

**Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 10:00 am  
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments  
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

**Name**

**Representing**



Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy), Remote 10:30	Bridgeport
David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote	Easton
Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman (Jackie Bertolone, Proxy), Remote	Fairfield
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote	Stratford
Kenneth Kellogg, First Selectman, Remote	Monroe
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman, Remote	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Nicolas Dostal, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Jennifer Pacacha, Remote	CTDOT
Frank Reynolds	UI/Avangrid
Elizabeth Esposito	UI/Avangrid
J Karra, Remote	
Kevin Pisacich, Remote	DEEP
Nadya Hoolahan, Remote	

## Minutes

### I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Kellogg at 10:24 am.

### II. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

### III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### a. June 29, 2023

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

### IV. **Presentation:**

#### a. CT DEEP Broadband Infrastructure Program – Kevin Pisacich

Mr. Pisacich provided a presentation on internet and broadband in CT and the effort to provide internet for all federal programs. He explained opportunities the community and organizations to stay connected, specifically people with low incomes, the unemployed, children, the recently incarcerated and the aged.

Mr. Fulda requested a copy of the presentation to provide to the board.

#### b. Avangrid Presentation – Frank Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds explained that Avangrid filed a rate case for customer investments; he felt the state's response was insufficient and noted that they would be appealing the decision. Mr. Reynolds mentioned that Avangrid is hoping to introduce performance-based rates to enforce accountability and offer incentives including low-income discount rates and economic development rates.

Mayor Hoydick commended Avangrid for its pop-up events and explained that it helped Stratford with the operation fuel program. Mayor Hoydick inquired where the rate reduction would come from.

Mr. Reynolds explained the qualifications that customers need to meet and commented that the distribution portion is what Avangrid has control over. He noted that they were looking at the legislature to control the commodity portion of electric bills.

Mr. Fulda requested more information on the economic development program.

### V. **Action Items**

#### a. Executive Director Performance Review

A motion to enter into executive session was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. the motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Kellogg commended Mr. Fulda on his performance and leadership.

Mr. Fulda responded that it was a reflection of the board and MetroCOG staff.

### VI. **Other Business**

#### a. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (EPA) Update

Mr. Fulda explained that proposals were due in March 2024 and would include an update in greenhouse gas inventories. He noted three regions in the state were developing plans for their respective UZAs.

b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda explained that the kickoff began August 1<sup>st</sup> to satisfy FEMA's CRS requirements. Based on Fairfield's 2021 CRS visit, MetroCOG's plan had the highest CRS rating in Region 1 (New England) and had among the highest ratings in the country.

c. Regional Brownfield Update

Mr. Fulda announced that MetroCOG received a \$500,000 Community Wide Assessment Grant in the spring and finalized the documentation required for the grant. MetroCOG would begin to incur costs October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Fulda provided a brief update on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program and explained what the program income could be used for.

First Selectman Kellogg requested clarification on RLF funding amounts.

Mr. Flatto explained the reasoning behind the transfer of funds from Bridgeport to MetroCOG.

There was a brief discussion regarding the eligibility requirements.

d. CTDOT Commissioner Eucalitto Future Meeting

Mr. Fulda announced that Commissioner Eucalitto (CTDOT) is looking to attend a future COG Board Meeting, potential dates being October or November and asked that the Board provide any questions or topics of discussion for the Commissioner or CTDOT. Mr. Fulda will follow up with an e-mail to the Board requesting this information.

Mr. Kellogg suggested extending the invitation to municipal staff and recommended a special meeting.

e. MetroCOG Personnel Update

Mr. Fulda explained that MetroCOG had received additional RSG and Transportation funding and needed to increase staffing capacity. The agency advertised positions for a Regional Planner and Transportation Engineer. Mr. Fulda announced that MetroCOG had hired Mr. Dostal for the Regional Planner position and provided his background. Mayor Hoydick stressed the need for engineering assistance and suggested working with an engineering firm to increase capacity and provide expertise.

f. Land Use Commissioner Training

Mr. Fulda provided an update that Connecticut state statute now requires land use commissioners to receive annual training.

First Selectman Kellogg requested additional information.

g. EDA CARES Act Funding Update

Mr. Fulda explained that the EDA CARES ACT Grant was set to expire at the end of September but an extension was approved.

h. Next Meeting Dates:

i. October 26, 2023

ii. November 16, 2023

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by First Selectman Tesoro and seconded by Mayor Hoydick. The meeting adjourned at 11:32.

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First Selectman Tesoro, MetroCOG Secretary