



# CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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## Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; December 20, 2010; CCRPA Offices, Suite 304; 225 North Main Street, Bristol, CT

- I. Call to order, introductions; determination of quorum (representatives from 4 different municipalities) the meeting was called to order at 12:10pm with the following members in attendance, except as noted:

### A. Municipality Representatives

Berlin	Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev	Bill Millerick – Chamber – AB
Bristol	Art Ward – Mayor – AB	Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev. – AB
	Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev.	Plainville Robert E. Lee – Manager – AB
	Mike Nicastro - Chamber (com. org's.)	Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev.
Burlington	Rich Stocker – Econ. Dev – AB	Plymouth Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev.
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber – AB	Southington Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.
New Britain	Tim Stewart (V. Chair)	

### B. Non-municipal Representatives

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed)	Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women) –AB
Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor) – AB	Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities)
Jack Driscoll (Finance) – AB	Tom Lorenzetti - CCSU ITBD – AB
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women) – AB	Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC – AB
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities)	Agricultural – Vacant
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities)	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health) – AB	

Also present were Carl Stephani (CCRPA), Timothy Malone (CCRPA), and Ned Moore (DECD)

- II. Approval of June 14, 2010, minutes

**MOTION:** Jim Mahoney moved approval as presented; seconded by Tim Stewart

- III. CEDS

### A. Review overview of previous CEDS and updates to date

Tim Malone provided a report with a brief overview of the previous CEDS.

### B. Update on current process

Tim Malone provided an update on the current CEDS process. He reported that most of the data collection was complete and that analysis was beginning.

### C. Discuss and approve work plan – public involvement

The proposed work plan for the new CEDS was presented. The goal is to have the final draft submitted to the state by June 30<sup>th</sup>, followed by final approval in September 2011. Some concern was expressed about having two meetings in June and the consensus was that a joint committee/public hearing to discuss the draft would be sufficient, rather than two separate meetings.

The Committee discussed public outreach efforts and Jonathan Rosenthal brought up the point that it was important to have as broad of participation as possible. The Committee agreed that this was important. Tim Malone will work on a public participation plan and keep the Committee informed.

**MOTION:** Jim Mahoney moved approval of work plan as amended (with a single June meeting); seconded by Steve Shiller

- IV. Regional Marketing - e.g. Bristol Bio-Science Zone

Jonathan Rosenthal proposed making a greater effort to market the region to industries. This was inspired by the recently created Bio-Science Zone which touches many of the towns. Jim O'Toole stated that Northeast Industries could help by underwriting some of the costs of regional marketing and also mentioned that his organization has an extra booth that could be used for regional marketing efforts. Ideas included medical device manufacturing trade shows in New Jersey and Germany.



Members of the committee were interested but wanted more details regarding costs and the focus of the effort. It was decided that Jonathan Rosenthal, Jim Mahoney, and Timothy Malone would meet soon to flesh things out further.

- V. **A region-wide base industry retention program**  
Jonathan Rosenthal brought up the region-wide anti-poaching pact that was signed by municipal leaders years ago. The committee also discussed the need for economic development personnel in each municipality to work on retaining existing businesses. John O'Toole mentioned that Northeast Industries maintains a database called E-Pulse that helps economic development professionals to track visits and referrals. Anyone interested in trying this service may contact John O'Toole (otoolja AT nu.com).
- VI. **Regional affordable housing forum**  
Carl Stephani relayed an email from David Fink at the Partnership for Strong Communities. Mr. Fink was requesting help with organizing a regional forum on affordable housing. The idea was discussed amongst the committee, but concern was expressed regarding recent experiences with the Incentive Housing Zone program. The consensus was that this forum was not a good fit for the region at this time.
- VII. **Other matters**  
Timothy Malone reported that Sarah Kowaleski, the agricultural representative on the committee, has moved out of state, leaving a vacancy. Ideas for replacements are welcome.
- VIII. **Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:25pm.**