

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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Policy Board Special Meeting Minutes
Former MIRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
10:30 am
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Joe Higgins
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Joyce Stille
Leslee Hill
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Dave Kilbon
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Peter Falk
Chip Beckett
John Ward
Alex Beaudoin
Paul Shapiro
Scott Shanley
Robert Lee
Claudio Baio
Ray Carpentino
Jeff Bord
Robert Phillips
Andrew Paterna
Melissa Mack
Steve Werbner
Matt Hart
Jeff Bridges
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Andover
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Columbia
Coventry
East Granby
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Mansfield
Manchester
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Rocky Hill
Somers
Southington
South Windsor
Suffield
Tolland
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor Locks

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Kimberly Bona
Jennifer Carrier
Lynne Pike DiSanto
Emily Hultquist

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Staff (continued)

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG

Guests

Courtney Hendricson	CERC
Sadie Colcord	CERC
Chelsea Burkett (via phone)	Fourth Economy
David Griggs	Metro Hartford Alliance
Rebecca Nolan	Metro Hartford Alliance
Nancy Wheeler	Metro Hartford Alliance
Tom Kirk	MIRA

1. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. She suggested amending the agenda to accommodate special guest David Griggs, Metro Hartford Alliance CEO, followed by the CEDS presentation. She welcomed David Griggs and thanked him for taking the time to attend the Policy Board meeting to introduce himself to the Board. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Griggs.

Welcome and Introduction-David Griggs, Metro Hartford Alliance CEO

David Griggs said that he is looking forward to working with CRCOG and is eager to begin aggressively marketing economic growth and development in the Capitol Region. Scott Shanley feels that it is important to continue focus on internal selling as well as externally to be successful. Mr. Griggs agreed.

Mayor Leclerc feels this is a very exciting time for Connecticut and a lot of great things are happening independently, but would like to see what can be done by working together. She encouraged the Board to review the findings in the *CT Commission of Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth-Final Draft Report* provided in the meeting correspondence and expressed how important it is to provide testimony.

John Elsesser feels that the support concepts need to be fully vetted and that the process is extremely important. He cautioned the Board not to get caught up in the numbers right now.

Dr. Wray stated that testimony will be held this Friday, March 23, 2018 beginning at 12:30 pm in the House of Representatives.

Dr. Chip Beckett asked how to submit testimony if attending is not possible. Dr. Wray suggested submitting written testimony if attendance was not possible.

- **Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Chelsea Burkett, Fourth Economy Consultants**

Dr. Lyle Wray welcomed Chelsea Burkett via telephone, Director of Sustainable Communities for Fourth Economy Consultants to the Board. Ms. Burkett presented to the Board. She stated that Fourth Economy Consultants have been building on a lot of existing plans in the region, and that they are not looking to “re-create the wheel. She stated that the outcome will be a “bold but strategic action plan.”

She explained that the focus of the CEDS Plan will:

- Create a **Vision** for the Capitol Region that is rooted in the aspirations of residents with an eye toward the future;
- Conduct a **Situational Assessment** that focuses on strength and opportunities;
- Develop **Goals** that will allow the region to vision and build on strengths;
- Identify **Game-changer Strategies** – Identify the top three opportunities that the region must capture to enhance economic competitiveness;
- Develop specific **Actions** to implement the vision and game changers;
- Build the **Capacity** to implement;
- **Measure** the impact of these game-changer strategies and adjust to stay on course.

Chelsea Burkett shared potential strategies to reach our goal, and discussed CRCOG’s role in all of this.

Mayor Leclerc thanked Ms. Burkett for her presentation and asked if any of the Board members had questions. There were none. Mayor Leclerc encouraged Board members to review the presentation. The full presentation may be found [here](#).

Steve Werbner stated he feels that the composition of the CEDS advisory board appears to consist of a lot of representatives from large cities and towns, and not many from smaller towns.

John Elsesser expressed the importance of getting Town Planners involved. Dr. Wray and Mayor Leclerc concurred. Chelsea Burkett stated that it will make sense to start engaging them as we move forward with the next phase. Dr. Wray feels CRCOG’s Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is a good opportunity to vest CEDS.

Dr. Wray explained that the Policy Board is the group that will make any decisions regarding the CEDS and assured him that everyone on the Board is welcome to get as involved as they want this. He encouraged everyone to review the PowerPoint presentation that will be sent out to all Board members and reach out to him or Tim Malone with any questions or comments.

Dr. Wray stated there will be a lot of updates on this as we continue to move forward.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2018:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from February 21, 2018. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

- Letter from Town of Columbia re: CRCOG representative
- Letter from Town of Granby re: CRCOG representative
- Letter to Governor Malloy re: STF Fund for FY 2019
- Letter to Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, Stephanie Pollack re: Comments on the Draft Massachusetts State Rail Plan
- CT Commission of Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth-Final Draft Report
- FHWA and FTA Joint Approval of Federal Certification for Hartford TMA

5. Monthly Reports:

a. Chair and Executive Director Report

Executive Director Dr. Lyle Wray provided this update to the Board. He asked if the Board had any questions regarding his monthly report. There were no questions.

b. Opportunities and Resources

Dr. Wray explained that he is working on a budget with conservative revenue assumptions, as we do not know what state funding to expect. He suggested re-writing the letter to the Governor regarding the current issue with STF funding, stating that a solution must be produced by May 5 to avoid continuing cuts and freezes in transportation funding.

John Elsesser feels that we should pursue a different path and asked if there is an alternative way to go about this with LOTCIP funding. Discussion followed. Dr. Wray will work on this with John Elsesser.

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Pauline Yoder provided the following updates to the Board:

- A recruitment for our electricity consortium is coming in April with the reverse auction in the fall. The electricity bid is a closed bid that requires town commitment ahead of time.
- We're opening Police Ammunition and Fingerprinting Supplies and Swimming Pool and Water Treatment Chemicals next Thursday.
- The Ad-Hoc Working Committee on Crumbling Foundations will meet April 25th at 10:30 AM ahead of the CRCOG Policy Board meeting.

d. Policy and Planning

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided the following updates to the Board:

FEMA Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

- The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is in the process of updating the ***Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014-2019***.
- Many municipal officials participated in a regional meeting on January 23, 2018 to discuss natural hazard risks, learn about flood studies conducted by the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), and learn about a flood mitigation initiative of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) spills group.
- CRCOG is sponsoring a second regional meeting on **Tuesday, March 27 from 9:30 AM to 12 noon** for an opportunity to again collaborate on the planning process, review prior mitigation strategies, and develop new mitigation goals and actions for the Capitol Region and its 38-member municipalities.
- The meeting will take place at the Manchester RCC, 321 Olcott Street, Manchester, CT 06040.
- Encourage all towns to send a representative.

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Joyce Still provided the following updates to the Board:

- Federal Homeland Security will be on site next week. One specific request was for a demonstration from the Hartford Bomb Squad which serves as our regional bomb squad. Cheryl is coordinating this and other aspects of the visit.
- The Statewide EPPI Exercise was held in December. We are still waiting for some communities to complete their After-Action Reviews which is a grant deliverable for CRCOG. Please check with us or with your EMD to ensure it was submitted.
- Staff continues to monitor the Puerto Rico Relief effort. The CREC sponsored Relief Center closed last week and Catholic Charities will take over from here.

Through the State Department of Education, school systems will be reimbursed at a rate of \$8,500 to \$10,000 per student.

f. Transportation Committee:

Jon Colman stated the FHWA and FTA certification review, that occurs every 3 years, was recently completed and the region's planning process complies with federal laws and regulations. Mr. Colman also mentioned the federal agencies commended our region on several items and applauded CRCOG staff on the review proceedings and findings.

Mr. Colman echoed earlier comments made by Lyle Wray related to the issuing another letter stressing the critical importance of the Special Transportation Fund (STF). CRCOG staff will follow up with Mr. John Elsesser as it relates to comments he made on considering an alternative in the STF letter that scales back LOTCIP funding to solve some of the STF issues. Mr. Colman reminded the Board that a LOTCIP solicitation was recently issued – applications are due on May 22, 2018 and municipalities can submit up to two proposals. Mr. Colman also informed the Board that the Transportation Committee is agreeable to, if a solution to the STF shortfall cannot be obtained, put pressure on CTDOT to advance town projects under the STP-Urban program in lieu of state projects if LOTCIP goes away.

6. Presentation/Updates: (continued)

- **Welcome and Introduction-David Griggs, Metro Hartford Alliance CEO** (*this item was addressed at the start of the meeting*)
- **Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Chelsea Burket, Fourth Economy Consultants** (*this item was addressed at the start of the meeting*)
- **Proposed Redevelopment of Waste-to-Energy Facility in Hartford - Tom Kirk, MIRA President**

Mayor Leclerc welcomed Tom Kirk and turned the floor over to him for presentation.

Mr. Kirk stated that the redevelopment of CRRA to MIRA consists of 4 original trash to energy projects in Wallingford, Bridgeport, Preston and Hartford (Mid-CT).

He explained that MIRA's focus consists of:

- Uninterrupted operation of publicly owned Hartford facility;
- Management of remaining liabilities/assets; and
- Redevelopment of the South Meadows facility project.

Mr. Kirk stated that a 2-year DEEP RFP process selected Sacyr-Rooney as the redevelopment team. Tipping fees, are estimated to be \$65 to \$78/ton MSW, \$0 to \$23/ton recycling.

Municipal Interests, both contractual and statutory, include:

- Net cost of operation fee structure;
- Uniform disposal fee;
- Equitable redistribution of surplus project revenues;
- No disposal fee for single stream recycling / potential recycling rebate;
- Public supervision and control;
- Eligibility for enforceable flow control of private hauler waste.

Tom Kirk explained that currently, agreement negotiations are taking place. The transfer of operations is proposed for July 2018; however, MIRA expects this to be much later.

Discussion followed. Mayor Leclerc asked what will happen to the MIRA Board when Sacyr Rooney takes over. Tom Kirk explained that Sacyr Rooney will still require management by a public entity, which will be the MIRA Board.

Mayor Leclerc stated that when she met with Sacyr Rooney, there was a promise of significantly lowered tipping fees presented. She is surprised by the cost presented today. Scott Shanley explained that MIRA shares the same concern of viability, and how to achieve it. The MIRA Board feels that there is no “happy talk” to ensure that everyone knows what to expect. Discussion followed.

Dr. Chip Beckett asked what will be done if we are still unable to sell recyclables. Mr. Kirk stated that this issue will be solved.

Melissa Mack asked about the role of educating towns' homeowners, etc. Has an outreach been done with schools? Tom Kirk stated that they have reached out to schools, however, what they are permitted is limited due to state mandates. Discussion followed.

Mayor Leclerc thanked Tom Kirk for his time. The full presentation may be viewed [here](#).

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Action: Resolution: Authorizing Awards and Execution of Subgrant and Loan Agreements Under the Metro Hartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program

Jeff Bord made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Awards And Execution of Subgrant and Loan Agreements Under the Metro Hartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program as presented. Joyce Still seconded

the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Action: Resolution: Authorizing Execution of Agreement for LEP Services to the Metro Hartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Program

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for LEP Services to the Metro Hartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Program as presented. Joyce Still seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:

8. Action: TIP Amendments

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP Amendments as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Action: Resolution: Plainville Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Trail Study

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Plainville Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Trail Study as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Information/Opportunity/Resource Items

10. Legislative Update

11. 2018 CRCOG Annual Meeting – Topic, speaker and venue

Dr. Wray stated that CRCOG normally holds an annual meeting sometime in the first half of June. He welcomed ideas from the Board on venue and speaker ideas. Dr. Wray said that possible ideas for venue include new addition at the Manufacturing Center at Goodwin College. Another thought is holding the meeting at the new TOD on New Park Avenue at Elmwood CTfastrak Station.

Dr. Wray asked the Board for their thoughts on speakers and mentioned Hartford Foundation President, Jay Williams. Mayor Leclerc feels this is a great idea.

12. Statewide LOTCIP Pictograph

13. Other Business: None.

14. Adjournment:

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adjourn.

Joyce Stille moved to adjourn meeting. Leslee Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.