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Executive Directors Report – May 2025

1. **Animal Control**

* The second (smaller) case in Woodstock has concluded in our favor. The animals are in the process of being placed in better homes, there were about 20 animals boarded here and outside.
* I have notified Norwich that we are increasing their fees for next year due to the costs to cover their Town and to run the facility. They have indicated that they would like to continue with us for another year, after offering them early exit from their five-year contract ending FY 26, due to the increase in fees.

1. **Transit District**

* We have requested capital for the purchase and installation of a scheduling and route management platform. Most of the other transit districts have this to aid in efficiently running their units. No word on approval yet.
* As reported last month, Jacobs (State Contractor) toured our facility in late April to determine the work needed for the renovation project. No updates since.
* One of the buses needs an engine replacement. We are holding off on that for now, we have spares.

1. **Regional Town Administrator**

* Mary Calorio started in the middle of May, and quickly joined Jordan in serving Canterbury, Pomfret, and Chaplin. Several other Towns are evaluating their needs for shared administration. NECCOG has capacity for others to join and will add more capacity if the need presents itself. The next regional resource we will add is Human Resources, as at least one Town expects to share with NECCOG for the next fiscal year, awaiting budget passage.

1. **Outreach**

* My monthly appearances continue on WINY, my regular time is 9am first Fridays of the Month. Trying to get more discussion about other programs and services we offer, other than animal control, but it is the number one public concern. However, this last month the discussion was primarily concerning homelessness and how Towns deal with it, instigated by a news story on the proposed legislation mandating Towns allow encampments on all Town/State properties.
* I appeared at the Killingly Town Council meeting on May 13th to talk about our

programs at NECCOG. They were all very appreciative of the visit and information.

I met with the Brooklyn Town Governance Committee to give my perspective on

Town Manager/Town Administrator options, including the NECCOG Regional

Program.

1. **NECCOG Programs**

* The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is on the agenda for approval. It is a two-year plan for FY26 and FY27. This is the plan associated with the SPR (State Planning and Research) program funding we receive from the State and Federal Government for planning and related services.
* Most of you had asked me to review the possibility of having NECCOG help disburse Opioid settlement funds to a worthy contractor. The NDDH Director has offered to invest resources into this project. Their mission is more closely aligned with the purpose of these funds.
* Concerning the request to develop a household hazardous waste program, I have reached out to the director of SCRRRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority) to gain a better understanding of their program. They are managing a program very similar to what our Towns have requested. I have not heard back from him as of this writing. One of our staff (perhaps new hires) from additional State funding in FY26 will be assigned this task after July 1.

1. **Legislative Update**

* Representative Boyd has delivered a win for us, with the passage of the Handgun Permit legislation change, moving approval of permits in non-police department Towns to the Department of Public Safety. He is the Chair of the Public Safety Committee. The bill number is HB7056 if you want to take a look.
* The one bright spot in the budget is more funding for regional programs, specifically there is $250k yearly for each COG for funding two positions to work on climate resiliency (inventory, assessment and mapping of drainage systems, hazardous mitigation), waste management, recycling, GIS etc... In addition, there is another proposal for another (3rd position) to be funded by the Regional Incentive fund, for a regional building official/architect/planner to inventory, evaluate, determine, support the repurpose of vacant structures for conversion to housing, in each region. I feel confident that something will pass here as the funding is already available.
* Some of you have expressed concerns over ECS funding, as there is a tug of war going on in the Senate again this year. I have no clear answers to this currently.
* I have attended several meetings with the other COG leaders concerning the legislation that affects affordable housing mandates by the State. It is not clear what, if anything, will pass this session. All the COGs agree that mandates to the Towns are not the answer.

1. **24-25 Audits**

* I have included attachments to the completed audits on the May agenda for your review. There were no material weaknesses or deficiencies for and we did manage to increase reserves in NECCOG and NECTD.
* As a result of discussions with the auditors, I have included a resolution for your consideration on the May agenda, establishing a general fund reserve policy for NECCOG and NECTD and a transfer of funds to better balance our accounts.