



neccog

ashford - brooklyn - canterbury - chaplin - eastford - hampton - killingly - plainfield
pomfret - putnam - scotland - sterling - thompson - union - voluntown - woodstock

Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting - December 19, 2014 - NECCOG Offices, 12:00 pm

Mr. Walker, NECCOG Chair **opened the meeting at 12:00 pm**, welcomed those assembled and invited them to take part in the luncheon prior to the business portion of the meeting

At 12:40 the Chair began the **business portion of the meeting** (Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Voluntown and Woodstock were present)

1. **Remarks of the Chair** - Mr. Walker provided an overview (attached) of the past year and perspective
2. **Staff Introductions** - Mr Syme introduced and provided brief remarks concerning each of the NECCOG staff persons and volunteers
3. **Nominating Committee Report** - Election of Officers, Mr. Walker presented the following nominations to the Council:
 - Russell Gray** - Chair
 - Maureen Nicholson** - Vice Chair
 - John Hallbergh** - Treasurer
 - Daniel Syme** - Secretary
 - Allan Walker** - Member-at-Large

Motion by Mr. Sweet and Second by Mr. Ives to accept the nominations and the vote was unanimous to accept.

4. **Special Awards** - Mr. Gray presented a special award to Mr. Walker for his service as Chair of NECCOG. Mr. Walker presented the following awards of "Thanks and Appreciation" to:
 - ✓ Sandy Richmond - Animal Services Volunteer
 - ✓ Brian Sear - State Representative
 - ✓ Steve Mikutel - State Representative
 - ✓ Donald Williams - State Senator (Paul Sweet to present)
5. **Keynote Speaker** - Mr. Walker introduced the Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Donald E. Williams, Jr. State Senate President Pro Tempore - who then made his remarks to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm



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Good Afternoon and welcome to the 27th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.

One year ago we welcomed Scotland, Hampton and Chaplin to NECCOG and early in 2014 we welcomed Voluntown to our organization. Our sixteen towns, covering just over ten percent of Connecticut, is a region built not about politics or partisanship but on working together to discuss issues of common concern - learn from each other - and develop solutions that work for the betterment of all.

Some of our work is done collectively and some services are provided individually. This work includes:

- ▶ Our Regional Revaluation Program - the first and only in Connecticut - which will begin its second round in 2015.
- ▶ Our Regional Engineering Program - still the only one in our state - saving money and providing needed expertise.
- ▶ Our Regional Animal Services Program - the largest one in Connecticut - which has now placed in its first ten years more than 4,000 animals.
- ▶ Our Regional Paramedic Program - the first in the State - and we are now examining how to improve how it works and other elements of pre-hospital response.
- ▶ Our Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is now complete and will be submitted to FEMA.
- ▶ Our GIS Program will unveil a new Regional Viewer next month and working with our assessors, planners, public works officials and others will improve this valued system.
- ▶ We have just begun a new, and the first ever in Connecticut, a Regional Trap, Spay/ Neuter, Release and Maintain Program to deal with the growing issue of feral cats.

- ▶ We worked with and the Region supported sidewalk funding and and technical assistance for Brooklyn to Connect Walmart to their existing sidewalk system
- ▶ We actively represented the Region before the Bureau of Indian Affairs and their proposed changes to the Tribal Recognition Process.
- ▶ We are submitting applications for funding to expand and update our Animal Services Facility; Examine to Possibilities of Value-Added Agriculture; Explore the Potential for Addressing Back-Office Functions Regionally; A Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility to be located in Brooklyn; A Regional Economic Marketing Professional; and Phase III Implementation Plan for Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland's School System.

These are a few examples of how together and completely voluntarily we save money and get the jobs done that need to be done for our residents. Going forward we have ideas to improve these programs and add others.

NECCOG is focused on achieving results for our member towns through regionalism — offering a range of voluntary – member initiated programs and services — depending on the collective and/or individual needs of our member towns. Some of you may not know it or appreciate the fact that NECCOG is viewed as a leader in regionalism and model for others in our state. We offer the most diversified portfolio of services of any region and It is something that we should be proud of and something that we should continue to build upon.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of NECCOG and I look forward to 2015 as an active member of NECCOG.

Thank you.