

**MINUTES OF THE HVCEO MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 17, 2000
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Bethel..... First Selectman Judy Novachek
Bridgewater..... Alternate Robert Brown
Brookfield..... First Selectman Martin Foncello
Danbury..... Mayor Gene Eriquez
New Fairfield..... First Selectman Patricia Gay, Vice Chairman
New Milford..... Mayor Arthur Peitier
Newtown..... First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal, Secretary-Treasurer
Redding..... Absent
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Alternate Peter Yanity
Sherman..... First Selectman Donna Tuck, Chairman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Gates and Robert Head of Northeast Generating Services, Harold Mayer and Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority, Fred Benedikt of Candlewood Lake Defense Associates, Jack Deering of Bethel, John Eustice of Sparta Cycling, Martin Schneider of the News Times, John Morrisroe and Don Heibeck of GER7, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Kathryn Faraci of Conn DOT, James Bellano and Jameka Malloy of the Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership, Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donna Tuck at 12:35 P.M. Public comment was offered from Fred Benedikt on lake relicensing issues and from John Morrisroe and Don Heibeck of the group "Committee for Extension of the Route 7 Expressway" supporting Norwalk to Danbury Route 7 Expressway construction. In response, Rudy Marconi and Gene Eriquez stated their opposition to Route 7 Expressway construction.

HOUSATONIC VALLEY CANOE AND KAYAK TRAIL

HVEDP consultant Peg Daley reported on this topic. She conveyed the good news that National Park Service technical assistance for one year had been received for this project, a real advantage. Also, that the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development District had agreed to donate engineering services for launch ramps. The Housatonic Valley Association is also a partner in the process.

MINUTES FROM MEETINGS OF 9/15/2000

On a motion made by Marty Foncello and seconded by Judy Novachek, the minutes of the HVCEO meeting of 9/15/2000 were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 9/2000 AND 10/2000

On a motion made by Gene Eriquez and seconded by Patty Gay, the financial statements for 9/2000 and 10/2000 were unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT

PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Dave Hannon reviewed 20 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions requested by Conn DOT. A short discussion followed. Then on a motion made by Art Peitier and a second by Marty Foncello, the Amendments and Administrative Actions were unanimously approved.

**2000 TRANSPORTATION-AIR
QUALITY CONFORMITY STATEMENT**

Staff reviewed the Conn DOT computer modeling process to determine the air quality impact of proposed transportation projects, including the certifying resolution required by HVCEO. Then on a motion made by Art Peitier and a second by Judy Novachek, the air quality conformity statement was unanimously approved.

PROPOSED HVCEO DUES FOR FY2002

Staff reviewed recent changes in dues structure, including no increase in dues for FYI 999- 2000. State and federal sources are estimated to be static. It was then recommended by staff that dues increase by 3% for FY2002. Rudy Marconi requested information as to the base assumptions for the distribution of dues. Then on a motion made by Gene Eriquez and seconded by Herb Rosenthal, it was voted unanimously to approve the recommended dues level for FY2002.

COMPLETION OF 2000 SWEETHART OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

Richard Schreiner and Alan Hachey of the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District (HART) then made a presentation of their new report entitled ' 2000 SweetHART Operational Analysis."The research was funded by HVCEO as part of the regional transportation planning program, and is to be a resource for all concerned with SweetHART services and funding. A question and answer period followed.

HOUSATONIC VALLEY CLASSIC BIKE RACE HVEDP

Director James Bellano reviewed the progress of the proposed Housatonic Valley Classic Bicycle Race, a course of about 100 miles scheduled for Sunday, May 20, 2001. Mr John Eustice, event organizer, accompanied him and spoke to the members. Meetings had been held with police officials in each municipality to review routing and management issues they said. Discussion followed.

DANBURY INSERT ON STATE MAP

It was explained by HVEDP Director Jim Bellano that HVEDP had protested the dropping of the Danbury insert on the Conn DOT Tourism Map of Connecticut. That insert had been in place for decades, Mr. Bellano said. An analysis was forwarded to Conn DOT Commissioner Sullivan showing how much smaller communities than Danbury, the eighth largest municipality, had remained on the map, and other measures of the unfairness of this issue. A response was then received from Conn DOT stating that the Danbury insert will be restored.

TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT AND AFTERMATH

Dave Hannon reported on this topic. A Transportation Strategy Board has been created to examine governance of transportation investment. Local governments and the regional planning organizations are not well represented in the process. Dave suggested a letter and resolution to Moira Lyons and Jodi Re[[, proposing involvement of local officials through their regions. There was considerable discussion, after which it was voted unanimously to authorize the letter and resolution.

COGCNV FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

Jon Chew reported that the adjacent regional planning organization serving the Greater Waterbury Area (including nearby Southbury, Woodbury and Oxford), known as the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV), had just completed a landmark study on this topic.

Repeatedly and over many years, local officials have requested samples of such studies that HVCEO collects in its planning library. There has been a continuous need for research that addresses controversial questions as to the fiscal impact of different types of development.

This new COGCNV report may be the most definitive research on this topic ever undertaken in Connecticut.

By permission of COGCNV, their report has been reproduced and is being distributed in this Region, he said.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Jon Chew reviewed a draft list of each municipality's priority traffic flow and safety improvement needs, attached to the agenda, with a map. Traffic improvement projects on the list represent the near term traffic improvement goals of each community. Federal law requires that municipal traffic needs must appear in the HVCEO Regional Transportation Plan before any federal financial assistance can be granted, he said, and that the Plan must be updated early in 2001. A discussion of the priorities then followed.

I-84 IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

J. Chew reviewed Chairman Tuck's letter in October requesting a listing of the projects and funds committed as part of a short range 1-84 improvement plan, then a list of the mainline improvements that would proceed in the short term into the environmental assessment stage, the first step towards construction. A letter of response had been received from Conn DOT Commissioner Sullivan stating that short term improvements involving Exits 4 and 5 are to proceed, and that the next step of the environmental documentation process was to start.

Conn DOT Director of Intermodal and Policy Planning Bruce Garreft added by phone that planned short term projects will be forwarded to HVCEO as formulated. Also, that the environmental assessment process may or may not be combined with the ongoing 1-84 Southbury-Middiebury-Waterbury study, depending upon the requirements of FHWA and CT OPM. Also, as conveyed by Commission Sullivan to the press, addressing the needs of the 1-84 corridor from Waterbury to Danbury are a priority at Conn DOT, Mr. Garrett said.

LABOR STUDY SURVEY

J. Chew reported that the survey forms for the union labor study (thirty six employee bargaining units for FY2000) and survey forms for the non-union labor study (nineteen positions for FY2001) were mailed out to them by Attorney Catherine Thompson on HVCEO letterhead November 9. The return of data to her office is requested by 12/15/2000, with the report scheduled for presentation to HVCEO on 2/16/2001.

SEPTAGE DISPOSAL ADMINISTRATION VIA 1988-2008 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

J. Chew reviewed the annual process whereby three administrative items are updated and forwarded from HVCEO to Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown and Redding. These are the 2001 pumpers annual operation permit, septage disposal permit for one property, and window stickers for haulers trucks.

As part of a twenty year 1988-2008 Interlocal agreement for septage disposal, these communities make joint use of Danbury's septage disposal facility. This regional project was planned via HVCEO Planning Bulletin 27 in 1983, with an interlocal agreement signed in 1984.

DEP passed thru federal funds for about 50% of the \$1.5 million construction cost, with municipalities outside of Danbury paying the remainder. The system went into operation in 1988. Local ordinances guiding the administrative process are in effect in all participating municipalities.

Yearly since 1988 HVCEO staff has forwarded to participating municipalities the master copies of documents needed for local administration of the regional septage disposal system for the upcoming calendar year. These were then reviewed.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY PLANNING PROPOSAL

J. Chew reported on a meeting he had been invited to attend at the Westchester County Planning Department in White Plains, NY, concerning proposed coordination of transportation planning programs. The Westchester County Planning Department would like to prepare an interregional data base to be shared, to foster improved decision-making, in the parts of their county that relate to southern Putnam County, NY and the Danbury-Ridgefield, CT sub area of the HVCEO area.

This planning activity would be a work item in their FY2002 program year and would help all parties improve decision making on items that could benefit from interstate coordination. Items seen as needing this coordination in the written Westchester proposal included 1-84 in NY and CT and the 1-684 to 1-84 connecting ramps, possible interstate services to and from rail stations, Maybrook rail line potential passenger service development, and coordination of Danbury Branch Line upgrading with Harlem Line services.

J. Chew requested that the Council authorize the staff to continue coordinating with the Westchester County Planning Department as it prepares the interstate transportation planning data base, including inclusion of this item in the upcoming FY2002 transportation planning work program. A discussion followed. It was agreed that the Council welcomed the Westchester County initiative and authorized the staff to continue cooperation.

CANDLEWOOD CONSERVATION RESTRICTION JOINT COMMITTEE

Mayor Art Peitier had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda, having received correspondence from Robert Gates of Northeast Generation Services regarding committee formation, as required by the Candlewood Lake Conservation Restriction, within one year of the signing date of 3/14/2000.

The goal is to comply with Paragraph 4c of the agreement requiring a Joint Action Committee, which is to address violations of the easement and define methods to allocate costs. Bob Gates and Bob Head of NGS then addressed the Council, stating that they would like the Committee set up and its process put in place in case there are any issues raised, although there are none now. The five lakeshore members agreed to consider who they will appoint to the required committee.

UPDATING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL DISCUSSION WITH LEGISLATORS

The draft agenda was reviewed. Items Gonr-eming funding for municipal governments will be grouped and placed as the priority up front. the issue of Indian land claims is to be added.

FERC SCOPING HEARINGS ON 1216/2000

The letter received from Aftomey Ted Backer on this issue was discussed. It was agreed to authorize Aftomey Backer to present HVCEO's testimony at the upcoming FERC hearing.

VOTE TO CREATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TO RECOMMEND OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR 2001

On a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Robert Brown, a committee composed of Herb Rosenthal, Gene Edquez and Bill Stuart was created to meet at noon on 12/8/2000 to recommend a slate of officer's for January to December 2001.

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS

There was considerable discussion of emergency medical services coordination, especially the stresses being created in their intermunicipal aspects. It was agreed that municipalities with problematic intermunicipal EMS issues would attend the January 19, 2001 HVCEO meeting, that meeting to be devoted solely to this topic.

ADJOURNMENT On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.