



Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown and Woodstock



Meeting Minutes

September 2021 Regular Meeting

September 24, 2021 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Ashford, Canterbury, Eastford, Hampton, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Union, Voluntown, and Woodstock.

1. **Open Meeting 8:30am-** Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - a. Welcoming Remarks - Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - b. Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve made by Kevin Cunningham, second by Maureen Nicholson - all in favor.
 - c. Public Participation - none
 - d. Other Agenda Items - none
2. **Director's Report** - John Filchak, Executive Director
 - Slides are available at <http://neccog.org/about/agendas-and-minutes/>
 - a. **Transit Activities**
 - Ridership activity is still below the pre-pandemic averages. NECTD still operational under COVID-19 protocols (masked drivers/riders, social distancing, limited capacity, etcetera).
 - Elderly and Disabled ridership below average as well. Due to difficulties in finding/hiring new drivers in conjunction to recent retirements of our most current staff members - the Elderly and Disabled service will be operating on limited weekdays.
 - Today, September 24, NECTD is assisting with veteran transportation with the Veteran's Stand Down.
 - Plainfield Bus Service has been successful despite COVID-19. July 2021 ridership reached 306 at an all time high since the pilot program began.
 - b. **Animal Services Program**
 - Activities such as adoptions, redemptions, investigations, and impounded animals have not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Norwich kennel is now open, and NECCOG is now serving 20 towns.
 - Animal Services Officers will be at the Norwich facility daily to help close the gap in response time for the southern participating towns.
 - NECCOG Animal Services is currently housing 14 birds, 18 dogs, 27 cats, and 2 rabbits due to the result of two search and seizures.
 - c. **Crumbling Foundations**
 - CFSIC has put 367 families back in safe and secure homes.
 - To date, CFSIC has 1,848 registered claimants within their systems.

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d. Transportation Projects and Planning

e. Member Town Assistance Status

f. COVID Recovery

- The five DEMHS Regions and Steering Committees will remain in place.

g. APRA Administration

- Meeting with interested towns held earlier in the week - more details to come as they are available.

h. Department of Ag Equity Study

i. ACIR Studies

- Studies that are in process are: Discussion on Home Rule and a legislatively mandated discussion on Hybrid Meetings.

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. Regional Referrals - none

b. STIP Amendments/Actions

- Project Number Z2021-2172 - Town of Plainfield : Motion made by Maureen Nicholson, second by Mary Calorio - all in favor, no discussion.

c. Opioid Settlement and Impacts on northeastern Connecticut - Joe DeLong, CCM Executive Director

- Settlement for Connecticut is about \$300 million - of that, about \$45 million will go to cities and towns.
- For more information, please visit : <https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Press-Releases/2021-Press-Releases/Attorney-General-Tong-Announces-Agreement-With-Opioid-Distributors-and-Manufacturer>

d. ARPA Regional Proposals (EDA and FEMA)

i. Environmental Depot

- The Build Back Better Regional Challenge : Application for Phase 1 due October 19, 2021

ii. Scenic Byway/Trails

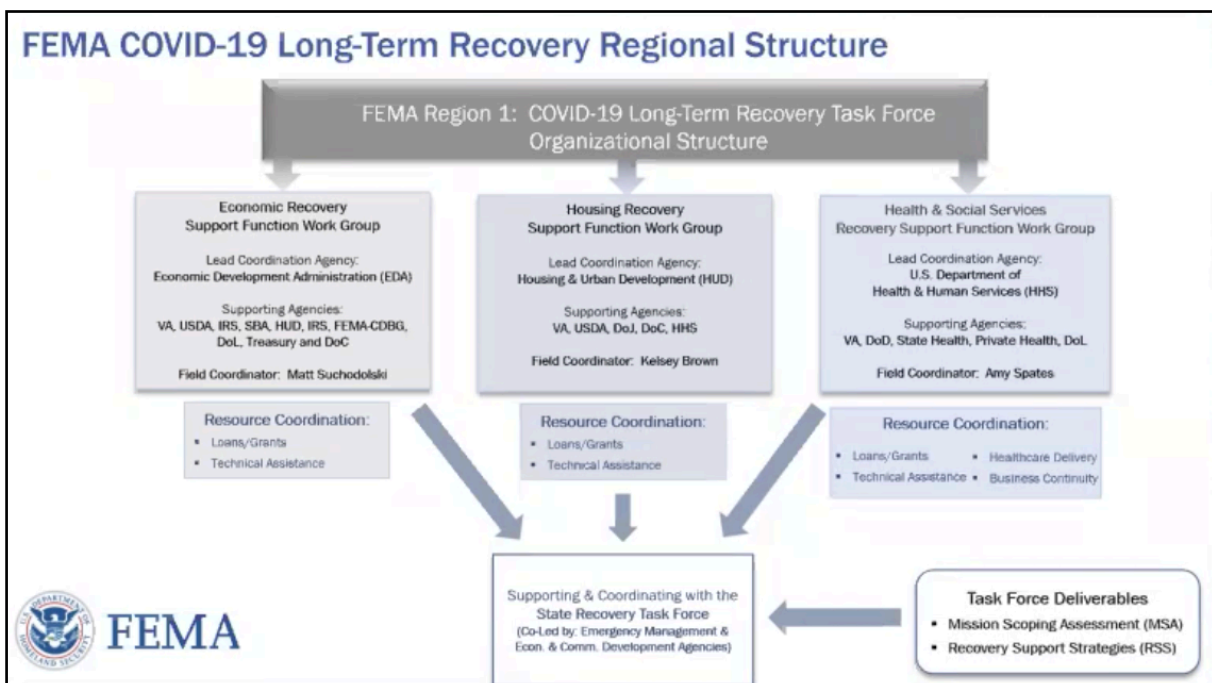
- Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Program : Applications - Rolling (asap)

iii. Non-Medical Emergency Transport

iv. Hazard Trees

v. Other

- To submit ideas in relation to COVID Recovery - <https://bit.ly/ctlTRprojects>



e. Other Business (if designated)

f. **CEO Roundtable**

- Allan Cahill inquiring about concerns in regards to revaluation - to discuss/share with John Filchak for follow-up.

4. Adjournment - 9:27am - motion made by Allan Cahill, second by David Eaton.