

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor, (Proxy, Ken Flatto), Remote David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote William Gerber, First Selectman Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote, 10:07 Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman Terry Rooney, First Selectman, (Proxy, Kerry McAndrew) Remote	Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Stratford Trumbull Monroe
Jane Dunbar, Remote Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director Nick Dostal, Regional Planner Matthew Fulda, Executive Director Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director Meghan Sloan, Planning Director Meg Haffner, Remote Christine Brown John Cottell, Remote John Marsillio Mark Lauretto, Mayor John Harkins Michael Smith George Estrada, Remote	CTDOT MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG Kennedy Collective Fairfield Fairfield Fairfield Shelton RSLK RSLK Trumbull

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman Vicki Tesoro at 10:02 am.

Mr. Fulda performed the roll call.

II. **Public Participation**

Mayor Lauretti from Shelton introduced Mr. Marsillio and opened the discussion of waste to energy, noting it affected each municipality monetarily and otherwise. Mayor Lauretti explained that he, along with 4 others, went to meet with the DEEP Commissioner to discuss the likelihood of creating a competitive environment for waste management in Connecticut. Mr. Marsillio explained that he had been involved with recycling since 1984 and provided a brief background. Mr. Marsillio noted the effects of closing the Wallingford and Hartford plants. There is no current plan to add waste facilities in Connecticut and waste will continue to be shipped out of state.

Mayor Lauretti explained that the Commissioner would support a plan pending the location. There was a brief discussion regarding optimal locations, size, and cost.

Mayor Lauretti and Mr. Marsillio explained that competition was their goal and would continue the discussion in the new year regarding the possibility of locations.

First Selectman Gerber noted that something would need to be done quickly (for a new facility within 4-5 years) and would require someone to dedicate all their time to the project.

First Selectman Tesoro added that all options should be on the table.

III. **Action Item**

- a. EPA Brownfield Assessment Phase 1: CT DOT Parcel Trumbull

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by Mr. Flatto.

Mr. Fulda explained that the resolution would allow MetroCOG to utilize funds to complete a site assessment in Trumbull. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. October 31st, 2024

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

V. **Other Business**

- a. Regional Police Firing Range

Mr. Carleton explained that WestCOG was looking for communities in Fairfield County that would be interested in becoming members of a Western Connecticut training facility (indoors only). The price would include the cost of construction and a membership fee.

There is currently no interest in Easton or Bridgeport.

Mr. Carleton noted he would be happy to speak with municipal Chiefs of Police.

- b. Discussion on 2025 Legislative Session

Mr. Harkins introduced Mr. Smith, who explained that the legislative session was

beginning on January 8th and that RSLK screens every bill and sends appropriate bills to Mr. Fulda.

There was a brief discussion regarding topics deemed important to the board members including property tax and education, which takes up a significant portion of local annual budgets.

Mr. Harkins added housing as an issue and Mr. Fulda noted the potential sale of Aquarion.

There was a brief discussion regarding Aquarion and leadership change at RWA.

Ms. Brown commented that the public is not aware of the Aquarion sale and asked if MetroCOG could send a press release.

Mr. Fulda noted that MetroCOG does not have a large enough reach but would draft something for the municipalities to release.

c. Next Meeting Dates:

- i. January 30, 2025
- ii. February 27, 20025

VI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by First Selectman Gerber. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

First Selectman Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary