

CRCOG Ad Hoc Committee on Concrete Foundations Issues

Minutes

April 6, 2017, 10 AM

Previous MIRA Trash Museum: 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT 06492

ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization / Town
Steve Werbner	Tolland
Sam Belsito	State Rep. 53 rd District
John Elsesser	Coventry
John Ward	Vernon
Kevin Alvarez	U.S. Congressman Joseph Courtney
John Filchak	NECCOG
Christina Mailhos	Willington
Andy Goodhall	Union
Chandler Rose	CAAO Assessors
Tony Frassinelli	Stafford
Jason Lawrence	Tolland
Scott Shanley	Manchester
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Randy Belair	Willington
Brad Drazen	NBC Connecticut
Richard Kehoe	Senator Blumenthal
Emily Boushee	Senator Murphy
Sue Moran	Vernon
Wyatt Bosworth	Representative Ritter
Tim Ackert	State Rep.
Tom Delnicki	State Rep.
Lori Spielman	1 st Selectman, Ellington
Joyce Stille	Bolton
Tony Guglielmo	State Senator
Marilyn Bierkowski	Willington
Mary Gretchen Shea	Vernon
Carolyn Lumsden	Hartford Courant
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

Chair, Steve Werbner, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Elsesser made a motion to adopt the minutes. Ms. Stille seconded; all voted in favor.

2. Current Legislative Proposals summary

Mr. Werbner and Dr. Wray summarized the meeting that was held with the speaker as well as many of the stakeholders regarding this issue. Mr. Elsesser was present at the meeting

representing COST. Issues include banks tightening credit, increasing bank costs, taxability of the grant. Other issues include allowing additional time for insurance claims to be able to file lawsuits.

The speaker is currently looking for ideas. The major concern from many of the parties is understanding the magnitude of the problem. Some would like to delay until the landscape is clear. Mr. Werbner and Dr. Wray urged the adoption of the framework on how to move forward.

This will be an iterative process as the issue will have to be revisited and revised but an important piece will be to have someone in place to organize and herd the development of additional policy. This is not a CRCOG role. CRCOG is willing to administer funds, but is not in the position to develop policy.

New issues arise with commercial sector becoming involved. Sen. Guglielmo sent information to Linda McMahon regarding the commercial info.

Ms. Spielman also mentioned that septic tanks are also an issue.

Banking industry is very concerned about this issue and Dr. Wray will reach out to them.

It will be interesting to see how rating agencies take this issue into account.

There is a European standard for pyrrhotite.

There is no way to show that property levels of pyrrhotite are acute or not acute.

Insurance package should be developed – a product or a supplemental policy to stabilize the market.

Mr. Kehoe from Sen. Blumenthal's office mentioned the need to in the long term develop an appropriate level of pyrrhotite and efficient or alternative way of addressing the issue. At the federal level, FEMA is not interested because it does not have an understanding of the sense of scope and does not believe it can be categorized as a natural disaster. Two agencies are interested: NIST and the Navy and Sen. Blumenthal is pursuing a potential investigation regarding the levels and alternative solutions.

This issue will shrink grand lists. Tolland has had \$3.5MM taken of the grand list so far and as more homes get re-assessed, the amount will grow and things could get ugly.

There is a need for the towns to get the homes back on the books.

Request to the federal delegation to look into the taxation associated with any grants the state might give to homeowners.

Need to establish an appeal process as this is not a normal function of a COG to determine eligibility, etc. Need a procedure for homeowners to appeal.

Scott Shanley motioned the approval of the memo drafted to be sent to the Speaker. Ms. Stille seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The big issue is to get the word out to other parts of the state. CTCOG did endorse but additional local resolutions may be helpful. Mr. Shanley will reach out to CCM. CRCOG will develop a sample resolution for towns to pass. The important aspect is to communicate the hidden costs: banking industry stability, insurance, construction industry, etc.

3. Update on Request for Qualifications

A new list will be published soon. There were some delays due to weather and being able to convene the group. Ms. Yoder reported that by the week of the 17th, an updated list will be published and a new RFQ will go out again.

4. Status of Testing Funding

Dr. Wray reported that we are waiting for the state on a contract for the testing funding.

On a side note, Mr. Werbner mentioned that Ms. Pellegrini has accepted another position elsewhere and will be moving on from the Committee. The committee will miss her presence and her hard work for the committee.

5. Communications Update

Ms. Yoder gave a communications update stating the following:

We are at this point in time thinking that the legislation will be JFed out of committee. If we think there will be difficulty in JFing the legislative items, we should consider doing a press conference sooner rather than later, but given that we think it will at least get JFed, the main focus will be on May

We are setting up meetings with editorial boards / earned media now. That is on-going right now

The day of our next meeting May 4th, we will plan a press conference with town leaders to emphasize the need for the legislation to pass. This will be scheduled for the morning.

Marketing Communications is currently working on web page and prepping for digital advertising

The big push will be the last 2-3 weeks in May for advertising and reaching out.

We are having weekly calls and anyone on the committee is welcome to join. Just contact Ms. Yoder.