

# Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Friday, June 7, 2023

A recording is available at: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=21957>

**Members present:** Kyle Abercrombie, Carl Amento, Maureen Brummett, John Filchak (Vice Chair), Sam Gold, Brian Greenleaf, Karl Kilduff, Matt Hart, Martin Heft, Keith Norton, Francis Pickering, Troy Raccuia, Lon Seidman, Ron Thomas

**Members not present:** Luke Bronin, Steve Cassano, John Elsesser, Laura Hoydick, Jeff Kitching, Harrison Nantz, James O'Leary, Neil O'Leary, Brendan Sharkey (Chair), Mike Walsh

**Other participants:** Lou Rosado Burch, Laura Francis, John Harkins, Rick Porth, Anna Shugrue

**OPM staff:** Justine Phillips-Gallucci, Bruce Wittchen

**Member vacancies:** Nominated by COST: Municipal official: Town of <10,000 population

## 1. Call to order and overview of telemeeting procedures

Commission chair Sharkey called the meeting to order at 10:34, noting the lack of a quorum at that time.

## 2. Approval of the minutes of the [February 3](#), [March 3](#), [April 14](#), and [May 5](#) meetings.

Due to the lack of a quorum at first, the group skipped this section until a quorum was present at 10:44. At that time, a motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the four meetings. Martin Heft said the drafts from meetings lacking a quorum should be approved as notes, not minutes, and the motion was amended to approve those as notes, not minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Membership updates, if any

There was no update.

## 4. ACIR Regular Reports

- Annual Report + 2023-24 Work Plan: no deadline but targeting July-August
- Session Mandates Report: due 11/15/2023
- Mandates Compendium (full compendium): due 2/21/2024

Bruce Wittchen mentioned that he had previously said he would try to have an outline of the annual report ready for today, but he was busy with other things and will try to have an outline by the time of the LGF Subcommittee meeting. He said the mandates review is underway and noted the report deadlines.

## 5. [SA 23-13](#), *An Act Studying The Consolidation Of Metropolitan Planning Organizations*

Commission vice chair Filchak recommended the ACIR bring in people from DOT, the [regional Councils of Governments](#) (COGs), and FHWA, along with former DOT commissioner Emil Frankel and other to discuss the required study. Commission member Gold said that would be a good step and recommended preparing an MPO fact sheet for ACIR members who might not be aware of the MPO role and process. Commission vice chair Filchak said that is the intent behind including representatives

of the FHWA and COGs and added that the ACIR must also consider the perspective of the people behind the study. Commission members Gold and Hart both agreed with that approach.

## **6. Update: CT Local Government of the Future ACIR member survey**

The group inadvertently Skipped this section but returned to it during the discussion of Sec. 7. At that time, Commission vice chair Filchak reported that the survey had been sent to more than 100 people and only 13 have responded so far.

## **7. Late Fall: possible ACIR conference on Local Government of the Future initiative**

- ACIR explanation of conference theme: The world will change and CT must change
- Governor Lamont keynote
- Local governance and service delivery
  - Town of Chester Governance Committee Study: [Report](#) and [Presentation](#)
  - Tom Condon: [Does CT need 169 municipalities? Some say merging makes sense](#)
- Impediments to federal (and state?) grants and potential solutions
  - Local match
  - Limited capacity to identify and apply for opportunities
- Regional/shared education services
- Tax restructuring (not just property tax)
- Not everything works everywhere
  - WestCOG analysis of regional assessment and why it works for NECCOG but wouldn't there
- [MA Division of Local Services?](#)
- Other topics, possibly based on ACIR survey results?

Commission member Filchak provided an overview of the potential ACIR conference discussed at the LGF Subcommittee's meeting, noting that they envision a day-long conference and inviting the Governor to provide they keynote. He described some of the potential topics to be covered and mentioned the expected involvement of COGs and [Regional Educational Service Centers](#) (RESCs). Commission vice chair and Commission member Seidman discussed approaches for the listed regional/shared education services section.

Commission member Hart asked if a planning group will be established to plan the conference and Commission vice chair Filchak said the LGF Subcommittee would do that. He also noted that housing is not included in the list of potential topics and should also be considered due to the level of interest. Commission member Hart said the ACIR might also consider a section on how the [Regional Performance Incentive Program](#) (RPIP) is working. Commission vice chair Filchak said the state has to understand that what works in his COG might not work in Commission member Hart's COG. We need more tools available to choose from.

## **8. Local Government of the Future (LGF) initiative (see draft notes of [6/27/2023 meeting](#))**

There was no further discussion

## **9. Other Old Business**

There was no further discussion.

## **10. New business or any other municipal, regional, or state matters for ACIR consideration**

There was no further discussion.

## **11. Future Discussion/presentations**

There was no further discussion.

**12. Additional public comments (if any)**

There were no additional public comments.

**13. Upcoming meetings:**

The next meetings will be:

- Tuesday, 25, 2023, 10:30 am                      Subcommittee
- Friday, August 4, 2023, 10:30 am              Full ACIR

**14. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*