

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274
Web Page: www.crcog.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES CRCOG Boardroom, 241 Main Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT March 8, 2017 Noon

Attendance

Chip Beckett, Chair
Jon Colman
Matthew Hart
David Kilbon
Marcia Leclerc
Scott Shanley
Ron Van Winkle
Steve Werbner

Town/Organization

Glastonbury
Bloomfield
Mansfield
East Granby
East Hartford
Manchester
West Hartford
Tolland

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Jennifer Carrier
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Brittany Stephenson
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

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Guests

Pete Smith

Rome Smith Lutz

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Chip Beckett called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2016

There was no quorum present. The approval of minutes from the August 10, 2016 meeting was postponed until the next Executive Committee meeting in May.

4. Chair and Executive Director Remarks and Report

Lyle Wray provided the highlights for this item to the Board. He invited the Board to attend the upcoming German-American Networking Reception and Business Forum on March 28th and 29th. 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of ongoing strategic partnerships between Connecticut and Germany in areas of business, innovation, and education.

He also updated the Board on crumbling concrete foundations. The press conference and hearing were both well received and attended. He recognized the co-chairs and staff working diligently to create solutions to this crisis. There will be a comprehensive bill circulated which will hopefully become a basis for discussion in the state. A summary of the status of crumbling foundations will be distributed to the full board in the future.

Lyle also mentioned that grant request to US EDA has progressed from the Philadelphia office to Washington DC for a decision. CRCOG is making progress and updates will be shared once available.

5. Planning for CRCOG Annual Meeting 2017: Date and Venue

Lyle Wray presented this item to the Board. The CRCOG annual meeting is approaching. A discussion with the committee of possible dates, locations, and themes would be helpful in an effort to plan. The committee agreed that Friday, June 9, 2017 would be the preferred date. A recommendation to host the meeting at the Dunkin Donuts Ballpark was suggested and agreed upon by the committee. Regarding themes and speakers, the committee would like to have the keynote address take an optimistic note. Themes included tolling, a speaker to discuss German American relations, and innovations in the community. A full presentation of ideas and updates for the Policy Board will be prepared for the March 22, 2017 meeting.

6. 2017 Legislative Session Update

Lyle Wray updated the Board on this item. He highlighted the 2017 Legislative Agenda. CRCOG testified in favor of the Transportation Lockbox. The governor did not accept the 10% draft cut reduction proposed by the CT DOT in his budget. There is still a push for the Hartford-Springfield-Boston rail service plan and a press clip was attached to the handout. A joint study with Pioneer Valley Commission showed that the Hartford

Springfield Boston rail costs were below original numbers and that benefits are up regarding the rail service. Governor Malloy, in conjunction with CRCOG, issued a letter encouraging the governor of Massachusetts to include the rail line in the MA State Rail Plan.

There will be a Corridor Advisory Committee for CTfastrak and Hartford Rail meeting March 28, 2017 at 8:30am. Member towns are invited to attend for updates.

Lyle also referred the committee to the handout on state and local budget talking points. The suggestions are for early May when there will be a sharper focus on balancing the budget. Timing is key for presenting these items. This led to a discussion of a possible recommendation to halt school construction except for correcting code violations. This was not supported in the discussion. Pete Smith highly recommended CRCOG's approach and strategy on how to reach the legislator at the teachable moment. Lyle will finalize the draft memo for the upcoming CRCOG Policy Board meeting.

7. Adjournment

There was a small discussion on the recent 'notwithstanding' language at the legislature designed to allow towns more time to finalize budgets outside of charter specified timelines.

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Beckett requested a motion to adjourn. **Jon Colman moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Shanley seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.**