

**Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy)	Bridgeport
David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote	Easton
William Gerber, First Selectman (Christine Brown, Proxy), Remote	Fairfield
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote	Stratford
Terry Rooney, First Selectman	Monroe
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Liz Esposito	Avangrid

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Tesoro at 10:15 am.

Mr. Fulda performed a roll call.

II. **Public Participation**

Ms. Esposito, from UI/Avangrid, introduced herself and announced a February 16th open enrollment for energy bill assistance at the Baldwin Center in Stratford from 3-6 PM.

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. December 16, 2023

A motion to approve the December minutes was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Mr. Flatto. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Other Business**

a. Financials

Mr. Fulda and Ms. Kelleher explained that MetroCOG was at the 6-month mark of the fiscal year and was well within budget with no unexpected expenses.

Mr. Fulda noted that the CAM for the rent increased, however because of a decrease in utilities the rent went down.

Mr. Flatto inquired about the contractual item for CPRG. Mr. Fulda responded that Weston & Sampson had been hired.

b. Regional Lobbyist

Mr. Fulda explained that MetroCOG went out to bid for a lobbying firm and received several quotes. He noted that MetroCOG does not have a lobbyist currently budgeted but is open to discussing a cost sharing plan.

First Selectman Tesoro commented that she was on board but could not offer past experience using a lobbying firm.

There was a brief discussion regarding experience with lobbyists and the return on investment and how the lobbying firm could be paid for.

First Selectman Tesoro requested a copy of the scope and responses.

c. Economic Development Website – Logo and Tagline

Mr. Fulda explained that the purpose of the Economic Development Website was to enhance the online presence for local businesses in the region.

The logos were presented and critiqued by the board.

Mr. Fulda updated Ms. Brown on the purpose of the project and the remaining opportunities for assistance.

d. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program – EPA

Mr. Fulda provided an update on the CPRG project.

e. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda provided an update on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Ms. Sloan announced she would be scheduling meetings with each municipality for February and there would be more public engagement opportunities in March.

f. CTDOT Commissioner Eucalitto Future Meeting

Mr. Fulda was working on scheduling a meeting with Commissioner Eucalitto in February or March.

g. Next Meeting Dates:

- i. February 29, 2024
- ii. March 21, 2024

h. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by First selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Ms. Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

First Selectman Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary