

# CEDS Working Group – DRAFT Minutes

03/14/2018 at 9:00am

CRCOG Conference Room  
241 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Hartford, CT

## Attendees

John Shemo (by phone) – MetroHartford Alliance  
John Carson – University of Hartford  
Becky Nolan – Metro Hartford Alliance  
Jim Burke – Town of Windsor  
Scott Gaul – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
Jim Boucher – Capital Workforce Partners  
Mark Pellegrini – Town of Windsor Locks  
Lyle Wray – CRCOG  
Tim Malone – CRCOG  
Emily Hultquist – CRCOG  
Mary Ellen Kowalewski – CRCOG  
Hedy Ayers – CRCOG  
Chelsea Burket (by phone) – Fourth Economy  
Rich Overmoyer (by phone) – Fourth Economy  
Chris Ellis (by phone) – Fourth Economy

The Meeting Started at 9:10 AM

## 1) Review of first meeting

Tim Malone gave an overview of the minutes from the last meeting.

## 2) Review of study activities

Chelsea Burket gave an overview of consultant activities that occurred since February's meeting. She noted that at least 11 stakeholder interviews had been completed and that more were scheduled. She also noted that IHS Markit completed their initial data analysis, which would be presented today.

John Carson asked if the list of Advisory Committee members could be sent out. Tim said he would do that.

### 3) Vision

Chelsea presented a draft vision statement based on the work CRCOG did for the One Region, One Future plan (Sustainable Communities Initiative). The vision had four parts: connected, competitive, vibrant, and green.

Lyle Wray asked if broadband could be included in the “connected” section. Some of the biggest broadband pipes run through the region.

Mark Pellegrini asked if it could be more concise. He also noted that if there is too much continuity with previous efforts, then it won’t be different from what came before.

Lyle noted that the regions that are succeeding are doing all of the things listed in the vision.

John Carson noted that businesses are negative about the state right now. We need to emphasize that regions are critical and that we are in a turnaround mode.

### 4) Situational analysis, goals, and findings

Chelsea gave an overview of potential “strawman” goals in each of the four vision areas. The following comments on the goals were offered:

- When we think about startups, we need to think about second stage companies and existing businesses.
- Need to address issues around occupational opportunities and apprenticeships
- Are any of the goals unique compared to other regions in the country?
- Nothing was included in the green category about energy.
  - It was noted that ISO New England has an office in Massachusetts and may have reports on energy.
- Make it clear that these are from existing plans and reports, and not necessarily the final product of this effort.
- Need to discuss why we still fail even though we have a lot of assets.

Chelsea noted that we are building on existing plans because the issue in previous efforts was that they weren’t followed through.

Chelsea asked for comment on some specific goal areas:

- Connected
  - We need to mention regional transit (internal to the region).
  - Should mention highways and freight.
  - Talk about investments inside the region versus outside.
- Target Sectors
  - Questions specific to the slide on target sectors included:
    - Is there a specific order assigned to the different sectors?
    - Can we show what the order of magnitude of each sector is as it stands?

- What do we mean by “target”?
  - Why isn’t healthcare listed as a targeted sector?
    - It was noted that the targeted sectors are focused on “traded sectors” that bring money into the region from other places.
  - Is advanced manufacturing the only element of the “Advanced Sectors” category?
- Workforce
  - It was noted that the majority of new workers in many industries will be minorities and women.
  - Can we get more granular with the workforce data?
- Startups and Innovation
  - Comments about whether or not access to capital is a real issue.
    - It was noted that real estate developments have a difficult time finding equity investment.
  - Connections to higher education for research should be considered.
  - We don’t need to create a lot of new programs, but should instead enhance existing ones.
  - The report on innovation that the slide show references is a little dated on coordination. The situation has improved.
- Quality of place
  - Should add a bullet about creating a positive narrative for the region.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

