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[www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,  
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,  
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,  
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,  
Middletown, Old Lyme,  
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

### DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 23, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Conference Room  
145 Dennison Road

#### //Members:

Chester: Vacancy  
Clinton: Alan Kravitz  
Vacancy  
Cromwell: Alice Kelly  
Chris Cambareri  
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton  
Tony Bolduc \*  
Durham: Frank DeFelice \*  
Joe Pasquale  
East Haddam: Crary Brownell  
Lou Salicrup  
East Hampton: Michael Kowalczyk \*  
Vacancy  
Essex: Alan Kerr \*  
Vacancy  
Haddam: Stasia DeMichele  
Raul deBrigard  
Killingworth: Stephanie Warren \*  
Alec Martin  
Lyme: Vacancy  
Middlefield: Vacancy  
Middletown: Beth Emery (7:15) \*  
Stephen Devoto  
Old Lyme: Harold Thompson  
Vacancy  
Old Saybrook: Kenneth Soudan  
Karen Jo Marcolini \*  
Portland: Dan Bourret \*  
Vacancy  
Westbrook: Bill Neale \*  
Marie Farrell

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\* Members Present

**Staff Present:**

Sam Gold  
Margot Burns  
Torrance Downes  
Nate Hougrand

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The members introduced themselves and attendance was taken. Old Saybrook alternate Karen Jo Marcolini was seated for Ken Soudan. Due to a lack of a quorum no issues would be voted on this evening.

**2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Frank DeFelice asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Bill Neale said he would like to discuss recent e-mails. Mr. DeFelice said that will be discussed under miscellaneous.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

**4. REFERRALS**

There were no referrals to review at this time.

**5. REGIONAL POCD**

**a. Discussion of Introduction, Built Environment and Natural Environment Sections**

Margot Burns presented the environmental section saying that the first part is the narrative. She said she is looking for direction and comments from the members. What she would like to focus on in the environmental chapter is bio-diversity and public health.

Ms. Burns said that she had received an e-mail today about bedrock frack mapping which has not been done before. This was done for the town of Old Lyme and now they are applying for a grant to start working on the lower CT River. Stephanie Warren asked who sent the e-mail. Ms. Burns replied that it was Margaret Thomas from DEEP. This would be for part of the region not the entire region, but that it would be very beneficial for us to receive the frack mapping from the state. This fracking mapping is important for drinking water quality. Torrance Downes said that he would discuss this at the Gateway Commission meeting and ask for a letter of support also the COG and the RPC could submit a letter of support if they wished. Margot Burns went to a CIRCA meeting last week at Avery Point for updating NOAHs plan regarding sea level rise. They determined that by 2050 the sea level rise will be 1.8 feet, but the comment was made that they did not think that would make that much of a difference beyond the 100-year flood plain in the state because of our geology and topography. The speaker said that CT is sinking now and Canada is rising. CT is sinking because it covers the coastal plain.

**Beth Emery arrived at 7:15. Frank DeFelice stated that we now have a quorum.**

Bill Neale said that he tried to read the report from UCONN about septic systems and the large amount of nitrogen in the discharge along the coast of CT. Old Saybrook, Clinton and Westbrook have been fighting with DEEP for years to not get sewer systems along the coast. Ms. Burns said that she thought one of our greatest challenges in the state is non-point pollution. That study did show that along the coast nitrogen levels are much more concentrated. It is felt that whether nitrogen and pollutants is coming from individual septic systems or sewer treatment plants from Springfield and Hartford (you would think that they are the greatest contributors to the sound) would be the greater contributor but that does not seem to be the case. It is believed that as the pollution travels through the environment the environment actually cleans it so by the time it reaches the sound that's not the greatest contributor. The greatest contributors are the towns that are right along the river and the coast.

Frank DeFelice asked about an existing conditions subsection to the environmental section. Ms. Burns stated that there is not a lot of region wide data available to what the existing conditions are except there is data available from the water quality report, the map, and some data associated with that. She said that we know about our land cover and now about air quality monitoring, but she asked the members if they know of any other region wide data sets concerning environmental existing conditions to please contact her.

Sam Gold asked Ms. Burns if a map of the Greenway Trails could be included in this section.

**b. Next Steps**

Margot Burns will revise the section and e-mail to the members. Frank DeFelice thanked Ms. Burns for her presentation.

**6. APPROVAL OF JULY 31, 2017 MINUTES**

Upon motion of Stephanie Warren, seconded by Tony Bolduc it was unanimously voted to table the approval of the July 31, 2017 to the November meeting.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS**

Frank DeFelice said that he has listened to the recording of the September 25, 2017 and the presentation by Eric Lindquist, OPM Environmental Analyst on the Draft State Plan of Conservation and Development and Jon Curtis's comments on the workshops. He thanked Bruce Edgerton for Chairing the meeting.

Frank DeFelice spoke about the referral from the September meeting pertaining to temporary health care structures. He said that the proposal is not written clearly and the towns are unsure which way to process.

Stephanie Warren said that Attorney Mark Branse is the counsel for Killingworth and that these medi pods have been discussed at the last four planning and zoning commission meetings. She said it is her understanding that the towns have two options: 1) formally opt out of the state plan; or, 2) not to address opting out and after a period of two months the town can initiate its own medi pod zoning regulations policy. Killingworth has decided not to address opting out. She said that there are several issues with these structures. Persons eligible to apply for the medi pods have to have a physician's certification as being physically or mentally impaired. Septic systems and town zoning regulations are also sometimes difficult to achieve.

Frank DeFelice distributed the cover letter sent to him from Bonnie Reemsnyder, the letter from Attorney Steve Mednick, and the attachments indicated in the letter. Mr. DeFelice said that as the Chairman of the RPC he has met with present and past Chairmen of the COG, staff and Executive Directors. He stated that per the by-laws term limits are only noted for the positions on the RiverCOG and not for the RPC. He said that the RPC does not have term limits because it is an advisory committee.

Bill Neale spoke regarding the letter to Frank DeFelice from Bonnie Reemsnyder and the attorney's letter, the by-laws of the COG and Robert's Rules. According to Robert's Rules the Chairman is simply a meeting manager and that job is just to run the meetings. Frank DeFelice said that when he speaks outside of a meeting he always makes himself clear that he is speaking as a member or as chair of the RPC. Example when he spoke at a RiverCOG meeting in regards to membership and asked the CEOs to help to get their towns represented on the RPC.

Stephanie Warren said that she would like some clarification on the bottom line issue which is the budget and the by-laws. Sam Gold said that at his request a meeting was held between himself, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Laura Francis and Mr. DeFelice.

Bill Neale felt that when a Chairman of a committee is elected and from then on that person always represents the committee. He does not understand how Mr. DeFelice can discuss procedures and propose changes. Mr. Neale doesn't see how you can go to a meeting and not be representing the team. If you go and represent the RPC without telling us then you are overstepping your bounds.

Sam Gold said that Ms. Reemsnyder asked if she should attend this meeting. Mr. Gold stated that at this time he did not feel it was necessary.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Stephanie Warren, seconded by Beth Emery it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder  
Recording Secretary