

**Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy), Remote, Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman (Jackie Bertolone, Proxy), Remote Kenneth Kellogg, First Selectman, Chairman, Remote Laura Hoydick, Remote Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman, Remote	Bridgeport Fairfield Monroe Stratford Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Kellogg at 10:34 am. Mr. Fulda performed a roll call; the following board members were present:

Mayor Hoydick, Stratford
First Selectman Tesoro, Trumbull
Jackie Bertolone, Proxy, Fairfield
Ken Flatto, Proxy, Bridgeport
First Selectman Kellogg, Monroe

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. November 11, 2022

A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Action Items

a. Regional Oblique Aerial Imagery Flight – EagleView

A motion to adopt the resolution as presented was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro.

Mr. Fulda explained that the resolution was the continuation of oblique aerial imagery collection and would include another three years of funding for a new flight in 2024. The contract that is expiring and the new contract allow for continuous access to the web-based application.

Mr. Fulda explained that this would be another cost share but that municipalities would not incur a cost until 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Brownfield Viewer and Document Management – Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (RDA)

A motion to allow MetroCOG to enter into an agreement with the Norwalk RDA was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro.

Mr. Fulda explained that RDA received a grant from EDA similar to a 2012 grant MetroCOG received for the creation of a brownfields viewer. Funding from RDA would cover MetroCOG's staff time and consultant costs, at no cost to the agency.

First Selectman Kellogg confirmed that existing staff can handle the project without effecting the progress of current projects.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. CTDEEP Climate Resilience Grant Fund – Johnsons Creek

A motion to adopt the resolution authorizing MetroCOG to enter into contract was made by Mr. Flatto and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro.

Mr. Fulda explained that awards have not been announced yet but should be soon. This resolution would allow MetroCOG to enter into contract with DEEP. Mr. Fulda noted that this agreement would continue a project that MetroCOG was involved with before.

The motion carried unanimously.

d. LOTCIP – Trumbull Whitney Avenue/Route 111 Traffic Signal Installation

A motion to allocate LOTCIP funds to this project was made by First Selectman Tesoro and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.

First Selectman Tesoro explained that the funds are for a traffic light at Whitney and Main, a dangerous intersection in the region. Trumbull has been in the process of working with the state for several years but the project bid came in over both the existing grant and bonded funds. LOTCIP funds would close the gap.

Mr. Fulda noted that he was in discussion with CTDOT and although this is not typically what LOTCIP is used for, CTDOT doesn't want to move forward with other components of the project until the signal is complete.

e. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

A motion to adopt the resolution regarding the notice of intent was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by Mr. Flatto.

Mr. Fulda explained that the funding will support climate pollution reduction and local air quality improvement in the metropolitan statistical area. The funding would be used for a priority action plan, a climate action plan and a status report.

The program will fund climate planning, which is requirement for the state and municipalities to apply for competitive funding (federal).

There was a brief discussion regarding DEEP priorities and eligibility.

Mr. Fulda explained that guidance on DEEP coordination has not yet been provided; he will keep the board updated.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Other Business

a. Regional Organics Collection – CTDEEP Regional Waste Authority Technical Assistance

First Selectman Kellogg moved item e to a to continue the discussion.

Mr. Fulda explained the assistance was state funded.

Mr. Flatto requested that MetroCOG share the application process and potential impact on existing municipal collection workforces.

Mayor Hoydick suggested that the sanitation departments share their knowledge.

There was a brief discussion regarding municipal experience with organics collection.

b. Financials

Ms. Kelleher noted that MetroCOG was within budget and added a new line item for Stratford.

First Selectman Kellogg inquired why there were no other variances.

Ms. Kelleher responded that there would be a meeting over the next month to go over actual projections.

c. IJJA/BIL Discretionary Grants – Regional Meeting

Mr. Fulda noted that MetroCOG would be reaching out in early April to reschedule the

canceled IJJA lunch.

There was a brief discussion regarding better ways to apply for funding.

Mayor Hoydick felt strongly that if COGs applied together, they would be more successful.

d. Regional Economic Development Website

Mr. Fulda noted that the EDA funding was received through the CARES Act and the economic development website was under contract to be built. Mr. Fulda would keep the board involved as much as they'd like.

First Selectman Kellogg inquired about the targeted timeframe.

Mr. Fulda noted the grant needed to be expended by September 30th.

e. Small Business Digital Technical Assistance

Mr. Fulda explained that the small business technical assistance was a free service to small businesses. Three on call firms are available. Businesses will work directly with the firm after MetroCOG approved the scope.

First Selectman Kellogg would like to see documentation of businesses that are being assisted.

Mr. Fulda would like to continue funding this work, potentially through state sources, as it is a big priority for small businesses. He

noted that MetroCOG was continuing to accept applications and will likely accept more than can be funded to ensure that all funds are expended.

f. Regional Lobbyist

Mayor Hoydick expressed concern that there have been missed opportunities to testify on important issues in Stratford.

First Selectman Kellogg echoed those concerns and explained that there was not enough time to research and craft testimony.

Mr. Flatto acknowledged that having a lobbyist is helpful but can't agree to providing funds as Bridgeport already had a limited contract and staff.

First Selectman Kellogg noted that it was good to have a regional perspective and the board needed to agree as a region.

First Selectman Tesoro noted it was impossible to keep up with everything but is concerned about costs.

Mr. Fulda noted that MetroCOG would have to get three bids and could put together an RFP for a firm to start in the new calendar year.

Mayor Hoydick inquired about engaging now and understands budget is a concern.

There was a brief discussion regarding piloting a lobbyist.

Mr. Fulda noted that he would put together a scope and send it out for review and comments.

First Selectman Kellogg concluded that Mr. Fulda's solution sounded reasonable and pending no conflicting comments, to release the RFP.

g. Federal Highway Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program – May 30 deadline

Mr. Fulda explained this grant was available to MPOs and municipalities for electric vehicle infrastructure.

There was a brief discussion regarding the match.

Mayor Hoydick noted that charging station do not cost anything. The cost is for the

display.

Mr. Fulda responded that he would reach out to FHWA.

First Selectman Kellogg mentioned that the matching piece is a challenge.

Under “other business”, Mr. Fulda noted that he received an email from Congressman Himes office to reschedule a meeting to the Tuesday after Easter.

- h. Next Meeting Dates:
 - i. April 27, 2023
 - ii. May 25, 2023

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro
MetroCOG Secretary