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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
10:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2026

This meeting may be viewed on the NVCOG YouTube channel.

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

NVCOG CEOs (v=virtual): (v=virtual): N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Joseph Jaumann, Alternate, Ansonia (v); Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Jennifer Mahr, First Selectwoman, Middlebury; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; David Sekorski, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Timothy O'Neil, First Selectman, Southbury (v); Richard Sileo, First Selectman, Thomaston; Judy Mancini, Alternate, Waterbury (v); Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown (v); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Paul Zulpa, First Selectman, Woodbury.

GUESTS: Ellen Graham (Blumenthal); Farian Rabbani (Murphy); Matthew Abbott (CT DOT) (v); Lou Mangini (DeLauro) (v); Gerald Lukowski (Watertown DPW); Joe Millette (Watertown Asst. Engineer); James Nardozzi (WDC) (v); Brenda Richard (WDC) (v); Felix Gottdeiner (Land Use, Bethlehem) (v).

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Deputy Director Rich Donovan, Drew Baklik, Jacob Bartel, Trish Bauer, Tucker Beckett, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Demetre Coles, Heidy Coronel, Richard Crowther, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Lana Harrison, Shahadat Hossein, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lagana, Mark Nielsen, Tim Nolan, Tayo Olaleye, Christine O'Neill, Inez Ortiz, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Nicole Sullivan, Michael Szpryngel, Faith Thurmond, Evan Watson.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL
Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the minutes of the 05-15-2026 NVCOG meeting; SECONDED by Rich Sileo. Motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVED
By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 5:59 pm, Sep 10, 2026

Financial Report for the period ending 04-30-2026

Michael Szpryngel reported that this report is ten months or 83% through the fiscal year and represents that we were 71 percent budget to actual at that point.

Jennifer Mahr MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2026; SECONDED by Rich Sileo. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Introduction of New Staff

The following staff were introduced to the Board:

Communications Intern Jacob Bartel (community outreach/engagement, attending UMass for a Master's in Regional Planning).

Mapping, Data and Technology Intern Evan Watson (GIS graduate student at CCSU, mapping sidewalks/crosswalks for Naugatuck Valley Greenway connectivity).

Senior Community Planner Tucker Beckett (experience in WestCOG and the Town of Wellesley, MA, Master's in GIS, Waterbury resident, POCDs focus).

Sustainable CT Fellow Grace DiTunno (UConn rising junior, supporting municipal certification/sustainability projects).

Rick Dunne acknowledged that he, Ricardo, Inez, and Michael had just returned from representing the region at the NARC Conference in Tulsa, OK and participated in a brownfields forum while there.

Rick explained that today's scheduled speaker could not attend and will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Relocation

Rick explained that the agency anticipates paying rent at the current location for another 2-3 months, depending on the City's move date, and will observe 60 days rent-free after occupancy at One Exchange. The move is targeted by the end of summer with the exact move date pending City confirmation.

The vendor has been selected for network wiring, AV, and security integration with City systems. Physical build-out is nearing completion, and significant paper disposal has been completed. The agency is preparing to offer bookshelves, file cabinets and some technology items to the towns.

RECEIVED
By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 6:00 pm, Sep 10, 2026

Regional Services Grant Notice of Award – NVCOG Resolution 2026-13

RSG funds through CT OPM support COG operations, approximately 30-40 percent of the operating budget. Adoption of Resolution 2026-13 is required to receive the funding from OPM.

Gerry Smith MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-13; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Funding Adjustments

Aaron Budris explained that the original plan was to receive $300,000 in BRIC funding through DEHMS. The rules of that funding changed, and planning became ineligible for funding. DEHMS found additional funding but in an amount of $100,000. There is a 25% match from the communities that was agreed upon, and the first 50% payment made, before the reduction in funding occurred. With the new amount of funding, the community match is now a higher percentage of the funding.

We are confident that if the communities agree, and with the committed funding, and bringing some of the work in-house, we can still produce the updated plans. We wanted to make the towns aware and make sure you agree and want us to move forward.

The next billing will occur in FY2028 for the other half of the funding.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Emergency Management

Drew Baklik explained that there will be a program for crafting emergency operations plans for rural communities. It will be an instructor-led 8-hour class on August 4th. Those interested can register by July 21st. Contact Drew for details.

The National Flood Insurance Program insures off the municipalities. They are holding a program designed to address properties and buildings that have repeated flood problems. Molly Johnson will be the lead on that program. Reach out to Drew, Molly, or DEMHS directly, as they have a dedicated staff managing this program.

RECEIVED
By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 6:00 pm, Sep 10, 2026

NVC EDD – CEDS Endorsement - NVCOG Resolution 2026-14

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region has been completed, and a resolution adopted endorsing it by the Naugatuck Valley Corridor Strategic Advisory Board, chaired by Dr. James Nardozzi of Waterbury Development Corporation. The NVC EDD Board recommends adoption by this Board as this is a requirement of the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). With this Board's endorsement, we will then follow up with the endorsement of the State DECD and submit the document to EDA by the June 30th deadline.

Drew acknowledged staff and others that worked on this. Rick Dunne acknowledged those that worked on all the graphics and artwork, all of which was done in-house.

George Temple MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-14, CEDS Endorsement; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

BROWNFIELDS DIVISION

Project Status Update

Ricardo spoke about a completed brownfields project at 281 Canal Street in Shelton. This project recently had its ribbon cutting and now there are 129 market-rate apartments available within the City of Shelton. An EPA Revolving Loan fund loan in the amount of $748,000 has been repaid and is now reallocated for new, future loans in other places. The developer invested close to $17 million in construction.

Funding Availability

DECD opened a new pilot program called Greyfield Revitalization Program – a planning and assessment grant for underperforming commercial/retail/office properties. The focus is on hazardous building materials assessments and interior contamination. Application deadline is August 5th with awards to be announced in September. Contact Ricardo for more details.

Upcoming DECD brownfield awards announcement is expected around June 15th – NVCOG will share the results.

MAPPING, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Demographic and Economic Forecast (DEF) 2060

Tim Nolan reported that he has been working on and has launched the Demographic and Economic Forecast dashboard live on the NVCOG website on the Maps & Data page.

The DEF model simulates population, households, housing stock, labor force, and jobs for all 169 Connecticut municipalities. This tool may be used in grants, transportation, housing, zoning and economic planning.

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The Board discussed undercount issues in Census participation and the funding impacts thereof. Municipalities are urged to support accurate census participation and address verification.

Tim plans to hold a Lunch & Learn on the DEF dashboard this summer.

ROUNDTABLE

No additional items were raised.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 10:55 a.m., Tom Dunn MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Rich Sileo. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:
NVCOG Resolution 2026-13 – Regional Services Grant (RSG)
NVCOG Resolution 2026-14 – CEDS adoption

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NVCOG RESOLUTION 2026-13

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE/RESOLUTION

I, Robert Chatfield, Secretary of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, an organization (the "Organization") existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, certify that the following are true and complete resolutions which were adopted at a duly called and held meeting of the governing body of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on June 12, 2026, and that such resolutions have not been amended or modified and continue to be in full force and effect:

> ***RESOLVED,*** that the Organization execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the "Agreement") for the 2027 Regional Services Grant.
>
> ***RESOLVED,*** that Rick Dunne as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

I further certify that Rick Dunne now holds the office of Executive Director and that he has held that office since January 3, 2015.

I am signing this certificate on June 12, 2026.

Robert Chatfield, Secretary

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NVCOG Resolution No. 2026-14

Adoption of the 2026–2031 Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) serves as the administrative entity for the Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District (NVC EDD); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires designated Economic Development Districts to prepare and maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) pursuant to the requirements of 13 CFR §303.7; and

WHEREAS, the CEDS serves as a regionally developed economic development strategy intended to strengthen economic competitiveness, promote economic resilience, support job creation and retention, guide infrastructure investment, and identify regional priorities for economic growth and development; and

WHEREAS, NVCOG, acting on behalf of the NVC EDD, has prepared the 2026–2031 Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy through a collaborative planning process involving municipalities, economic development professionals, workforce organizations, utility providers, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, transportation agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other public and private stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the NVC EDD Strategic Advisory Board provided guidance throughout the development of the CEDS and, through Resolution No. 01-2026, recommended adoption of the draft 2026–2031 CEDS and its submission to the NVCOG Board for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the draft CEDS was made available for public review and comment during a thirty (30) day public comment period beginning on May 12, 2026 and concluding on June 11, 2026; and

WHEREAS, comments received during the public comment period have been reviewed and considered for incorporation into the final document, as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the NVCOG Board finds that the 2026–2031 NVC EDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy satisfies the planning requirements established by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and provides a framework for advancing economic development priorities throughout the region;

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