

## CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

12:00 NOON

This was a virtual meeting.

For more information, email [info@crcog.org](mailto:info@crcog.org) or call 860-724-4283.

### Attendance

Erik Anderson  
Brandon Roberston  
Chris Edge  
Jon Colman  
Alvin Schwapp  
Taryn Schragger  
Mark Walter  
Lisa Thomas  
Jason Bowsza  
Lori Spielman  
Matt Reed  
Joseph Capodiferro  
Jonathan Luiz  
Mike Walsh  
Ryan Aylesworth  
Andrew Tierney  
Steve Stephanou  
Antonia Moran  
Ryan Aylesworth  
David Porter  
Erin Stewart  
Jonathan Altshul  
Mike Paulhus  
Marc Nelson  
Alex Ricciardone  
Shari Cantor  
Rick Ledwith  
Ken Lesser

### Town/Organization

Andover  
Avon  
Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Bloomfield  
Canton  
Columbia  
Coventry  
E. Windsor  
Ellington  
Ellington  
Farmington  
Glastonbury  
Granby  
Mansfield  
Hebron  
Manchester  
Mansfield  
Mansfield  
Marlborough  
New Britain  
Newington  
Plainville  
Simsbury  
Southington  
W. Hartford  
W. Hartford  
Wethersfield

### **Staff**

Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Elizabeth Sanderson	CRCOG
Jill Swenson	CRCOG
Laura Frankowski	CRCOG
Matt Hart	CRCOG
Kim Bona	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Tracey Malenfant	CRCOG

### **Guests**

Rebecca Augur	OPM
Brenda Bergeron	DEMHS
Joe DeLong	CCM
Donna Hamzy Carroccia	Kozak and Salina
Lady Mendoza	DEMHS
Brian O'Connor	CCM
Greyson Wright	CTDOT

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Mayor Stewart paused for a moment of silence for Wethersfield Firefighter Robert Sharkevich Sr.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

3. **Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2024**

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2024 as presented. Eric Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. **Monthly Reports**

**Chair and Executive Director** - Mr. Hart provided an overview of his report. Mr. Hart's full report can be found [HERE](#)

- a) Meetings and Events
- b) Funding Opportunities
- c) Project & Departmental Updates
- d) Committee Updates

5. **Legislative Update**

Matt Hart began by expressing gratitude to Rome, Smith, and Kowalski for their five decades of dedicated service to CRCOG. He also thanked the Policy Board members who volunteered their time to interview and select a new lobbyist for CRCOG. Additionally, CRCOG's Legislative Committee will be meeting to prepare a proposed Legislative Agenda for the 2025 session. It will be presented for Policy Board approval at the December meeting.

## 6. **Presentations**

- Joe DeLong, CCM Executive Director & CEO, summarized the [119K Commission](#) and the *Young People First Plan*. The presentation included the plan's core strategies, issues within the educational system, and how to advocate for reform.
- Brenda M. Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Bergeron addressed the 911 crisis that occurred the previous day, noting that the issue originated on Frontier's end. She also discussed the Lamentation Mountain Fire.

In January 2024, DEHMS initiated an election safety working group. This group launched numerous public information campaigns in collaboration with CERT Teams and municipal officers. Information has also been disseminated through the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. Since early voting began, the group has conducted daily calls, and additional protections will be in place on Election Day through state initiatives. The key message emphasized is that there are many protections in place, and the working group will continue its coordination efforts until January 2025.

## 7. **Resolution to Enter into Contract with Kozak and Salinas for Government Relations and Lobbying Services**

In July 2024, CRCOG issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Government Relations and Lobbying Services to ensure a competitive process. On September 27th, a panel of five Policy Board Members and staff reviewed submissions and conducted interviews. They recommend appointing Kozak and Salinas, who demonstrated a strong understanding of CRCOG's needs and strategic priorities. The Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer believe they will effectively communicate CRCOG's legislative agenda to the General Assembly and state agencies. Jason Bowsza thanked Rome Smith Kowalski for their service, and made a motion to approve this resolution, Jon Colman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## 8. **Resolution to Accept the CRCOG Vision Zero Goal**

Roger Krahn asked the board to approve the Vision Zero Goal. The endorsement will allow member towns to meet one of the required application criteria for the SS4A funding applications. Jon Colman made a motion to approve, Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

## 9. **Resolution to Accept Funds for Municipal Data Improvement**

Erik Snowden explained that The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is providing

funds to the COGs to distribute to member municipalities to update and improve the accuracy of their parcel and Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) data. This resolution allows for CRCOG to accept the funds. Jon Colman made a motion to approve, Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Resolution Authorizing CRCOG Executive Director to Submit a Spending Plan and Enter into Memorandum of Agreements in Regard to the FY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Program and Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) Funding for DEMHAS Region 3**

Cheryl Assis explained that the funding will serve to support the regional public safety teams, sustain and maintain regional homeland security equipment, allow for training and exercise reimbursements, provide contractual services for planning and project support, and provide set aside funding to the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT Team and the protection of soft targets. Each of these projects are assets to all Region 3 member communities and enhance emergency preparedness within the region. Jon Colman made a motion to approve, Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

11. **Resolution Authorizing the CRCOG Executive Director to Contract for Public Safety Training and Exercise Services through the CRCOG Regional Fund**

Cheryl Assis recommend the hire of a part-time contractor. The contractor will work onr FEMA/ICS training, conduct yearly reviews of response plans, and support member towns, police, fire, public health, and emergency management departments. The resolution requests \$180,000 from the Regional Fund for this initiative and plans to issue a Request for Contractor upon approval, aiming to onboard within 60 days, with funding lasting three years. Jon Colman made a motion to approve, Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

12. **TIP Amendments**

Jon Colman made a motion of the proposed TIP amendments to approve the following projects: The following projects are included:

1. Various—Non-Coastal CT Resilience Improvement Plan
  2. Various—Install EV Chargers at Various Locations
  3. Newington—Compass AI Technology Evaluation
  4. Various—I-84/CT8—Replace/Upgrade Cameras and Communications Equipment.
- Steve Stephanou; motion passed.

13. **Correspondence/ Handouts**

City Link – Reconnecting North Hartford.

14. **Other Business:**

None.

15. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.