



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688 • nvcogct.gov

MINUTES – September 19, 2025

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

Commencement of Meeting (Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair Pete Hess. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and the roll was called.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: N. Warren “Pete” Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

Remote: Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Demetre Coles, Heidy Coronel, Richard Crowther, Rich Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lagana, Eytayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Inez Ortiz, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Nicole Sullivan, Michael Szpryngel, Danny Thomas, Savannah-Nicole Villalba.

Speakers: Kim Bradley and Steven Perry, CT DEEP

Steven Perry, Environmental Analyst and Kimberly Bradley, Trails and Greenways Coordinator from CT DEEP presented to the Board on the Recreational Trails Grant Program, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), and Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program (UGCG). The presentation may be viewed on the NVCOG YouTube Channel at [CNVMPO-NVCOG Meeting - September 2025](#). The presentation runs approximately from 12:54 through 35:35.

Public Comment

None.

CNVMPO Meeting

Safety Performance Measure Update

Every year CTDOT is required to adopt safety performance targets. MPOs are required to either accept those targets or set their own. In the past, we have talked about adopting our own targets as the CNVMPO instead of simply endorsing the statewide target. Last year, we calculated what those targets would be and presented those to the Board but ultimately endorsed the statewide target. This year we are hoping to endorse our own targets. In November we will do an in-depth dive into the methodology we used to get there and set the numbers and what that translates to.

We are finalizing a methodology white paper that we're going to ask CTDOT to sign off on to formally recognize that they approve. According to Federal Highway, that is the standard we must follow. Once we adopt the target range and methodology going forward, we will adjust the targets down every year towards our zero-target goal in 2060. We hope to come back with an agreement from CTDOT and will be talking more about safety in the MPO as we work on our regional Vision Zero action plan.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:25 am, Oct 10, 2025

NVCOG Meeting

NVCOG Administrative Items

Minutes for Approval

Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the 06-20-2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and the 07-28-2025 Special Meeting Minutes; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

FY25 Year-End Report (Unaudited)

Michael Szpryngel presented the unaudited FY2025 Year-End report and explained the auditors will be onsite in the next couple of weeks.

Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the FY25 Year-End Report (unaudited); SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano.

Mark Lauretti MOVED to amend the motion: MOVED to *accept* the FY25 Year-End Report (unaudited); SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the period ending 7-31-2025

Michael Szpryngel reported that there have been no unexpected funding cuts for the current fiscal year. There are a couple of grant applications pending that we didn't anticipate in the budget and a couple of fee-for-service contracts. Depending on what happens with the OPM grants, there may be a mid-year budget revision.

Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending 7-31-2025; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Update on Agency move

The relocation to the new space at One Exchange Place is on schedule and within budget. We're working with the City of Waterbury contractor and our architects to get the general work done. They've already extended a courtesy and given us passes to start using the parking garage beneath the space. We anticipate being in sometime in the April-May timeframe.

Staffing and Budget Update

The Board approved an organizational chart with positions on it and the salary schedule. Because some of the revenue that was anticipated was tied up in the housing bill that got vetoed, we're not going to be filling all those positions. We haven't filled all the other positions that are outstanding; we're staying in balance, taking it step by step and doing it as the funding materializes.

Special Session Current Legislation – Housing

A special session on housing is coming up; we expect it to be in October. Savannah-Nicole has been working diligently on trying to keep us prepared. Generally, we are advocating for a regional affordable housing plan and are trying to negotiate a different structure than the fair share structure that was included in the last bill. The hope is that whatever negotiation takes place, the number of units will be reasonable.

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We need to build in ways that don't create more vehicle miles being traveled, in accordance with the Governor's executive order to reduce VMT.

Mayor Lauretti discussed the impacts on infrastructure, the idea of suspension of 830(g) for a five-year period, and the ability to transfer development rights.

Rick concluded, an Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled when we know the result of those sessions and what's going on so we can develop a position that everyone feels comfortable with.

Municipal Affairs

Emergency Management Update

Every year municipalities are required to present memorandums of understanding to their region for Emergency Management. There are many outstanding memorandums of understanding and the associated resolutions going back to 2021, 22 and 23, with the 2024 MOUs coming due. Drew will be emailing those CEOs, their Assistants, Emergency Management Directors, and Town Clerks, who will have to stamp and seal the resolutions. He hopes to get those done before the November elections.

NVC EDD Update

This Wednesday is the kickoff event for the Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District. The CEOs and the municipal designees have been invited to this invitation-only networking event at The Station restaurant in Naugatuck. The goal is to touch base with the people on the on the strategic advisory board about what they want to see us provide on a regional basis for economic development.

Mapping, Data & Technology

Richard Crowther, Jr. reported that the GIS Department has been reformed into the Mapping, Data & Technology Department.

New Regional Viewer and useful applications

The NVCOG Regional Viewer, a new platform to utilize that contains all the data, census and political boundaries, water and soil data, with transportation and infrastructure for the entire region, is now available on our website. Along with it is a public notification tool for people; the public or staff could get mailing lists and create mailing labels. So, if you have a public meeting or there's a project, you could get addresses within a certain distance. This feature includes all the NVCOG municipalities and all the municipalities surrounding our region.

Parcel and CAMA Data Improvement Grant Update

Richard Crowther, Jr. reported on the Parcel and CAMA Data Improvement Grant from OPM. Funding went to all nine COGs. Work has begun on editing the GIS partial databases for municipalities. Right now, they're working on matching the partial GIS database along with the Assessor CAMA database.

He explained that CAMA records for about 6,000 condo units have to be created, and that cost will be covered by this grant, in contract with New England Geosystems to complete the work.

Community Planning

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Naugatuck Valley Regional Plan of Conservation and Development Update

NVCOG held a community check-in to inform interested parties about Phase 1 of our planning process. The check-in can be viewed on NVCOG's YouTube channel. Community Planning is working on creating a feedback system for our programming, which we were able to test out in this webinar. The live event was attended by 43 people, with over 90% of attendees able to understand the content, speaking to our ability to communicate about our work in an accessible manner. Over 70% felt the program increased their knowledge about the regional plan, and 89% agreed that the Community Planning check-in was a high-quality webinar. We will host these check-ins throughout the process for the broader community.

We are now preparing to enter Phase 2 of the regional plan process. We will create the main sections, the planning themes, and the regional and local recommendations for policies, plans, and programs. Savannah-Nicole urged the CEOs to be sure their staff are participating to ensure all the municipal priorities are represented in the plan. She will be sending emails to those municipalities that have had less involvement.

Summer Community Planning Newsletter Update

Savannah-Nicole reported that the Summer Community Planning Newsletter was published in August and contains an interview with our RPOCD Steering Committee Chair Andrew Martelli. It also has an article on Watertown's community-wide art experience and features the six lifelike bronze structures throughout the town. Our latest Sustainability Spotlight, created in collaboration with the Environmental Planning Division, is about how to plan for heat resilience. Contact Savannah-Nicole to subscribe.

Bimonthly Referrals Update

Community Planning staff have created a bi-monthly referral report that summarizes referrals received and reviewed by NVCOG. This report covers the period of June 1st through July 31st and is included in today's meeting packet. It is also emailed to each municipality's land use staff. We ask your staff to share the report with your land use commissions and boards for their reference.

09/23/2025 - NVCOG Housing Coffee Hour Update

Demetre Coles reported that the Community Planning Division will be hosting a virtual coffee hour in collaboration with the Department of Housing at 11:30 am September 23rd. The webinar will feature best practices for updating your CGS Section 830(g) affordable housing appeals list. CEOs should have received the email information on how to update your 2025 appeals list from the Department of Housing earlier this summer from Laura Watson. This webinar will focus on what your staff need to do to ensure that your municipality has given the State the most up-to-date information. Chief elected officials, managing staff, building officials, town clerks, and assessors are all encouraged to attend.

Transportation Planning

SS4A (Safe Streets for All) Project Update

Rich Donovan explained that we will be talking about safety a lot, sharing a lot of data and a lot of information. He reminded the Board that anything we put together or share in the process of planning for improvement is protected. It does not increase the liability to the CEOs or the towns. Under Title 23, it is allowable for us to deny that information from admission into court proceedings. That's something that we hear concerns about. That is all protected under federal law, and we are not doing anything to increase your risk here. We are trying to identify those places where the risk is highest for travelers and work towards improving those spots.

In the 2023 funding cycle, NVCOG was awarded funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program to develop a regional action plan. We are doing a full rewrite of original 2020 Regional Transportation Safety Plan

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including the addendum we did in 2022. It will include much of the same information and many of the same projects that have not been moved forward yet. We must have a draft of that plan available in December.

We will then get into a very aggressive public engagement period around making that plan available to people, having public meetings to talk about what is included and why, and what we plan to do about it. Once this plan is done, any projects that are identified without a funding source will be available for future Safe Streets funding rounds.

We are underway and just about done with the roadway safety analysis. And so, we have taken a deep dive into the crash data from UConn's crash data repository. It's very helpful to have such a detailed crash reporting system. We're getting a lot of information about what is causing these accidents.

Once the roadway safety analysis is complete, we'll have our high crash network, our high-risk network in line with federal standards. We'll use our engineering staff and some of our planning staff to identify countermeasures specifically for the crash types that are recurring and will be putting a list together based on our highest crash risk locations. Nicole and our staff have been garnering local knowledge of where crashes are happening from your Police departments, public works, and engineering departments. This has been critical for us to make this a plan that works and can help us advance some of these important projects across the region.

As a reminder, the CNVMPO comprises the 15 northern towns in our region with the four lower Valley towns being part of the Greater Bridgeport and Valley MPO. When we set targets, we talk about them with MetroCOG and it looks like this year we will be adopting statewide targets.

In addition to the accommodation of fiscally constrained and non-fiscally constrained project lists in our Safe Streets Action Plan, we are taking on several other elements as part of the broader NVision Zero campaign, which is what we have branded it, because it aligns with all our other NVision branding.

These are some of the things that our staff are working on or will be working on and making available to all of you to help advance our progress towards these targets.

NVCOG Staff are working on an expanded Road Safety Study Program with a series of three options. We are also going to work on increased data availability and are in the process of developing an NVision Zero website for the region.

We are planning Vision Zero educational programming to help municipalities understand the work we're doing and be able to meaningfully contribute. We're hiring another engineer to help with a post-crash infrastructure response. When there's a serious injury or fatal crash in the community, we want to go and analyze the factors that led to that crash and make short- and long-term recommendations for how to address any infrastructure problems attributed as part of the State's Quick Build program.

Roadway safety is our top priority in the Transportation Planning Department. We want to offer as much as we can to help address that. Roundabouts are a topic we're going to talk a lot more about. They handle the same if not more volume than a traditional intersection and reduce the number of conflict points from 28 to 12. They also reduce all the serious kinetic energy transfer points.

Environmental Planning

Regional Waste Authority Study

Christine O'Neill asked the Board to consider adoption of a Resolution to plan for the establishment of a Regional Waste Authority as recommended by the Waste, Reuse and Recycling Committee. On September 2nd the CEOs received the Tetra Tech Study, which was compiled over the past eight months with significant input from municipal leaders and staff. A memo outlining the recommendations of the study was included in today's meeting

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packet. The top recommendations of the study, the Waste Committee, and NVCOG staff are all the same: to plan for establishing a Regional Waste Authority.

Forming a regional waste authority will not automatically commit any municipality to joining. It won't conflict with membership in existing groups such as the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee, and it will not automatically obligate members to participate in all programs or projects that are being offered. Forming a regional waste authority will unlock funding from CT DEEP to plan for startup. It will require many conversations and much planning with the CEOs to develop structure, fees, and next steps. It will call for a few municipalities to join the new RWA as early adopters.

Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adopt Resolution 2026-01, to plan for the establishment of a Regional Waste Authority; SECONDED by Ed St. John. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Inventory Webinar

Christine reported that NVCOG will hold a webinar at 10 a.m. September 24th on our updated Regional Open Space Inventory. This event is designed to orient users of the interactive map and report and give them tools for municipal planning and grant writing. The event is registered with the American Planning Association to provide certification maintenance credits for AICP Planners.

Stormwater & MS4 Permit Update

Thomas Dougherty reported that in March, CT DEEP released a draft of a revised MS4 permit for public comment. At the time, the expectation was that DEEP would revise the draft permit and put it into effect in fall of 2025. The agency has decided to extend the current permit for another year to allow public comment. Throughout the update process, DEEP has indicated that they will be increasing MS4 compliance enforcement in the future.

To prepare for both a new permit and increased enforcement, NVCOG is working to increase capacity to assist our members with MS4 compliance. The Environmental Planning Division has recently welcomed Molly Johnson, who previously worked in the Community Planning Division, to assist with stormwater issues. We have also convened a working group of COG staff statewide to discuss regional MS4 assistance and inter-COG coordination around stormwater. We have updated our stormwater web pages with helpful resources and will continue to keep our towns up to date on any updates and the services that we can provide.

Kinneytown Dam Update

Aaron Budris reported that we will continue working toward acquisition; the CT Brownfield Land Bank will probably close next week. We will need to manage the facility over the next several years while the design and dam removal is undertaken and the dam is ultimately removed. We'll be responsible for the safety responsibilities that the current owner has neglected over the past several years. We intend to clean up the property that has become blighted, especially near North 4th Street in Ansonia.

We met Wednesday with GEI's engineers and subconsultants in the field, then came back here and conducted a four-hour workshop, examining the data collected so far, and developing and eliminating alternatives. That will continue and we hope to have a preferred alternative in the next month or so.

EPA is planning to get out in the field to do additional data collection on the sediment behind Kinneytown Dam in mid-October. That will affect what the regulators are going to allow us to do with that sediment. The sediment is going to be the largest cost driver in this project. We're hoping to nail down all the details and be able to plan for what we're ultimately going to be able to do. The estimates we've seen are between 750,000 and 1.4 million cubic yards of sediment.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:26 am, Oct 10, 2025

And then, on the funding front, we finalized our contract and endorsed a contract with DEEP for the \$1.6 million that they initially committed to the project. And that's the vehicle that we're going to use to also receive the \$25 million bond funds that were approved during the last legislative session.

We're having our seventh community meeting in Seymour next Wednesday. During the last public meeting, there were a lot of questions about the incorporation of the Naugatuck River Greenway in the project. NVCOG received a CT DEEP Rec Trails grant to design the trail through the property as part of the design that will follow the dam removal.

Brownfields Programs

Brownfields Projects Updates

Ricardo Rodriguez updated the Board on the current Brownfield projects in the region. He noted that we are currently 10 in 10 on projects being awarded for DECD and are hoping to get three more projects funded.

Anyone looking for NVCOG's assistance in applying through DECD's funding round should contact Ricardo or Inez. DECD's next funding opportunity is anticipated to open between January and February, so there's plenty of time to start the process and start seeking alternatives and the game plan for those sites. If you have some sites that need assessment work done, don't hesitate to reach out. The municipality doesn't need to own the property, but we do need an access agreement with the current owner to do the testing.

CEO Roundtable

Rick Dunne explained that the RAISE Grant funding for the Naugatuck River Greenway has been withdrawn by USDOT. We've been in touch with the delegation that represents the affected towns of Naugatuck, Watertown and Thomaston. We haven't gotten a release of funds on our second year of Kinneytown from NOAA yet either. It's concerning, but not the end of the road. But for the agency, we don't count on any of those programs to fund our operations here. We're not paying staff. We don't take money from those grants, so it's no impact to our operations. And I want to make sure everyone understood that it was clear it won't affect our staff and our ability to pay bills here.

Adjournment

Tom Dunn MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Friday, October 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachment: NVCOG Resolution 2026-01 – Regional Waste Authority

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:26 am, Oct 10, 2025



**RESOLUTION 2026-01
NAUGATUCK VALLEY REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) is working with its member municipalities to address the state's waste capacity shortage, which has resulted in higher tipping fees, longer hauling distances, and limited or inefficient waste management services.

WHEREAS, NVCOG applied for and was awarded a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) to study the feasibility of forming a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) to address the challenges referenced above.

WHEREAS, a consultant firm, Tetra Tech, prepared a draft report after extensive research and collaboration with each municipality to establish existing conditions, an inventory of infrastructure, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and vulnerabilities, and a suite of recommendations to achieve regionalization.

WHEREAS, Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff reviewed the Study before publication and meaningfully contributed to the finalized version.

WHEREAS, the Study's top recommendation is for NVCOG to organize a new RWA, adding member municipalities incrementally to build a suite of waste management programs and projects.

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Waste, Recycling, and Reuse Committee endorsed the following recommendation on 9/12/25: "to recommend to the Full NVCOG Board the formation of a Naugatuck Valley Regional Waste Authority."

BE IT RESOLVED, NVCOG shall plan for the establishment of a Naugatuck Valley Regional Waste Authority through the development of articles of incorporation, bylaws, and municipal ordinances as funded by Phase II of the CT DEEP RWA grant.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on September 19, 2025, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut on September 19, 2025.
Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed,


N. Warren Hess, Chair

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:26 am, Oct 10, 2025