



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

225 N MAIN STREET, SUITE 304, BRISTOL, CT 06010 • WWW.CCRPA.ORG • 860.589.7820(f) • 860.589.6950(f)

Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; September 19th, 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 – AB	
Bristol	Art Ward – Mayor – AB	Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev.	
	Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev. – AB 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. – AB
New Britain	Tim Stewart (V. Chair) – AB		

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) – AB
Byron Treado (Finance)	Rick Mullins - CCSU ITBD – AB
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women) – AB	Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC – AB
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities) – AB	Dwight Harris – Agriculture – AB
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities) – AB	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health) - AB	

Also present were Peter Simmons (DECD), Ned Moore (DECD), Rich Jones (DECD), Kristin Thomas (CCRPA), Francis Pickering (CCRPA), and Timothy Malone (CCRPA)

II. Chairman's absence

Tim Malone reported that due to a family emergency, Jonathan Rosenthal, the CCEDA chairman would be unable to attend. The vice chair, Mayor Timothy Stewart, would also be unable to attend due to another commitment. Committee bylaws allow those in attendance to nominate and designate a temporary chairman in such situations.

MOTION – Steve Schiller moved to nominate Jim Mahoney as acting chair; seconded by Mark DeVoe

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approval of June 20th, 2011, minutes

MOTION – Mark DeVoe moved to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Steve Schiller

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. DECD Presentation

Alliance meetings are held quarterly on the third Monday of the month at noon in the CCRPA Offices. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on September 19th, 2011.

Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development were in attendance to give a short presentation on new state initiatives. Peter Simmons began by presenting information on new Brownfields programs. He reported that \$50 million would soon be available from the Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Fund. These funds will be available to municipalities and businesses for a variety of activities related to brownfields redevelopment for the purposes of retaining or expanding jobs. Loans are available for up to \$2 million per year for up to two years. Financial assistance cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. A notice of funding availability will be released soon.

Peter Simmons also reported on Section 17 of Public Act 11-141, which provides liability relief for owners of brownfield properties. Property owners can be municipalities or businesses, but must not be related to the contaminating entity. Liability relief is provided for contamination that migrates off the property. Up to 32 properties will be accepted per year. Expedited review will also be provided.

Rich Jones, of the newly formed Office of Permit Ombudsman gave a short presentation on his office's duties. The office serves a coordinating function between different state departments, such as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Department of Economic and Community Development. Employees can provide applicants with the appropriate contacts at these agencies, as well as help them determine which permits will be needed for the projects. The office has a working group that includes high-level officials from each of the state's permit-granting departments. He recommended that people contact his office early in the process so that all necessary permits can be identified and coordinated.

V. CEDS

A. Discuss public input received

Tim Malone reported that the 30-day public comment period went smoothly. Two comments were received. One member of the public expressed a desire to see more support for arts organizations, noting that they can be critical to the success of downtown revitalization projects. Tim reported that strategies related to downtown revitalization were revised to emphasize that arts organizations should be considered. The other comment was concerning traffic congestion along Route 229 in Bristol and Southington. ESPN's recent expansion announcement, along with other business developments along the corridor, threatens to increase congestion. Tim reported that, after discussions with other CCRPA staff members, that it was determined that such concerns were already addressed in the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan, and in strategies that promote the wise reuse of existing infrastructure.

B. Vote on final CEDS

Tim reported that, after addressing the public comments, the CEDS was ready to be submitted.

MOTION – Mark DeVoe moved to adopt the CEDS as presented; seconded by Steve Schiller

DISCUSSION: Mark DeVoe commented that at that the last meeting a few comments were made but that they appear to have all been addressed in the final draft. He added that he thought that potential projects had been evaluated fairly.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Discuss EDD application/options

Tim Malone reported that, with the CEDS complete, CCEDA would need to decide how to proceed with forming or merging with an Economic Development District (EDD). Tim stated that at a previous meeting with DECD, it was suggested that CCEDA merge with the Midstate region to form an EDD. Francis Pickering noted that Midstate recently merged with the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency, and that some of the latter's towns were in the Southeastern Connecticut CEDS region.

It was agreed that the region should hold-off on applying for EDD status until after the CEDS was approved by the EDA. It was also agreed that CCRPA staff should reach out to surrounding towns to determine what their CEDS/EDD plans are.

VI. Other Matters

vii. Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:30pm.