**M.O.R.E. Committee Meeting 3/24/2015**

**Those Present**: Rep. Ryan, Rep. Conroy, Rep. Genga, Rep. Simmons, Rep. Stafstrom, Sen. Cassano, Matthew Brokmen, John Filchak, Marry Glassman, Betsy Gara, Lisa Heavner, Barbara Henry, Robert Labanara, Mark Lyon, Michael Maniscalco, Rudy Marconi, Dale Martin, Sheila McKay, Fillmore McPherson, Ed Mone, Leo Paul, Lisa Pelligini, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Melissa Schlag, Donald Stein, Gayle Weinstein, Steve Vavrek.

**Those Absent**: Rep. arconti, Rep. Bumgardner, Rep. Godfrey, Rep. Nicastro, Rep. Pavlock, Rep. Zoni, Marc Dillon, William Fritz, Julia Pemberton, Christine Ruman, Ron Thomas, Steve Werbner, Stephen Woods.

Committee Convened at 10:15

* *Jennifer March-Wackers:* Capitol Region Council of Governments, CRCOG, in Hartford, represents 38 towns and cities and 900,000 residents. CROCG has a long history with collaborating with towns. New in 2014 is the IT cooperative. The first thing that was done with the IT cooperative was creating a contract for fiber infrastructure services. Many of the towns connecting to the Nutmeg Network wanted to own the fiber infrastructure rather than leasing it from the state.
* *Dan Salazar:* Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology,CCAT, focuses on economic development, education, and information technology. CCAT is a strategic partner of CRCOG to create towns to create efficiencies that would otherwise not be possible.
* *Jennifer March-Wackers:* What is the state of IT in Connecticut for local government? Most of the towns are using an old model of IT, which is capital intensive and focused on hardware. What tends to happen is towns buy more than they need or not enough. It’s really difficult for small towns who do not have IT professionals that are dedicated on their staff. The private sector is 24/7 and the expectations of the citizens are along those lines for government services. These citizens are looking for results, efficiency, convinces in their government. CRCOG has commissioned a study by OPM in 2013 so that towns can collaborate in back-office functions. CRCOG has a municipal services department that convenes towns and cities to enhance local government. Five projects that will help enhance the Nutmeg Network. The projects are separated into two groups hosting. The first group includes hosting, voiceover IP and video streaming are considered quick win and are in effect now. The second group is electronic document management and HR portal will be launched. The second group deals with the what and who of government. The electronic document management system will digitize document but also automating process in local government. These five projects are just the beginning of the Nutmeg Network.
* *Dan Salazar:* We are calling the Nutmeg Network a private municipal cloud. The Nutmeg Network will be a very fast multiagency network. What we are setting up is going to be either self-managed or handheld type service that CCAT will help for smaller towns. You can see what the cloud will cost a month, no guessing. Being on the CT municipal cloud, with grants, is half the cost compared to the public cloud. Towns will have the opportunity to choose where they want their data to live. The Nutmeg Network is scalable, plenty of storage, speed and growth. Nutmeg Network is umbrella used to describe the high-speed secure configuration that combines two fiber networks within three agencies. Education has been on this network since the early 2000s, and public safety has been on this for a couple of years. Never had an outage, even during the hurricane. Phase 2 will commence once funding is received. In order to determine efficiencies there must be 5-6 towns on each of these projects. What are towns looking for? They want something robust, they want system that will not fail, they want something that is secure, flexible infrastructure. Voiceover IT transmit voice calls transmits data wiring over the internet which gives you access with lots of different providers. It's more flexible you can switch plans anytime you want. You do not have to have space for equipment. This turns telephones into an operating expense rather than capital expensive. Don't need to worry about ware and tare costs for phone systems. Carriers must be vetted in order to find the right companies. Video streaming, towns want to move away from the cable model. Some towns are moving to video steaming which can cost $10,000-12,000 to start up (for a fairly small town). We must bring towns together to come up with a cost effective way. What happens after the pilot? We will asses, implement lessons that we learned, make improvements, scale up by include more towns (should be by the end of summer around September). We are currently not doing this for schools, but they might lose their subsidies for telephones, this will provide a possible solution. Questions?
* Barbara Henry: This is very nice and exciting, but I'm still waiting to get in the first piece to get hooked up, where is that?
* Jennifer March-Wackers: As the process with OPM to get your funding to connect? Where you a part of the first round of funding?
* Barbara Henry: I was not. I just missed out on it, I am in this round, but we cannot participate until we are hooked up. We are ready, we have all the infrastructure in, but need someone to run the fiber.
* Jennifer March-Wackers: That is a question for OPM because they are distributing grant funds and I know that there are several towns in the capitol region who chose to connect without grant funds because it was very short assistance. There is a couple of avenues that you can visit to string the fiber. There is a state contract, which is fiber tech. You can access the CRCOG bid. You can source it on your own.
* Mary Glassman: Continue to talk about technology and how to get more towns involved in order to create efficiencies. Schools which 3/4 of our budget. We should make it easier, and cheaper to education connected to this network.
* Don Stein: Representative may concerned is that the schools funding for the Connecticut education network is not included in the budget. I'm currently concerned the costs signed up now versus previously.
* Rep. Ryan: Has anyone testified towards this for Appropriations?
* Leo Paul: I have a technical question. What does this mean?
* Dan Salazar: Connecting schools and libraries together and traffic is routed out of the network throughout the state, but it's a private network inside the state. The wires do not go out to the internet. The state network is self-contained.
* *Rep. Ryan:* Convene Meeting
* *Leo Paul*: Motion
* *Don Stein*: 2nd
* Minutes passed unanimously
* Introduction of Members in Attendance
* *Ryan*: Introduces speakers
* *Jennifer March-Wackers* – starts presentation
* *Barbara Henry*: Need to connect but waiting for state funds
* *Mary Glassmen*: Thank you, 1st off, Put technology at top of the agenda and look at efficiencies. Also, we need to make it cheaper for towns to get on this network and integrate state agencies
* *Don Stein*: CT education network not included in budget
* *Rep. Ryan*: Has anyone testified on that?
* *Stein:* No
* *Leo Paul*: I don’t understand what the network is?
  + It’s an intranet
  + Internet lines were the first to go an last to come back during storms
  + 10 gig network containing 6 towns if there is a break in the connection traffic will reverse and go to the other side
* *Rob Labernara*: Energy Committee bill how does the Nutmeg Network overlap with the gigabit network?
* *Lisa Peligrin*: The project is good for small towns normally that have to rely on consultant for IT purposes
* *Simmons:* Cyber attack resiliency? Not connected to the internet, but still need to be vigilant.
* Lisa Heavner: Will state fund short-term capital for long-term savings?
* *John Filchak*: Schools using software? Philosophy is to keep open and generic so contracts are short and open to many providers
* *Lisa Pellegrini*: 2 phases, after phase 2 will all 169 be connected. No, but there will be opportunities for them be, and other funding streams.
* *Glassman:* Cost efficiencies for remaining towns? Reach out to CCM and OPM.
* *Rep. Ryan:* Thank for coming. Start discussing subcommittee topics. List in front of you of topics.
* *Gayle Weinstein:* Thank you everyone, committee will come up with good recommendations next meeting come up with mission statement. Vote taken after every meeting on topics that are discussed on prevailing wage, Cadillac tax and unfunded mandates. Resident trooper, employee retirement, car tax
* *Rep. Ryan:* Timeframe, maybe this session, mostly for next session. Vote on moving on?
* *Ben* *Wenograde*: at this time, this group is not a voting body.
* *Rep. Ryan:* We do want to vote just to make sure no others left behind.
* *Fillmore Mcpherson:* Like to agree with Weinstein
* *Rep. Ryan:* Things we didn’t do were things not everyone was on the same page on.
* *Leo Paul:* Agrees with the votes
* *Rep Ryan:* Other groups can give us priority lists
* *John Filchack:* Hoping everyday functions 169 towns do that they don’t need to. We have 169 assessors
* *Rep. Ryan:* Regional sub-committee will be on sharing stuff
* *Lisa Pellegrini:* Speaker for state trooper program? Someone for OPM?
* *Don Stein:* Important issues for small towns
* *Barbara Henry:* Someone from the commissioners office and OPM
* *Rep. Stafstrom:* Doesn’t affect Bridgeport, should we be looking at things that affect all 160
* *Rep. Ryan:* It’s not going to effect 169 ever, we just have to be with it
* *Mary Glassman:* Do need to hear from OPM. We should split into subcommittees.
* *Ed Mone:* State Police doesn’t affect…. It’s a good topic of discussion.
* *Leo Paul:* 62 communities depend on Resident State Trooper Program.
* *Rep Ryan:* Someone from OPM
* *Barbara Henry:* Not too much from state trooper program, likes to vote
* *Don Stein:* Overlap enmities as early as possible
* *Betsy Gara:* Cost could present as well, need to look at funding scenarios
* *Melissa Schlag:* Emergency services combining them for cost savings
* *Fillmore McPherson*: On what Betsy Was saying we can start doing things right now. Don’t know if these things need legislative actions
* *Rep. Ryan:* Some towns are good, some towns aren’t looking what their problems are
* *Matthew Brockman:* Health insurance costs, improving it? Ways we can improve to further reduce costs
* *Steve Vavrek:* Revisiting purchasing languages
* *Rep. Ryan:* We will get to it eventually
* *Betsy:* Update on 2015 M.O.R.E Bills
* *Rep. Ryan:* Will review next meeting, 10:30 next Tuesday
* *Rob Labanara:* CCM wants to be here on April 14th and 21st
* *Rep. Ryan:* Any other commitments? Hopefully on state police

*Committee Adorned at 12:00*