

M.O.R.E.  
Regional Entities Subcommittee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, March 9, 2015

**Those Present:**

Rep. Peggy Sayers, Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, William Fritz, Rep. Theresa Conroy, Susan Bransfield, Lisa Pellegrini, Rep. Tami Zawistowski, Stephen Woods, Steve Vavrek, Ryan Henowitz on behalf of Steve McKeever, Robert Labanara, Rep. Bob Godfrey, Pat Llodra, Rep. Mike Demicco, Melissa Schlag, Leo Paul, John Elsesser, Donald Stein, Daniel Steward, Bonnie A. Reemsnyder, Matthew Knickerbocker, Rep. Jason Rojas, Rep. Christopher Rosario, John Filchak, Lyle Wray, Lena Rodriguez, Rudy Marconi, Christine Ruman, Deb Hinchey, Sheila Mckay, Betsy Gara, Samuel Gold

**Those Absent:**

Carl Amento, Joyce Stille, Jeff Bridges, Rep. Gail LavielleCynthia Mangini, Rep. Andrew Bumgardner, Carl P. Fortuna Jr., Sen. Steve Cassano, Robert Namnoum

Meeting called to order by Rep. Peggy Sayers at 2:08pm

William Fritz, First Selectman of Clinton discussed existing inter-municipal agreements his town is involved in, hopes of finding additional money saving efficiencies, and preventing ineffective state mandates.

Bonnie Reemsnyder, First Selectman of Old Lyme brought up the possibility of additional efficiencies and regionalization opportunities.

Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman of Portland is looking forward to exploring possible efficiencies.

Melissa Schlag, First Selectwoman of Haddam discussed how small towns should work together. She wants to look at possible fire and ambulance regionalization. She is also the Chair of Chatham health district and is looking to regionalize those services.

Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectwoman of Somers is looking forward to coming up with creative solutions with the committee.

John Elsesser, Town Manger of Coventry brought up two subjects. He thinks that small towns should do a better job educating the general public on the work of the MORE Commission and he wants to see if health districts can be given the option being assigned additional duties like the fire marshal and building officials because they all dictate state regulations.

John Filchak of NECCOG discussed existing efficiency programs and is looking forward to creating more.

Betsy Gara of COST stated that COST continues to be interested in working with the MORE Commission and wants to build on existing programs with the MORE Commission.

Christine Ruman of CREC is looking to collaborate with school districts on non-instructional services such as facility management, security, and instructional technology.

Daniel Steward, First Selectman of Waterford is looking for alternatives to the inter-local agreement.

Lyle Wray of CRCOG discussed the review conducted by CRCOG and its potential benefits to the committee.

Rep. Mike Demicco discussed his previous involvement with the MORE Commission and is looking forward to creative ideas from the committee.

Lena Rodriguez of CRT discussed her organizations work and is looking forward to what the committee can accomplish.

Stephen Woods, Mayor of Newington is interested in regional efficiencies and what his town has done in the past with regard to regional efficiencies with other towns. He also discussed how he is moving his towns 911 dispatch and the success of combining animal control officers with another town.

Deb Hinchey, Mayor of Norwich discussed the importance of finding efficiencies given the decreasing revenues and increasing budgets. She also discussed her towns own utility company and she wants to explore possible collaborations with other towns in that respect.

Rep. Tami Zawistowski wants to find more efficiency and is looking for ways to support East Granby's K-12 school district by collaborating with other towns.

Sheila McKay of CABA wants to see additional regional entities and efficiencies at the board level.

Bob Labanara of CCM represents the coordination of municipal committees and is interested in exploring short and long term solutions that can resolve issues.

Don Stein, First Selectman of Barkhamsted expressed interest in possible new collaborations with COGs.

Leo Paul, First Selectman of Litchfield discussed his history with the MORE Commission and expressed interest in regionalizing the ACO function. He is also interested in finding solutions that will allow the towns to become a part of a region for the purposes of school districts.

Mathew Knickerbocker, First Selectman of Bethel discussed the need for regional efficiencies given the expanding budgets.

Pat Llodra, First Selectwoman of Newton discussed the unsustainability of models that towns use to provide services and expressed the need for towns to explore efficiencies through collaboration while maintain each towns unique characteristics.

Rep. Jason Rojas discussed his previous involvement with the MORE commission and thanked the efforts of the chief elected officials because he believes they are the key to instituting these efficiencies.

Rep. Theresa Conroy brought up the previous successes of the MORE commission with regards to COG regionalization and she is looking forward to finding more efficiencies.

Rep. Christopher Rosario discussed his previous experience with regionalization and he expressed in interest in working with the regional entities subcommittee.

Sam Gold of River COG expressed his excitement for the prospect of small and medium towns being leaders in finding regional efficiencies and the chance for small towns to have a voice in the process.

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman of Ridgefield commended the previous successes of the MORE commission and he expressed his desire to see certain areas get additional attention.

Rep. Peggy Sayers discussed the diverse representation of towns at the committee meeting and she is glad to see that some towns are already sharing and cooperating. She hopes that the members through their experience will share what works well and what does not. She then discussed two issues left from last year which include health districts and dispatch. She discussed the prospects of a possible presentation from the department of health with regards to a grant which could aid in regionalization. CRCOG will be doing a presentation. She stated that many of the issues raised would be discussed in the future.

Don Stein discussed the possibility of regional policing to cut down on the costs associated with resident troopers.

Melissa Schlag reminded the committee that funding formulas are key to ensuring fair regionalization.

Rep. Peggy Sayers reminded the committee that there are a variety of issues that are being dealt with by other sub-committees so some issues may not be explored as much as the members may like.

Betsy Gara expressed confusion regarding the scope of each sub-committee because many of the members sit on both.

Rep. Peggy Sayers responded with a comment about how the Chairs of the committees will sit down and discuss the scope of each. She further stated that committee members can suggest to the Chairs possible subjects of discussion. She also reminded the committee that it is a two year process and change will take time.

The next meeting was determined to be Tuesday, March 24 at 12:00 P.M.

Rep. Peggy Sayers adjourned the meeting at 2:38pm