

**Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2023, 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
Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman (John Marsilio, Proxy), Remote	Fairfield
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote	Stratford
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
Jennifer Pacacha	CTDOT
Liz Esposito	Avangrid

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Mayor Hoydick at 10:02 am.

II. **Public Participation**

Liz Esposito from Avangrid introduced herself to the board members.

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. A motion to approve the April 27, 2023 minutes was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Mr. Flatto. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Action Items**

- a. **MetroCOG FY 2024 Budget**
A motion to approve the FY24 budget was made by First Selectman Tesoro and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass.

Mr. Fulda presented the draft budget for FY 2024, which included a significant increase of 32%. Mr. Fulda explained that the increase came from new grants as well as increases in the Regional Services Grant (RSG) and Transportation funds.

Mr. Fulda also noted an increase in expenses to cover additional staff and expenses for engineering and planning work which will continue to support the municipalities.

Mr. Flatto was happy with the contingency but expressed concern over lack of funding for the Fairfield Traffic Circle.

Mr. Fulda explained that the planning grant was closed, and that the planning project is complete.

Mr. Flatto requested clarification on the CPRG line. Mr. Fulda responded that the funding will be used to hire a consultant.

The motion carried unanimously.

- b. **EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant**
Mr. Fulda announced a new assessment grant and explained that the vast majority of funds will be available for assessment on behalf of the municipalities.
- c. **MetroCOG FY 2024 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan**
Mr. Fulda explained that the State grant in aid program was funded through tax diversions from hotel and car sales taxes. There was a 74% increase over last year's allocation. MetroCOG will be using the increased funds to hire an additional staff member and fund the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

A motion to approve the 2024 RSG spending plan was made by Mr. Marsillio and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass. The motion carried unanimously.

V. **Other Business**

- a. **Small Business Entrepreneurial Meetup**

Mr. Fulda provided a brief update on the small business technical assistance project and explained that this was at no cost to MetroCOG and funded by EDA Cares.

b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda explained that the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in August 2024. He explained that in the past MetroCOG has used FEMA funding, but it took a significant amount of time to receive funding and did not leave enough time to create the document. MetroCOG will be reaching out to CEOs and Staff for an anticipated kickoff of August 1st.

c. Next Meeting Dates:

i. July 27, 2023

Mr. Fulda noted that the July meeting will likely be cancelled.

ii. August 31, 2023

VI. Executive Session (Personnel)

Mayor Hoydick recommended postponing the executive session, so board members had proper time to review the memo at the next meeting or at a special meeting.

A motion to table the executive session to the next meeting was made by Mr. Flatto and seconded by First Selectwoman Tesoro. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Flatto and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

First Selectman Tesoro, MetroCOG Secretary