

**MINUTES OF THE  
HVCEO  
MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2001  
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Bethel.....First Selectman Judy Novachek  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Martin Foncello, Acting Chair  
Danbury.....Alternate Dennis Elpern  
New Fairfield.....Alternate Judge Peter Larkin  
New Milford.....Alternate Patrick Maguire  
Newtown.....Absent  
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....Alternate Peter Yanity  
Sherman.....First Selectman Donna Tuck

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tom Morrissey of CT DEP, John Eustice and Victor Vатели of Sparta Cycling, Alicia Betty of the Trust for Public Lands, Cheryl Reedy of Congressman Maloney's Office, Kathryn Husband of Conn DOT, Bob Miller and Martin Schneider of the News Times, Holly Burbank of Metropool, Richard Schreiner of HART, John Deering of Bethel, Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Martin Foncello at 12:35 P.M. There was no public comment offered. There was also no public comment offered on the three year update of the regional transportation plan.

**MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 3/16/2001**

On a motion made by Judy Novachek and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the minutes of the meeting of 3/16/2001 were unanimously approved, after a correction by Peter Yanity that Larry Hoyt is a resident of Ridgefield rather than of Brookfield.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 3/2001**

On a motion made by Dennis Elpern and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the financial statement for 3/2001 was unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS**

Members then considered the following six items; the 2001 Air Quality Conformity Statement, Transportation Planning Program Recertification, FY2002 Transportation Planning Work Program, Annual Grant Authorization with Conn DOT, Annual Grant Authorization with HART, and finally the Annual Grant Authorization with CT OPM. After an explanation by staff and a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and a second by Peter Yanity, the above six items were unanimously approved.

**UPDATE OF 2001-2021 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Jon Chew explained the transportation plan update, the notification and review procedure, citizen participation, and then requested approval of the update. Then on a motion made by

Robert Brown and a second by Donna Tuck, the transportation plan update was unanimously approved.

#### **HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING ON 5/15/2001**

Members were reminded that the annual harassment prevention training class will be held in Brookfield Town Hall on 5/15/2001. It was noted that under CGS 46a-54 (15) (A), a minimum of two hours of sexual harassment prevention training is mandatory for municipal supervisory personnel in municipalities with over 50 employees.

To save on training costs, in 1993 and each year thereafter HVCEO has provided a certified trainer to conduct a class for employees from the ten municipalities newly promoted to, or hired for, supervisory positions. Attendance in recent years has been 24 in 1996, 28 in 1997, 32 in 1998, 26 in 1999 and 34 in 2000.

#### **SURVEY OF LEGISLATORS POSITIONS**

The staff summary indicated that eleven of our sixteen legislators had responded, their responses summarized in an agenda attachment.

#### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Dave Hannon then reviewed the proposed TIP. He summarized major projects, which were organized by municipality in an agenda attachment. He stated that the \$155 million programmed was in accordance with the project updates provided by Richard Martinez of Conn DOT at the March meeting. After a brief discussion, and on a motion made by Dennis Elpern and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, a resolution of approval for the 1) FY2001-2003 TIP, 2) Conn DOT requested adjustments to the proposed FY2001 STIP and 3) Conn DOT requested administrative actions and amendments to the FY2000 TIP, were all unanimously endorsed.

#### **PROPOSED DEP NITROGEN REMOVAL TRADING PLAN FOR REGION'S SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS**

Remarks were then made by Thomas Morrissey of the CT DEP Bureau of Planning and Standards on this topic. His presentation with overheads outlined a legislative proposal from CT DEP for nitrogen removal permitting and trading. Mr. Morrissey referred to thirteen years of studies that have concluded that high nitrogen loads cause algae blooms in Long Island Sound which depletes oxygen there.

The DEP now intends to implement additional plans to clean up Long Island Sound in order to meet water quality standards. Eighty-four sewage treatment plants in Connecticut add nitrogen to rivers that empty into the Sound. Sewage treatment plants in both Connecticut and New York are the largest and most controllable contributors of point source nitrogen pollution to the Sound, he said.

If the DEP required that each municipality comply with a nitrogen discharge reduction schedule, a municipality would have less flexibility than under a statewide nitrogen trading program. The DEP is proposing the adoption of a general permit that will cover all eighty-four sewage treatment plants. The DEP would then issue a fifteen year implementation schedule for each plant with corresponding allowable nitrogen discharge levels.

Municipalities with noncompliant facilities will be afforded the flexibility of making improvements to their sewage treatment plants and/or trading for nitrogen credits from upgraded facilities in other municipalities, where the per unit cost for removal is lower. Impacts

upon and buy/sell opportunities for treatment plants in the Region were then discussed.

#### **FINAL REVIEW OF 5/20/2001 REGIONAL BIKE RACE**

Event organizer John Eustice of Sparta Cycling addressed this topic. He thanked members for their great support thus far, stating also that we are "a well organized area." As the race is on a Sunday morning all nearby churches have been notified, volunteer crews have all been obtained, and dates set for visits to schools by racing team members.

The Outdoor Life Network will tape the event for national broadcast. WLAD will provide live coverage for four hours. The News Times will provide one full page of detailed coverage one week before the event. The HVCEO logo will appear in bike race literature to be given to the public and participants. The remarks by Mr. Eustice were followed by a question and answer session concerning details of the race and its organization.

#### **HELP FROM THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS**

Alicia Betty from the New Haven office of the Trust then made a PowerPoint presentation explaining the services available from the organization. Her group does not provide long term land ownership. Rather, it purchases key properties temporarily until a permanent non-profit owner can be found. The Trust has expertise with negotiations, partnerships, options, funding raising, fast action when land is immediately threatened, etc.

The Trust can create a relationship with a landowner rather than the municipality taking this step, to preserve privacy and enable negotiations over selling price, she said. Ms. Betty urged municipalities to make use of the services of the Trust for Public Lands by calling her in New Haven at 203-777-7367.

Cheryl Reedy stated that the Congressional Office was using the Trust to advantage and urged area municipalities to do so. Marty Foncello thanked Ms. Betty for her assistance with Brookfield land preservation issues.

#### **REPRESENTATION IN PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY BOARD PROCESS**

Remarks were then made on this topic by Cheryl Reedy of Congressman Maloney's office. The current proposal is to have two representatives from each regional planning area sit on the Transportation Investment Area (TIA) board, with five such TIA's in the state.

One of the appointments from this area will be directly by HVCEO, and the second by the non-public sector, possibly thru HVEDP. State funding will be needed for this process. Ms. Reedy suggested that the Region could profit by looking at the TIA/TSB process positively. A discussion followed her remarks.

#### **OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS**

It was agreed that there would not be a need for a May meeting and that the next meeting would be on June 15, 2001. First Selectman Donna Tuck was wished good luck in the upcoming Sherman election.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.