

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, February 29, 2024, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Name

Representing

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Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy), Remote	Bridgeport
David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote	Easton
William Gerber, First Selectman, Remote	Fairfield
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote	Stratford
Terry Rooney, First Selectman, Remote	Monroe
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Ted Novicki	Avangrid
Ellen Graham	Senator Blumenthal
William Hurley	Town of Fairfield

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Tesoro at 10:02 am.

Mr. Fulda performed a roll call.

II. **Public Participation**

Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office introduced herself and announced ATF Firefighter grant applications are open for fiscal year 2025 and are due on March 8th..

Mr. Novicki from Avangrid introduced himself and explained the upcoming RAM filing and offered to meet with Municipalities to answer questions.

There was a brief discussion regarding incentives, local tax revenue, restoration times, and the effects of rates on the community.

Mr. Novicki requested that elected officials reach out to the Governor and contest the performance-based docket.

First Selectman Tesoro noted that Trumbull residents had been reaching out to her about not receiving UI statements in the mail. Mr. Novicki recommended reaching out to an account manager.

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. January 25, 2024

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by First Selectman Rooney and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass. First Selectman Gerber abstained; the motion carried 5-0-1.

IV. **Action Items:**

a. Greater Bridgeport Transit – FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant

A motion to approve the resolution authorizing MetroCOG to manage the grant was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.

Mr. Fulda explained that GBT applied for the grant through the FTA to investigate service in areas of persistent poverty. GBT had requested that MetroCOG manage the grant.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Groundwork Bridgeport – CTDEEP Resilience Grant

A motion to approve the resolution authorizing MetroCOG to enter into a contract providing GIS analysis was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber. The motion carried unanimously.

c. LOTCIP – Whitney Ave Sidewalk Project

A motion authorizing the sidewalk construction project was made by First Selectman Rooney and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.

First Selectman Tesoro noted the safety issue in Trumbull and explained the project would enhance safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

The motion carried unanimously.

d. Regional Lobbyist

Mr. Fulda explained that MetroCOG put out an RFP for a lobbying firm to track bills and provide legislative updates. Mr. Fulda noted that three firms responded and provided a cost breakdown.

Mr. Fulda recommended moving forward with Rome, Smith and Lutz based on prior experience and their existing engagement by the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

First Selectman Bindelglass inquired if there would be a conflict of interest since they work with other COGs.

Mr. Fulda responded that since the direct lobbying piece was left out of the scope there would be no conflict.

Mayor Hoydick supported Mr. Fulda's recommendation based on the firm's location and their industry expertise.

A motion to approve Mr. Fulda's recommendation was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass.

The motion carried 5-0-1 with Bridgeport abstaining due to their current relationship with a lobbying firm.

V. Other Business

a. Economic Development Website – Logo

The board acknowledged the improvements in the updated logo and made some final revision requests.

b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda explained that MetroCOG was continuing with the NHMP update and was currently meeting with Municipal staff.

c. Safe Streets and Roads for All – 2024 Solicitation

Mr. Fulda explained that there was a significant amount of planning money available. Full planning/corridor studies were not eligible but the grant could fund initial analysis.

There was a brief discussion regarding red light cameras.

- d. Next Meeting Dates:
 - i. March 21, 2024
 - ii. April 25, 2024

VI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

First Selectman Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary