

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## **CRCOG FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford (Conference call option provided) Monday, April 23, 2018 at 1 p.m.

### **Attendees**

Stephen Cassano  
Dave Kilbon  
Lee Erdmann (via phone)  
Chip Beckett  
John Adams  
John Carson  
Douglas Fisher  
Matt Hart (via phone)  
Brian Heavren  
Leslee Hill (via phone)  
Marcia Leclerc  
Robert Lee  
Richard Porth (via phone)  
Paul Shapiro  
Diane Smith (via phone)  
Lori Spielman  
Lyle Wray

### **CRCOG Staff**

Hedy Ayers  
Kim Bona  
Tim Malone  
Cheryl Assis

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

### **2. Welcome and Introductions**

President Steve Cassano did a roll call and thanked everyone for attending. He welcomed new members Paul Shapiro, Leslee Hill and Lori Spielman.

### **3. Action Item: Approval of Minutes - November 27, 2017 Meeting**

Dave Kilbon made and Chip Beckett seconded a motion to accept the November 27, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

#### **4. Video Testimonial Project Update**

Hedy provided this update to the Board. She stated the Shared Services video is complete and was viewed by the Policy Board at its Strategic Planning session this winter. CRCOG is now working on the Public Safety and Transportation videos. Once they are complete, they will be posted online and showcased at future meetings.

#### **5. Grant and Program Updates**

##### **a. New England Economic Development Strategy/Rebooting New England**

Dr. Lyle Wray stated the goals behind this strategy are to build a high-speed railroad network connecting New York and Boston and New England's mid-sized cities, linking slower-growing economic regions to higher performing economic regions. Dr. Wray explained that this would be a very expensive project, approximately 100 billion, but it would pay off rapidly and would deal with the major "bottleneck" issue. Marcia Leclerc asked what the estimated time would be from NY to Boston. Dr. Wray stated approximately 3 hours.

Goals include expanding rail ridership and decongesting highways, integrating labor and housing markets across the region, revitalizing the region's mid-size cities and focusing the next generation of growth in these places. Dr. Wray encouraged the Board to attend an upcoming presentation on this project.

Hedy Ayers mentioned that the consultants for this Lincoln Institute funded project were unable to leverage the CRCOG Foundation's fiduciary services to secure a companion grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) because of the lack of diversity on our board. Instead, HFPG made a direct funding arrangement with Kip and Bob. Marcia Leclerc expressed her concern and suggested that it may be beneficial to meet with Jay Williams to explain this issue and seek his input.

##### **b. Anchor Institutions**

Hedy explained that an update on this project from Mary Ellen Kowalewski was provided in the meeting packets. The project is being carried out under a \$200,000 RPIP Grant from OPM. The **Next Steps Project** is a follow-up to last year's study of **Best Practices in Engaging Anchor Institutions and Neighborhoods in TOD**. That report demonstrated that the meaningful engagement of anchors, government and community organizations in mutually beneficial relationships can help spur TOD and economic growth in a regions' bus rapid transit and commuter rail corridors. It is anticipated that the work performed here will be complementary and supportive of the Regional Futures Initiatives and CEDS projects. The **Next Steps Project** will develop communication tools to help spread the message of the benefits of TOD, and will include an important and unique Asset Mapping element.

##### **c. Regional Future Initiatives Listening Tour**

Hedy Ayers explained that this outreach tool has morphed into a companion project to the CEDS. She briefly reviewed the list of interviews that have been conducted to date.

#### **d. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

Tim Malone provided an update on CEDS to the Board. He stated that the consulting firm, Fourth Economy, presented to the Policy Board at its March meeting. The first Advisory Committee meeting was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and though it was well attended, they had hoped for more corporate representation. An important follow up meeting with David Griggs and Jay Williams is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Lyle Wray explained the intention is to create a vision for the Capitol Region by conducting a situational assessment that focuses on strengths and weaknesses, to identify game changers and develop actions to implement the vision and the game changers. Goals of the project include: enhancing regional cohesiveness; establishing vibrant quality of place to attract and retain talent; and creating a 20<sup>th</sup> century workforce. He reiterated that the challenge is getting heavy corporate involvement.

Dave Kilbon expressed the importance of recognizing that this is going to be an ongoing effort for generations to come that needs corporate and governmental involvement. It was also suggested that we look at the Fiscal Stability Report to see if there are any themes that may be beneficial to CEDS. Dr. Wray suggested vetting the report and possibly working with CCM or another partner to perform a thorough vetting. There was some discussion around millennials, and President Cassano stated millennials will stay if they have the options to come and go (i.e. New Haven offers the ability to take the train to NY for a day outing, and be home the same evening).

Tim Malone stated there has been discussion on changing the name from “CEDS” to “Metro Hartford Future.” Additional discussion followed.

#### **7. Ideas for Expanding and Diversifying the CRCOG Foundation Board**

President Cassano stated we must reach out and recruit new members. Dave Kilbon agreed that having “new blood” on the Board is important. Marcia Leclerc suggested bringing on other organizations, i.e. Metro Hartford Alliance, Capital Workforce Partners, etc. Dr. Wray suggested creating a roster of nominees based on regional organizations. President Cassano asked if all Executive Committee members would want to be on the Board. Dr. Wray will place this on the next Executive Committee agenda for discussion.

#### **8. Annual Meeting Preparation**

##### **a. Date Selection**

Board members discussed possible dates to hold the CRCOG Foundation Annual Meeting. Marcia Leclerc stated Mondays are a good day for her. Other dates discussed were 5/16, 5/23 and possibly before or after CRCOG’s Annual Meeting on 6/13. Hedy Ayers can send a Doodle poll.

##### **b. Officer Nominees**

Directors were encouraged to consider serving on the Board in an executive capacity, as a slate of officers will be presented at the Foundation’s Annual Meeting.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

Dave Kilbon made and Chip Beckett seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**11. Next Meeting: At the Call of the Chair**