



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; April 25th, 2011; 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 12:15pm with the following members in attendance, except as noted:

A. Municipality Representatives

Berlin	Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev	Bill Millerick – Chamber	
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.)- AB		Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev.
Burlington	Rich Stocker – Econ. Dev – AB	Plymouth	Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev. – AB
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber – AB	Southington	Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev. – AB
New Britain	Tim Stewart (V. Chair) – AB		

B. Non-municipal Representatives

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed) – AB	Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women) –AB
Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor) – AB	Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities) – AB
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) – AB	Agricultural – Vacant
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities) – AB	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health) – AB	

Also present were Kristin Thomas (CCRPA), Francis Pickering (CCRPA), and Timothy Malone (CCRPA)

II. Approval of March 21st, 2010, minutes

MOTION: Mark DeVoe; seconded by Jim Mahoney

III. CEDS

A. Discuss results of April 14th public meeting

Tim Malone reported on the second regional public meeting which was held on April 14th in CCRPA's offices. He reported that 12 people attended the meeting, representing the towns of Burlington and Plainville. Attendees ranged from members of economic development commissions to local farmers. At the meeting the group was introduced to the CEDS process and given a chance to review that demographic and economic data that had already been collected.

Tim reported that two major topics of concern that were brought up at the meeting were land conservation and workforce development. Specifically, people were concerned about the loss of agricultural land. People were also concerned about the loss of manufacturing employment in the region. They pointed out that

fewer students are choosing to pursue manufacturing as a career, making it difficult for firms to find new employees.

Tim also reported that participants at the public meeting were excited about a more regional focus, and the role that regional cooperation could play. They noted that there are numerous grants and agencies out there, but that a centralized resource would be helpful to point businesses in the right direction. They also noted that the region does not have much of a shared identity and that regional assets and successes are not well publicized.

Mark DeVoe commented that it was a good opportunity to introduce the public to a more cooperative economic development strategy. It was an opportunity to show them how towns are working together on projects and not just competing with each other.

B. Review goals and objectives from 2004 CEDS

The goals and objectives from the 2004 were sent out prior to the meeting. Based on comments received a reworking of them was drafted. No further comments were made and discussion moved to the current draft.

C. Discuss goals and objectives for current CEDS

The group reviewed the proposed reworking of the goals and objectives. Francis Pickering suggested that some of the objectives and strategies could be consolidated, to make the list shorter and easier to understand. Others agreed with this assessment and suggested a few places where that could be accomplished.

Jim Mahoney suggested that adding language about green construction and green site design could be useful. This could encompass energy efficiency, water conservation, and land use. Others added that this should include reusing existing buildings as well.

Issues of state and local regulations that may hamper the region's ability to pursue some of its goals and objectives were brought up by Jonathan Rosenthal. In discussing objectives related to historic preservation, he noted that state and local fire codes are often impediments to adaptive reuse and historic preservation. He suggested that region hold a forum on the issue and research examples of reforms that could be enacted. Francis noted that New Jersey has had great success in their efforts to reform building codes.

A somewhat related topic was brownfield redevelopment. Jim Mahoney mentioned that he had been involved in advocating for changes to laws relating to brownfield financing. He agreed to send a note to Tim Malone so that these concerns could be noted in the CEDS.

Discussion turned to getting targeted industry clusters more involved. Bill Millerick suggested that site visits by municipal representatives could accomplish this goal. He also noted that ensuring that region priorities meet the needs of industry should be accomplished through chambers of commerce. He also pointed

out that New Britain, Bristol, and Farmington are cooperating on marketing efforts related to the bioscience zone.

Tim Malone agreed to draft new goals and objectives based on the comments and send them out over email so that people could make further comments before the next meeting.

IV. **Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:45pm.**