

**CRCOG Municipal Services Committee
Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
12 pm
Minutes**

Members and Alternates

Grace Tiezzi
Jon Colman
Bob Skinner
Mark Walter
Lori Spielman
Jonathan Luiz
Betsy Marrotta
Kimberly Lord
Kasia Purciello
Maria Capriola
Lauren Rhines
Andy Cirioli
Tom Fitzgerald
David Nourse
Megan Massa
Fred Presley

Town/Organization

Avon
Bloomfield
Canton
Columbia
Ellington
Glastonbury
Granby
Manchester
Manchester
Mansfield
Newington
Plainville
Simsbury
Southington
Tolland
Wethersfield

CRCOG Staff

Rob Aloise
Kim Bona
Matt Hart
Aaliyah Miller
Elizabeth Sanderson
Erik Snowden
Pauline Yoder

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Guests

None.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Mr. Matt Hart opened the meeting at 12:02 pm and explained that Chairperson Peter Souza will be joining the meeting a little later. Introductions were made among members and CRCOG staff.

2. Approval of Minutes:

• February 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Lori Spielman motioned, Mr. Bob Skinner seconded, and the motion carried with Mr. Jon Colman and Ms. Kimberly Lord abstaining.

3. Reports from the Chair and Staff

- **Committee Chair**
- **Executive Director**

Mr. Hart reported that the CRCOG Offices are officially relocated to 350 Church Street, at the Metro Center in Hartford, CT. The move has gone smoothly, and the staff is very pleased with its new office. Mr. Hart thanked committee members for their support during this transition and stated that CRCOG looks forward to hosting an in-person MSC meeting at the new office soon. He thanked Ms. Pauline Yoder and other staff for their excellent coordination and facilitation of this move.

Mr. Hart spoke to the committee about House Bill 5056- An Act Facilitating the Expansion of Shared Municipal Services. Designed to remove remaining impediments to shared services either under a local charter or under the state's collective bargaining statute. CRCOG conducted a press conference on this bill, hosted by Wethersfield, and testified in support of the bill. CRCOG, CCM, and COST collaborated to offer suggestions as to how the bill could be improved. The Planning and Development Committee will be reviewed at their meeting this Friday.

Mr. Hart spoke about Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems (ATES), red light and traffic cameras, and explained that CRCOG will begin work on this project and plan to develop a page on our website to this topic, including a sample ordinance. Additionally, CRCOG will go out to bid for vendors our towns may utilize if they choose to pursue such a system for their community.

Mr. Hart stated CRCOG cohosted a meeting with the Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company (CFSIC) last week and plans to update the analysis done on the impact crumbling foundations has had on the grant list, with hopes of supporting the need for additional state funding.

Mr. Hart stated there have been some challenges with the RPIP grant programs and feels it would be beneficial for the committee to discuss these obstacles to aid in future grant applications. Mr. Hart would like to add this to a future MSC agenda for discussion.

- **Chief Operating Officer**

Ms. Pauline Yoder stated that CRCOG is still looking for willing partners for the RPIP Shared Assessment Program as well as the shared Animal Control Program. Ms. Yoder explained that CRCOG received a respondent for the Building Official RFP and the proposal is currently under review.

- **Federal Funding / IIJA / BIL Important / Time Sensitive Updates**

Ms. Elizabeth Sanderson provided the following update to the committee:

- Round 3 of U.S. DOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant
 - \$1.2B available to plan or implement strategies that will reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roadways
 - 2 types of grants, only apply for 1
 - Planning and Demonstration Grants Due: April 4, May 16, August 29
 - Implementation Grants Due: May 16
- CT DOT Active Transportation Microgrant Program
 - CRCOG is accepting applications to award up to \$5,000 to promote safety
- CT DEEP Urban Forestry Equity Grant Program
 - Tree planting, forestry planning, workforce development
 - Contact me if interested in a regional application

- Applications are due April 17
- Latest Funding Opportunities Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3uY9V1H>
- Contact Elizabeth Sanderson: esanderson@crcog.org or 860-427-4701

- **Other**

Ms. Kim Bona stated that CRCOG issued an RFQ for Professional Consulting Services. The RFQ closed in January, and submissions have been reviewed. A list of professional consultants and consulting firms are available for towns to utilize as needed for various municipal positions including Town Manager/Administrator, Finance Director, Special Projects, and more. For information, please visit <https://crcog.org/municipal-services/crpc/> or email Kim at kbona@crcog.org.

4. Business Items

- **Update on Economic Development District/Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Matt Hart)**
 - *What role does CRCOG/MSC play in economic development?*

Mr. Hart provided the following update to the committee on EDD and CEDS:

What is an EDD and a CEDS?

EDD is a multi-jurisdictional entities, commonly composed of multiple municipalities. EDD leads locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning process that brings together public, private and non-profit sectors to establish a strategic blueprint (CEDS) for regional collaboration.

CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a “regionally-owned” planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. It provides a coordinating mechanism for individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about the economic direction of their region.

Recent Progress

CRCOG received EDD designation from EDA this past August (2023) following lengthy application process.

CRCOG also updated regional CEDS in Sep 2023. Co-sponsored by MetroHartford Alliance. CEDS has some ambitious goals:

- 1) Adapt the physical environment to meet current & future needs
- 2) Break down barriers for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- 3) Hyperfocus on existing businesses
- 4) Create equitable economic opportunity
- 5) Restructure the CEDS implementation framework

Where are we now?

Met with several other EDD’s in MA and CT to learn about program, governance, and staffing resources.

CRCOG recruiting FT *Economic Development Coordinator* to staff EDD and coordinate CEDS. Focus on *Community Development* as well as Economic Development. Looking for administrative and programmatic skills. Will conduct first interviews in April.

Reviewing composition of *Economic & Community Development Committee*, to be advisory to Policy Board as EDD. Consistent with CRCOG's Transportation Committee/MPO framework.

5. Municipal Information Sharing

Mr. Erik Snowden stated the 2023 Aerial Flyover data is now available in QAQC. CRCOG is looking for municipal volunteers to look over the building footprint and ortho imagery. Please email Mr. Snowden if someone in your town is interested esnowden@crcog.org.

Mr. Jonathan Luiz provided an update on the regional equipment grant submitted through CRCOG for several hundreds of dollars for shared equipment among the towns of Glastonbury, Cromwell, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Riverfront Recapture. Mr. Luiz explained this was a community match that all towns pledged to and will share expenses over the lifespan of said equipment. Mr. Luiz thanked CRCOG for pitching in on this as well and stated he feels the application is strong and unique and looks forward to hearing back as to whether they will receive the grant award.

Mr. Fred Presley stated Wethersfield's town attorney has reviewed the model ordinance for Automated Traffic Enforcement System (ATES). This ordinance has been adopted at a public hearing, and they are moving forward with the next step of issuing an RFP for a consultant to help with a plan to submit to CONNDOT.

Mr. Presley stated that CCSWA continues to look for new members to join. They are seeking efforts to improve waste disposal on a regional level and are looking to update bylaws to help make it easier for other communities to join CCSWA.

Mr. Andy Cirioli stated Plainville has recently started a social media campaign to find ways of improving communication with residents in town without spending a lot of money. He stated they are working on showcasing businesses in town as well, and this is receiving a lot of positive reaction from residents. Additionally, they have been able to do manufacturing from business to business and that has also received a lot of great feedback. This has resulted in more followers on social media which allows for communication with a broader amount of people.

6. Future Agenda Items

- **Stormwater Management and/or Waste Management**
- **Legislative Issues**
- **Other?**

Mr. Hart would like to hear more about local communication efforts from Plainville at a future meeting as well.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

The next CRCOG Municipal Services meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024.