

Local Government of the Future Subcommittee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Note: This document is ACIR staff notes written during this subcommittee meeting. It is a public document and has been provided to meeting participants for their review and revised in accordance with any comments received but is not approved minutes of the meeting.

The agenda is available at:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/24169>

The meeting recording is available at:

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2024-02-20_ACIR-LGF_Video.mp4

ACIR Members present: Matt Hart, Martin Heft, Francis Pickering, Brendan Sharkey

Other participants: John Harkins, Sheila McKay

ACIR/OPM staff: Christine Goupil, Greg Lowrey, Bruce Wittchen

1. Call to order

Commission chair Sharkey called the meeting to order at 10:38.

2. If helpful for background: [draft 2/2/2024 ACIR minutes](#) and [1/23/2024 LGF notes](#)

There was no discussion of the draft minutes and notes.

3. ACIR work plan approach

- [Potential 2024 Topics & Approaches](#) (based on suggestions at 2/2/2024 meeting)

Commission chair Sharkey explained what has been done to date and said the ACIR is dividing its expected work in two categories: tasks assigned to it by the legislature or administration, and tasks chosen by members, noting the linked list of the suggestions members provided at the ACIR's 2/2 meeting. He highlighted the significance of education-related issues to municipalities.

Commission chair Sharkey said the ACIR's work cannot depend on members doing the needed work and the group should consider what has already been done while also rekindling arrangements with UConn and other institutions that can assist. He added that the group should be nimble: choosing an approach that can complete a task in 3-4 months rather than the 12-15 months that was typical for the highly detailed studies done by the legislature's former [Office of Program Review and Investigations](#) (PRI), which took so long that they no longer were timely.

Commission chair Sharkey said the ACIR also discussed holding forums and aim to be more visible and to draw more interest. He recommended such forums not be during the ACIR's regular meeting, due to the limited time available, and they should seek a more public setting. He asked for comments and Commission member Pickering asked about the role for subject matter experts. Commission chair Sharkey recommended they be focused on the specific work the ACIR takes on and asked if that would be an appropriate constraint. Commission member Pickering said limitations like that help manage time demands. Commission member Hart recommended inviting state officials and legislators to the ACIR's regular meeting to learn their thoughts and there was a discussion of not limiting that to topics the ACIR is specifically working on.

Commission chair Sharkey mentioned that he and Commission vice chair Filchak met with the Planning & Development (PD) Committee co-chairs to discuss the [proposed bill language](#) the ACIR approved on 2/2. He said the ACIR's goals were understood but the committee faces a number of competing demands in this year's short session and faces a 2/23 deadline to raise committee bills. There was a discussion of session scheduling and Commission chair Sharkey recommended reaching out to key players about what the ACIR is doing. A public hearing would be an opportunity to inform people and he recommended that members inform their organizations. He also recommended the ACIR dedicate its next meeting to choosing among the [potential 2024 topics & approaches](#) suggested by members at the group's 2/2/2024 meeting. There was general agreement regarding that and further discussion of the ACIR's legislative request.

4. Next meetings

3/1/2024	ACIR
3/26/2024	LGF Subcommittee

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01.

Notes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM