

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 3

SRPEDD Commission Meeting – Draft Minutes
June 24, 2026
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Present:**Commissioners:**

S. Elliott, Attleboro	S. Leary, Berkley	S. Lewis, Carver	K. Estes, Dartmouth
M. Perry, Dartmouth	J. Carvalho, Dighton	M. Phillips, Fairhaven	D. Aguiar, Fall River
O. Rodrigues, Fall River	N. Durfee, Freetown	D. Guay, Lakeville	B. Roche, Mansfield
T. Burr, Marion	N. Hills, Marion	A. Nelson, Marion	J. Robbins, Mattap.
M. Clarner, No. Attleb.	M. Borg, No. Attleboro	J. Chicca, Norton	T. Torres, Plainville
D. Denizkurt, Plainv.	R. Peirce, Somerset	P. Keighley, Swansea	J. Pateakos, Taunton
J. Moran, Wareham	J. Whitin, Westport	R. Brewer, Westport	G. Saddler, F.R. A/L
A. Slavin, N.B. A/L			

Guests/Staff:

G King, SRPEDD	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	K. Porter, SRPEDD	S. Royer, SRPEDD
M. Tinger, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD		

Absent:

V. Alfaro, Acushnet	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	J. Vincent, Berkley	A. Germain, Carver
R. Trapilo, Fairhaven	L. Carboni, Lakeville	L. Bradley, Middleboro	W. Pike, Middleboro
J. Ponte, New Bedford	S. Warchal, Norton	F. Winslow Raynham	C. Sullivan, Raynham
L. Ferreira, Rehoboth	C. Durant, Rochester	M. Shoemaker, Roch.	P. Dunn, Seekonk
S. Cadime, Seekonk	W. Raposa, Somerset	P. Thomas, Taunton	J. Faherty, Wareham
C. McDermott, Attl. A/L	T. Lobo, Taunton A/L		

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M by Chairwoman Clarner.
- 2. Swearing of the 2026-2027 Commissioners:** Ms. Saddler, SRPEDD Secretary, administered the oath to Commissioners for the 2026-2027 term.
- 3. Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2026:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 27, 2026 minutes. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Confirmation of At-Large Commissioner:** Chairwoman Clarner explained the procedure for At-large Commissioner selection. She read the confirmation below.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40B, Section 12, “Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, the commission may increase its membership by not more than six in order to provide representation to low income and minority groups.”

The following names were put before the Commission to be At-Large members:

AREA	NAME	REPRESENTING
Attleboro Area	Christopher McDermott*	City of Attleboro
Fall River Area	Gloria Saddler*	Bristol Black Collective

**currently serving*

RESOLUTION FOR COMMISSION ACTION

BE it resolved that the Commission of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, acting under the alternate procedure for selecting at large commissioners, accepts the nominations presented above at the members of the SRPEDD Commission.

A motion was made, seconded and approved the SRPEDD At-Large Commissioners. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 5. Election of Officers & Executive Committee:** Mr. Walker mentioned the Nominating Committee is met on June 22nd to finalize and approve the following draft slate. Listed below are the Officers and Executive Committee for 2026-2027.

Officers and Executive Committee for 2026-2027, at present, consists of:

OFFICERS

Chair – Marie Clarner, No. Attleborough
Vice Chair – Jim Whitin, Westport
Treasurer – Alan Slavin, New Bedford A/L
Assistant Treasurer – *Vacant*
Secretary – Gloria Saddler, Fall River
Immediate Past Chair – *Vacant*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The composition of the Executive Committee is set in accordance with M.G.L., Chap. 40B, Section 15 (includes the officers):

Mayor's Appointees (4)

Gary Ayrassian, Attleboro
Dan Aguiar, Fall River
Jamie Ponte, New Bedford
Jay Pateakos, Taunton

Selectmen Appointees (4)

Jeff Carvalho, Dighton
Lorraine Carboni, Lakeville
Shawn Cadime, Seekonk
Josh Faherty, Wareham

Planning Board Appointees (4)

Victoria Alfaro Duran, Acushnet/Mattapoisett
LeeAnn Bradley, Middleborough
John Hansen, Swansea
Jennifer Carloni, New Bedford

The motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Reports:

- a. **Chair:** No report.
- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker congratulated all the newly appointed Members. He mentioned he and fellow staff are excited to begin the new fiscal year with new and returning Members alike, and thanked all who were able to attend the recent orientation and information meeting for the great discussion. He mentioned throughout the year there will be plenty of opportunities not only to ask questions and get answers, but also to share timely and relevant information with fellow Commissioners and help their communities and the Southeast Mass region to continue to move forward. Mr. Walker closed by saying he looked forward to working with everyone in what promised to be another very busy and productive year ahead.

7. Consent Agenda:

- a. **Contracts:** No contracts this month.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance and Personnel Committee:** Mr. Hills mentioned this was his last meeting and final report. He mentioned the Finance Committee met on June 17, 2026, at SRPEDD's office (88 Broadway, Taunton) and via Zoom. The May 20, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes were approved with edits; the Treasurer's Report for May 2026 was received and accepted; and the voucher warrant for expenses in the amount of \$75,713.46 (paper checks plus employee expense reports paid via ACH) was approved.

In addition, the Finance Committee received and accepted the May 2026 month-end general journal entries and reviewed the OPEB trust account statement from Charles Schwab for May 2026. The Finance Committee adopted the following motion in response to deferred revenues that have remained on SRPEDD's balance sheet for multiple years: "The Finance Committee recommends that the balance of deferred revenue associated with SRPEDD Project Number 125024, 'Advancing a Hydrological and Hydraulic Model in the Assawompset Ponds Complex and Nemasket River Watersheds,' \$164,480.54, be recognized as revenue in the 2026 Fiscal Year."

Finally, the Finance Committee reviewed the initial agency budget for the 2027 fiscal year and voted to forward it to the entire Commission for approval.

Chairwoman Clarner thanked Mr. Hills for all his hard work and contributions to the Finance Committee and Commission throughout his years of service.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance Committee report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **FY'27 Draft Budget:** Mr. Walker referred the Commissioners to the FY'27 Draft Budget starting on page 11 sharing a number of highlights and offering to respond to any questions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY'27 Draft Budget report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Joint Transportation Planning Group: Ms. Estrela-Pedro referred Members to page 13 of the packet where the minutes from the April 8th Joint Transportation Planning Group meeting, as well as the May 19th Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting could be found. The key takeaways from these meetings were the endorsement of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. She mentioned both documents were presented to this Commission last month and have now been formally endorsed by the MPO.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Transportation report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **2026 SMMPO Election:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned it is that time of year again for the MPO elections. She mentioned there are two seats that are expiring, one is Mansfield, and the other one is Fairhaven. The Mansfield incumbent, Michael Feck, has submitted his self-nomination papers, and he was the only candidate that SRPEDD received paperwork for that would like to serve again. She also mentioned that there is one remaining seat that still needs to be filled by a Select Board member, but similar to the mayor's, there is opportunity to appoint a designee if so desired. Ms. Estrela-Pedro indicated it is a great opportunity, especially if your communities have projects that need federal funding through the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned Members can help to advance priority projects in their communities and across the region that have been identified. She entertained questions from the Members.

○ **Vote to Nominate Bristol Candidate- Michael Feck, Mansfield**

A motion was made and seconded to approve Michael Feck from Mansfield as a SMMPO member for Bristol County. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Tinger highlighted several recent planning and environmental milestones from across the region such as Mansfield's Hazard Mitigation Plan which received Approval Pending Adoption (APA), Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) which received conditional approval, Mattapoisett's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) which received full approval, Middleborough's Open Space Residential Bylaw that was approved at Town Meeting and Lakeville's Wetlands Bylaw that was likewise approved at Town Meeting. Ms. Tinger entertained questions for the members.

9. Old Business:

a. Technical Assistance: Mr. King referred Commissioners to the monthly update on projects contained in the packet on page 31. He mentioned that he and fellow staff are available to discuss projects as needed via email or by calling the office.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. New Business: No report.

11. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest: Mr. Whitin also thanked Mr. Hills for his many years of service on the Finance Committee. He will certainly be missed in that role, and he hopes he'll continue to stay involved, perhaps by joining the Environmental Committee as a citizen member. Mr. Whitin also wanted to make everyone aware of a regional funding opportunity. The Federal Highway Administration is accepting grant

applications for culvert replacement projects that support and restore cold-water streams. This opportunity will likely be of greatest interest to coastal communities. He mentioned that approximately \$800 million is available through this competitive grant program. The funding represents several years of previously allocated funds that have not yet been distributed, so there is a substantial amount available. However, the application window is expected to be very short.

Mr. Whitin mentioned in Westport, they are already pursuing funding for three or four culvert projects. He wanted to bring this opportunity to everyone's attention because many communities across southeastern Massachusetts could benefit. Hopefully, we can secure as much of this funding for our region as possible.

Ms. Durfee wanted to bring everyone's attention to a report that was released in May 2026 by Boston Indicators and Abundant Housing Massachusetts titled *ADUs Turn One*. She encouraged Commissioners, especially those who serve on planning boards, to take some time to read the report. She mentioned in her opinion it does not present the full picture of the current situation regarding accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The report suggests that communities are generally reluctant to permit ADUs, and she doesn't believe it accurately reflects what many municipalities are trying to accomplish. She simply wanted to make everyone aware of the report and encourage all to review it critically as communities consider the future of zoning, housing policy, and planning. Ms. Durfee mentioned she would send the report to Ms. Royer to pass along to the Commissioners.

12. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. The next Commission meeting will be held on July 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Saddler, Secretary

Date: 7/22/2026