

**Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
February 24, 2005
Minutes**

Attendance: Please see attached.

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Denvir at 12:12 PM at the Baci Grille on Rt. 372, Cromwell, CT. Host Stan Terry introduced as his guest Stephen F. Pendl, Fire District Administrator who is interested in the EMS project.

II. Workforce Alliance

Chairman Denvir introduced William P. Villano, Executive Director of the Workforce Alliance. Mr. Villano distributed maps of the area served by the Alliance, hard copies of a power point presentation explaining the 2003-2004 program, and a publication titled "State of the Workforce 2005 - The Workforce Dilemma". He explained that over 11,000 people seeking jobs had been served at the one- stop centers during the past year. The alliance also sponsors job fairs and helps retrain workers that are displaced when firms close.

The Alliance coordinates its services with other groups including the Regional Growth Partnership and Ride Share. Summer jobs are offered. The Alliance is helping hospital workers upgrade their skills and is assisting the 4,000 ex-offenders that live in the 30 towns as they seek employment. Mr. Villano announced that the Alliance is advocating that children be required to stay in school at least until they reach age 18. 20% of the unemployed have no high school diploma.

The alliance further advocates free college tuition for students maintaining a C average. Experience in other states show that requiring a B average only reimburses those who are already continuing their education. Education is essential for workers to achieve the \$35,000 needed for self sufficiency. A majority of students that leave the state for college establish their careers out of state.

III. Minutes

Phil Miller moved that the minutes of the January 27, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Alan Bergren and approved with Brad Parker, Stan Terry, Maryann Boord and Tim Griswold abstaining from the vote.

IV. Legislative Update

A. Congress

1. Reimbursement for Snow Removal

Betty Wagner distributed a list times and locations for Applicant Briefings for the federal snow Removal Reimbursement Program for the

January 22-23 blizzard. She stressed that it is important to attend one of the sessions. Protocol must be followed to qualify for reimbursement.

2. Funding for Special Education

Betty announced that, in response to the concern for the cost of Special Education, Rep... Simmons is urging full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, referred to as IDEA.

B. CT Legislature

Alan Bergren reported that he testified on behalf of the TAR. Phil Miller testified for the bonding of the potential purchase of The Preserve.

Maryann Boord will testify on unfunded mandates. The Durham town Clerk spent the day waiting to testify on the conveyance tax and finally submitted her testimony in writing.

C. Grants

Chairman Denvir asked Linda Krause about the article in the morning paper announcing a grant awarded to CRERPA. Linda responded that it is an NOAA plate grant to convert the maps from a recent dock study into GIS format. She explained that CRERPA has had several river-oriented grants and added that they help finance the Agency.

Linda announced that she attended the meeting of Sub Working Group 2 for Emergency Planning. For this purpose, the state is being divided into five regions. Midstate is being divided three ways. Lyme and Old Lyme are being attached to Groton-New London and all of Eastern CT. These are not traditional relationships.

V. Old Business

EMS

Chairman Denvir announced that the members of the EMS committee were on vacation in California and Florida.

Staff reported that North East COG had been contacted as requested. They actively administer payment for regional Paramedic Intercept Services. Copies of the Invitation to Submit Proposals and of the contract to provide services have arrived and will be reviewed by the committee as soon as they return from vacation.

Linda Krause suggested that NECOG director John Filchak be invited to share his experience with the entire group.

VI. Committees

There were no committee reports.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

II. Other Business

- A. Phil Miller reported that the HHW facility in Essex is experiencing a challenge with insurance. CIRMA has been petitioned to treat the facility as it does the similar situation in Manchester. He is negotiating with Steve Bixler.

Linda Krause noted that Mr. Bixler will be at the March 9 meeting of the Lower Connecticut Valley Selectman's Association.

- B. Phil Miller noted that East Haddam has applied for STEAP grants. Phil noted that he found the guide lines disturbing and the bid package a bit scary. Tony Bondi had the same problem. Tim Griswold found the process agreeably simple.
- C. Emergency Preparedness

Dominique Thornton asked if anyone else was experiencing difficulty after delegating authority for the purchase of equipment for emergency Preparedness.

Linda Krause explained that the new Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is putting its own stamp on state anti-terrorism activities. Middletown has contracted with Capitol Region but has now been assigned to be part of the New Haven affiliation.

- D. DEP

Jim McCusker asked if any members had any personal experience with the new commissioner of DEP. Mayor Thornton mentioned that she is a friend of her police chief. Alan Bergren mentioned that he had met her at CCM.

- E. March meeting

David Denvir mentioned that Gov. Rell's assistant, Katherine Markle has accepted his invitation to attend the March 24th CRVCEO meeting in Killingworth.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Wini Olson, Staff