

Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
Minutes
July 26, 2005

ATTENDANCE: Please see attached.

- I. The meeting convened in the Boom Restaurant within Pilot's Point Marina in Westbrook. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, Secretary Tony Palermo called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon as he welcomed fellow members to his town and called for round table introductions. The members and staff were joined by Ken Johnson of Municipal Energy Consulting Group, LLC, Leah Schmaltz of the Save the Sound program of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Amy Kelley and Joel Rinebold of Broadwater Energy and Veda Napolitano of the Ct Fund for the Environment.

II. Guests

A. Municipal Energy Consulting Group LLC

Secretary Palermo introduced Ken Johnson who reviewed the service provided by the Municipal Energy Consulting Group. He noted that a new ruling allows a review of the past twenty years of service and billing rather than the six years review that has previously been offered. The company offers to review, calculate and negotiate for a community. The fee is 15% of the amount recovered.

B. Proposed Broadwater Project

Secretary Palermo introduced Joel Reinbold who exhorted the virtues of both renewable energy and conservation but proclaimed that they are not enough. Mr. Reinbold cited the advantages of natural gas as a means of generating electricity and explained that it is advantageous to off load close to the New York market. He noted that the United States Coast Guard would be responsible for security and safety and urged members to express their concerns through the FERC process.

Lea Schmaltz of the legislative and legal department of Save the Sound explained that Connecticut is not the market. Our ports have been set up for industry and transmitting merchandise. She noted that the proposal would take a large area of Long Island Sound out of the public domain and dedicate it to private benefit by defacto marine zoning. She expressed concern for water quality and nitrogen loading. The number of off loading sites in the country has increased from four to twenty in the past year.

Linda Krause, who has been following the proposals for the coast of Maine, noted that with forty proposals now pending, three or four are expected to be sited in New England. She asked, "Why this site?" Mr. Rinebold referred her to the satellite photograph that he had distributed at the beginning of his presentation. It is most economical to be near the "load centers". Open water is much more difficult to operate in.

Amy Kelley noted that it is desirable to locate near the area that needs it the most. She noted that the site has recently been moved one mile west at the request of the fisheries industry.

Mr. Rinebold noted that the company is making applications for three times the number of facilities that it intends to build.

Jim McCusker asked if he would have a clear view of the plant from the Clinton shore.

Mr. Rinebold assured him that he would but that from that distance it would resemble a ship.

III. Minutes

Jim McCusker moved that the minutes of the June 22 meeting be approved as circulated; the motion was seconded by Phil Miller and unanimously approved.

IV. Legislative Updates

A. Mayor Domenique Thornton announced that she had copies of the recommendations from the ACIR reports available for distribution.

B. Senator Eileen Daily reported that the legislative session finished with a budget in place. Many social services have been restored. As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, she was pleased to report that money is available for Homeland Security.

C. Representative Linda Orange echoed Senator Daily's report on the budget and thanked her, stating that the 33rd District did well on bonding. Rep. Orange offered copies of the 2005 Major Public Acts as Prepared by the office of Legislative Research.

D. Betty Wagner reported that Rob Simmons has been spending most of his time on the BRAC issue. Congress will adjourn for an August recess and he will be able to spend more time in Connecticut.

V. Old Business

A. Emergency Preparedness

Linda Krause distributed memos outlining her concern about a number of details that need attention.

B. ERT Study

Secretary Palermo reported that the ERT service has a new contract and all seems to be well at the moment.

C. Workforce Development

There was no report.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Other Business

Linda Krause asked if the CRVCEO intends to meet in August.

Jim McCusker moved that the next meeting be in September.

Since the Time Out Restaurant is not currently available, Martin Heft suggested that the group meet at Camp Hazen in Chester. It was agreed by consensus.

Mary Ann Boord suggested that henceforth, meetings of the CRVCEO will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month so all members can attend. The group concurred.

The next meeting will be at Camp Hazen on September 28, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Palermo, Secretary