & Wellness

Our Family – Taking Care of Yours

▶ Partners In-Kind:



UConn

Hartford
HealthCare

Charlotte Hungerford
Hospital



Regional Opioid Response Fund



▶ Participating Towns:

- ▶ Barkhamsted
- ▶ Canaan
- ▶ Colebrook
- ▶ Hartland
- ▶ Kent
- ▶ Litchfield
- ▶ Morris
- ▶ Norfolk
- ▶ North Canaan
- ▶ Warren
- ▶ Washington

▶ Mission:

To collectively achieve a greater impact to abate the adverse effects of the ongoing opioid epidemic by working closely with participating municipalities to *facilitate an intentional, sustainable, and equitable regional approach to financing and implementing evidence-based prevention, intervention and treatment strategies*, including harm-reduction programs.

➤ Current Projects:

- Leave Behind Kits and training for EMS
- Harm Reduction supplies for LCOTF

Program Management /DEMHS

Sarah Better
Program Manager

Sbetter@northwesthillscog.org

Office Phone: 860-491-9884 x 104

Education and Professional Expertise

- ▶ Financial Services Diploma, Center for Financial Training
- ▶ Consumer Lending Diploma, Center for Financial Training
- ▶ Advanced Financial Services Diploma, Center for Financial Training
- ▶ Former Branch Manager, Litchfield Bancorp, Washington Depot Office
- ▶ Former Director, Warren Church Community Childcare

Areas of Focus:

- ❖ Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)
- ❖ Housatonic River Commission/National Parks Service Grant
- ❖ Public Works Equipment Collaborative
- ❖ Neighbor to Neighbor Program
- ❖ Governmental Portals to request funds for grant funding

DEMHS Region 5 Fiduciary



- ▶ Monitor Program Expenditures
- ▶ Financial reports
- ▶ Weekly check in meetings with Paul Gibb, NHCOCG Region 5 Special Projects Coordinator, and John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator
- ▶ Updating policies and procedures with Paul Gibb
- ▶ For more information, please refer to our website <https://r5rept.org>

Housatonic River Commission/National Park Service

- ▶ All bookkeeping and financial reporting for both HRC and NPS Grant
- ▶ Wild and Scenic Rivers Program -*"The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is a collection of exceptional rivers that have been designated to protect their free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values for the enjoyment of present and future generations."*
- ▶ Quarterly financial reporting to NPS grant

Public Works Equipment Collaborative

- ▶ Billing and invoicing
- ▶ Bookkeeping
- ▶ Creating new rental form
- ▶ Generating information for equipment and training grants



Regional Planning & Program Support

Jean C. Speck
Senior Regional Planner

jspeck@northwesthillscog.org

Office Phone: 860-491-9884 x 106

Education & Professional Expertise

- ▶ B.A. Fine Art, Southern CT State University
- ▶ Former First Selectman, Town of Kent (2019-2023)
- ▶ 10 years State Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services
- ▶ Connecticut Certified Municipal Certified CT Municipal Officer (CCMO) through CCM
- ▶ Co-Chair, Comptroller Scanlon's Healthcare Cabinet Committee on Rural Healthcare

Areas of Focus:

- ▶ Project development and management / Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- ▶ Grant writing and management/ Sustainability
- ▶ Data & Cybersecurity
- ▶ Emergency Medical Services
- ▶ Communication & Networking



Planning Initiatives

- ▶ Salary Survey
- ▶ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- ▶ Public Works Equipment Collaborative
- ▶ Developing GIS capabilities
- ▶ New NHCOCG website
- ▶ Develop Regional Value Report Card
- ▶ Cybersecurity - assistance to towns

THANK YOU



NHCOG
— Northwest Hills —
Council of Governments