

**Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2024, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604**

Name

Representing

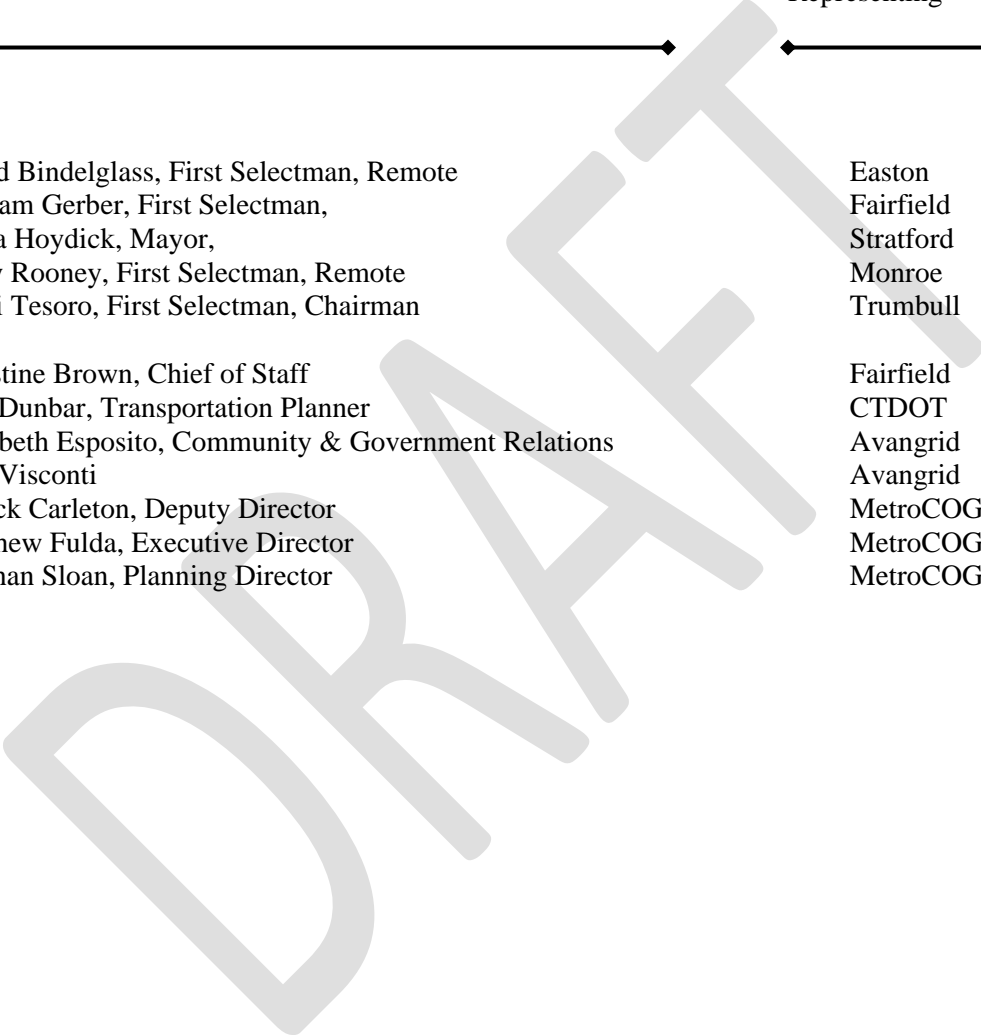


David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote
William Gerber, First Selectman,
Laura Hoydick, Mayor,
Terry Rooney, First Selectman, Remote
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman, Chairman

Easton
Fairfield
Stratford
Monroe
Trumbull

Christine Brown, Chief of Staff
Jane Dunbar, Transportation Planner
Elizabeth Esposito, Community & Government Relations
Paul Visconti
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director

Fairfield
CTDOT
Avangrid
Avangrid
MetroCOG
MetroCOG
MetroCOG



Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman First Selectman Tesoro at 10:05 am.

Mr. Fulda performed a roll call. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

II. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

III. **Executive Session – Executive Director Annual Performance Review and Executive Director Employment Agreement**

A motion to amend the agenda and move Item V- Executive Session (Executive Director Annual Performance Review and Item VI - Executive Session (Executive Director Employment Agreement) out of order was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Hoydick to enter Executive Session for Items V and VI. The motion specified that the Executive Session would include all Board Members in attendance as well as Mario Coppolo of Berchem Moses P.C, MetroCOG's legal counsel. The motion was seconded by First Selectman Rooney. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board and MetroCOG's legal counsel entered Executive Session at 10:08AM.

Executive Session ended at 10:35AM.

Item V – Executive Director Annual Performance Review.

A motion for a 2.5% increase and bonus was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Mayor Hoydick. Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously.

Item VI. Employment Agreement:

A motion to discuss and accept the terms of Matthew Fulda's Employment Agreement was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber.

Mario Coppolo of Berchem Moses summarized the terms of the Employment Agreement for Matthew Fulda. Mr. Coppolo stated the following:

- Mr. Fulda will receive a new three-year employment term beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending June 30th, 2027.
- Mr. Fulda's salary will be \$145,000 and will commence the first year of the new agreement (July 1, 2024).
- Mr. Fulda will receive an annual 2.5% salary increase for each year of the agreement.
- Mr. Fulda will be eligible for annual performance bonus of up to 2.5% of annual salary.

Chairwoman Tesoro asked Mr. Coppolo to explain a request by Mr. Fulda for an increase in retirement benefit contribution from 5% to 10%. Mr. Coppolo stated that this was not part of the motion on the table and that the request was not approved by the Board. Mayor Hoydick mentioned that the Board would discuss this item later.

The motion to approve Mr. Fulda's Employment Agreement passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. May 30, 2024

A motion to approve the May 30th, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Action Items:**

a. CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrant

A motion was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.

Mr. Fulda briefly explained the grant that is a state funded initiative through CTDOT. The grant allows municipalities, school districts and non-profits to apply for up to \$5,000 for active transportation initiatives, such as bike equipment, training, etc. This resolution allows MetroCOG to enter into agreements with eligible applicants who apply for and are awarded funding through the Program. Discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. MetroCOG FY2025 Regional Services Grant

A motion to approve the FY2025 Regional Services Grant (RSG) was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.

Mr. Fulda provided an overview of the Regional Services Grant and the Scope of Work that will be submitted to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management. The funding amount is just over \$700,000 per year. First Selectman Gerber confirmed the grant start date of July 1, 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. MetroCOG FY2025 Annual Budget

A motion to approve the MetroCOG FY2025 Annual Budget was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber.

Mr. Fulda provided details on the budget, specifically that it was a balanced budget in the amount of \$3.75M. The budget includes a 14% reduction due to contractual obligations. Revenue decrease is not attributable to differences in operations but contractual obligations. Mr. Fulda provided an overview of new sources of revenue including Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Areas of Persistent Poverty Program, Federal Highway Agency (FHWA) Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods (RCN) Program and United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A).

Mr. Fulda explained FY25 agency expenses which include 3% increase in personnel, which include a full-time planner and part-time engineer to increase agency staffing capacity. An increase in "Training, Dues and Fees" is attributed to Regional Lobbying Services approved by the Board in FY2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Other Business

a. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda provided an update on the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public meetings have been held in Trumbull (Easton, Monroe and Trumbull), Bridgeport and Fairfield. A public meeting for Stratford is being held this evening. The Plan is currently being reviewed by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). DEMHS will forward the Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) upon their review. The public comment period ends on June 28th, 2024. MetroCOG is incorporating comments from DEMHS and the public as comments are received.

b. Next Meeting Dates:

- i. July 25, 2024
- ii. August 29, 2024

Mr. Fulda explained that the July 25th, 2024, meeting might be cancelled. However, a meeting of the Greater Bridgeport/Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) will likely occur due to various amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) submitted by CTDOT.

VI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03.

First Selectman Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary