

MINUTES OF
CRCOG Concrete Foundations Issues Meeting
January 12, 2017 12:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Name

Steve Werbner
Lisa Pellegrini
Rep. Tami Zawistowski
Tom Delnicki
Kurt Vail
John Elsesser
John Ward
Joyce Stille
Carolyn Mirek
Mark Tweedy
Sam Belsito
Alex Saylor
Kevin Alvarez
John Filchak
Christina Mailhos
Scott Shanley
Andy Goodhall
Rich Keough
Kim Bechard
Jeff Currey
Evan Johnson
Frank Forzano
Jim Mahoney
Michael C. Santoro
Chandler Rose
Lou Spadaccini
Bob Burbank
Ayanti E. Grant
Ralph H. Tulis, P.E.
Christopher David
Tim Ackert
Robin Green
Charles Rotherberger
Steve Lattarulo
Anthony Arborio
Tony Frassinelli
Sue Moran
Jon Beaulieu
Matthew Gannon

Town

Tolland
Somers
61st District
South Windsor
State Rep. 52nd District
Coventry
Vernon
Bolton
South Windsor
State Rep. 13th District
State Rep. 53rd District
House Republican Office
U.S. Congressman Joseph Courtney
NECCOG
Willington
Manchester
Union
Sen. Blumenthal's Office
Ellington
State Representative 11th District
Sen. Murphy's Office
CCACB
UCONN – CTI
Dept. of Housing
CAAO Assessors
Vernon
Andover
Congressman Courtney's Office
Structures Consulting
State Representative 57th District
State Representative 8th District
State Representative 55th District
Rome Smith/CRCOG
Wethersfield
Wethersfield
Stafford
CCACB
Contractor, Stafford
Contractor, Manchester

Tim Gannon	Contractor, East Hartford
Robert Beaulieu	Contractor, Manchester
Jeff Love	Contractor, Ashford
Mike Gendreu	Contractor, Hampton
Randy Behna	Citizen, Willington
Gretchen Shea	CCACB, Vernon
Donald Poulin	Manchester Resident
Maureen Goulet	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Brenda Draghi	Law Offices of Brenda Draghi
Cathy Osten	State Senator
Tim Heim	CCACB

Co-Chair Steve Werbner called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Due to the large number of guests, Mr. Werbner asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- **Adoption of Minutes**

Action: Mr. Shanley made a motion for the adoption of the minutes; Mr. Elsesser seconded; all voted in favor of the motion.

- **CDGB Small Cities Grant Funding Workshop and Application**

Mr. Werbner asked the committee to weigh-in on the possibility of putting together a regional application for CDBG grants for testing. Mr. Santoro explained the process of applying for a grant. Sen. Osten stated she wasn't sure it was worth pursuing since Gov. Malloy has proposed \$5 million for testing. Mr. Santoro stated that the safest bet was to proceed under the planning grant scenario. Towns will have to decide if they want to proceed regionally or apply on their own. Mr. Werbner asked if there might be legislative support via a letter to the Commissioner. Mr. Elsesser made a motion to send a letter asking the CT DOH for 15% set aside for testing, to amend the process allowing for more towns to join on a grant application, advice on how to accomplish this for this round of applications, add the option for COGs to apply on behalf of towns, as well as a second letter to the federal delegation of the importance of the CDBG funding. Ms. Stille seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

- **Funding Pool Template Committee Update**

The packet contains a template for condo and Planned Unit Developments. Attorneys Lou Spadaccini and Tim O'Neil drafted a policy taking all the variables into account. With planned unit developments, the board would have to approve pursuing remediation, condos are more complex. There are two sets of rules depending on the type of association. A unit gets one crack at money, all have to agree to apply together or not to apply at all. Mr. Shanley made a motion to adopt the template, Ms. Stille seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

- **Request for Qualifications Update**

Ms. Goulet reported that the first list of qualified vendors has been distributed. She reported that CRCOG had put the RFQs out for a second round, and she reached out to several local vendors to let them know it was available. She reported that they have not yet gone out for a second RFQ for Materials Testing and Laboratory Analysis because the response was very limited and she has learned that most companies that offer this service are contracted to work for insurance companies. Mr. Mahoney spoke about what UCONN is doing right now to be able to provide some testing services.

- **Lieutenant Governor's Office Update**

Ms. Pellegrini stated that they met with the Lt. Governor on December 9, and asked to convene a task force which included State elected officials, municipal elected officials and residents. They also asked again for the economic impact study, and UCONN is working on this, as well as the testing methods Mr. Mahoney mentioned earlier.

- **Legislative Update**

Ms. Yoder did not have much to report. The CRCOG Legislative Committee will meet next week. Bills are due tomorrow, several bills have been proposed. Mr. Werbner said he would like to get an active working group together to sit down and go over alternative plans and options, and come up with ideas that could become legislation. Rep. David said that representatives got together in a bipartisan group to come up with proposals that would be narrowly focused, and they submitted a bill, which is still being drafted, which will be an omnibus including state, federal, local and private funding. A public hearing will be forthcoming, which offers an opportunity for towns and residents to offer input. After that, they will establish a working group. Mr. Werbner would like to meet before the public comment period. Mr. Filchak agreed and said they would like to get the LCO draft prior to it moving to a public meeting. The more the affected towns can refine the language before lobbyists get a hold of it, the better.

In addition to the omnibus this group is working on, a Peril of Collapse bill and Quarry Bill have also been submitted. A special hearing would be most beneficial. Mr. Shanley asked about whether the banking industry is involved, as they will face a lot of ramifications. The Banking Committee is involved.

The Governor's proposal is not exactly what they are looking for, but Mr. Werbner said he hopes that it represents a first step. Mr. Werbner said that if we want people to come forward, they will need more than money for testing. If some funds, even limited funds, could be pointed towards remediation, more people will apply. One problem is that those who identify then have to report to insurance, which sets in motion a process which will require legal expenses. Could that process timeframe be elongated?

Mr. Werbner asked for input on a draft letter thanking the Governor for the funding for testing, but indicating that we don't need \$5 million for testing. Understanding that not knowing the scope of the problem is a limiting factor, the majority of homes don't need testing to show they have the problem, and those who may need testing are reluctant to come forward. He believes \$5 million for testing and nothing for remediation is out of balance. Without having the hope of assistance with remediation, people are not going to come forward.

Ms. Draghi stated that if people don't report to insurance, they won't be protected. Mr. Keough from Senator Blumenthal's office stated that they've heard from insurance and banking industry that they won't come to the table until they know the scope.

Concern was expressed for the moratorium on using material from Becker's Quarry, which expires on July 1, 2017. Representatives stated that the bills that have been submitted will address this issue.

Mr. Werbner asked again for input on the letter included in your packets. The committee supports reworking the letter. Ms. Stille made a motion to accept a reworked letter, Mr. Shanley seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

- **Discussion of Potential Lobbying or Marketing by Towns Regarding This Issue**

Mr. Elsesser said he had looked into hiring lobbyists on behalf of this issue. We do have this issue on the legislative agendas for CROG, CCM and COST, but a strong focus would be better. He met with a lobbying firm which suggested that we don't need a lobbyist, we need a communications person to present this issue to out of region folks and make it a statewide issue. Included in the packet is a resume from Chris Cooper, who is an excellent communications person who is offering a heavily discounted rate, towns could either join together to pay a retainer of \$3-4,000 a month or he would also work for \$150 per hour. Mr. Elsesser said the Coventry Town Council said they would come up with their share of the money, and if every town kicked in \$2,000 we could get moving.

Due to procurement rules, we would have to get additional quotes, and have a resolution ready to go to the Policy Board for January 18.

- **Commissioner of Housing Update**
- **Infographics**

In the interest of time, and in light of the Department of Housing update under the CDBG topic, Mr. Werbner mentioned that there were items in the packet related to these topics.

- **Informational Items**

Regarding the Governor's request to FEMA, where it was determined that the issue did not qualify as an emergency, but the Governor's proposal seemed to indicate differently. Ms. Grant from Rep. Courtney's office stated that under the Stafford Act, this does not qualify, but there are many avenues they are looking at. However, it will be difficult to proceed without knowing the scope. Mr. Werbner asked how many properties do they need to know are affected, but there is no magic number. The more clearly they understand the scope, the better. If they know how many homes are affected, it will be easier to find money. She said their office will continue to pursue options.

Mr. Werbner said that the towns have been submitting their estimated impact, using the spreadsheet Ms. Mailhos put together for Willington. They believe the estimates are conservative.

- **Other Business**
- **Future Agenda Items and Next Meetings**

With no other business, Mr. Werbner reported the next meeting would be held on February 2, 2017.

Action: Ms. Stille made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Elsesser seconded. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.