EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
Wednesday May 27, 2020 – 9:00A.M.
Location: 127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473

Full agenda materials can be found at our website – www.scrcog.org

NOTICE: In accordance with Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7B Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely with no in-person attendance

Log-on Information to attend this meeting remotely is provided below:

Time: May 27, 2020 09:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83171103038
Call-In Number: +1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 831 7110 3038

The agenda and attachments for this meeting are posted and are available on our website at www.scrcog.org

1. Call to order- First Selectman Beth Heller, Chair

2. Adopt Minutes of April 22, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting –
   First Selectman Matthew Hoey, Secretary Pages 2,3

3. Recommended Approval of Proposed SCRCOG FY 2020-2021 Budget (Attached) Pages 4-11

4. Recommended Approval of Proposed Regional Services Grant (RSG) FY 21 Spending Plan Pages 12-15

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment
TO: SCRCOG Executive Committee Members  
FROM: First Selectman Matthew Hoey, Secretary  
DATE: May 20, 2020  
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2020

**Present**  
Branford                  First Selectman James Cosgrove  
Guilford                  First Selectman Matthew Hoey, Secretary  
Milford                   Mayor Benjamin Blake  
New Haven                 Kevin Alvarez, proxy for Mayor Justin Elicker  
North Haven               First Selectman Michael Freda, Vice Chair  
Orange                    First Selectman James Zeoli, Treasurer  
Wallingford               Mayor William Dickinson  
Woodbridge                First Selectman Beth Heller, Chair  

SCRCOG Staff              Carl Amento, Executive Director; Stephen Dudley, Deputy Director; Christopher Rappa, Finance Director; Andy Cirioli, Intern  

NOTE: The April SCRCOG Executive Committee meeting was a virtual meeting facilitated by Zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. **Call to order and Introductions**  
   Chair Heller called the meeting to order at 9:16 am.

2. **Adopt Minutes of March 25, 2020 SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting minutes**  
   First Selectman Hoey presented the Minutes of the SCRCOG Executive Committee of March 25, 2020, which were included in the agenda packet at Pages 2 and 3. He noted that the reference to “Acting Chair” next to First Selectman Heller should be corrected to “Chair”. He moved for their approval with that correction. First Selectwoman Heller seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

3. **Preliminary Review of Proposed FY 2020-2021 SCRCOG Budget**  
   Executive Director Amento and Deputy Director Dudley reviewed the proposed budget. The budget calls for filling of a seventh staff position which has been carried in the budget as a vacancy for the past two years since Former Finance Director Albert Ruggiero retired. The Executive Committee members indicated that they would like to see a Job Description for that position at next month’s meeting. Discussion ensued regarding staff salaries for next year. The proposed budget will be presented again for final approval at next month’s meeting.

4. **Approval of Regional Services Grant Spending Plan, FY 2020-2021**  
   The proposed RSG Spending Plan for next year was presented to the Executive Committee for their review and input. A general discussion ensued. The Plan will be brought back before the Executive Committee at next month’s meeting.
5. **Other Business**
   None

6. **Adjournment**
   First Selectman Hoey moved to adjourn; First Selectman Cosgrove seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

First Selectman Matthew Hoey, *Secretary*
MEMORANDUM RE: FY 2020-21 Proposed SCRCOG Budget

TO: SCRCOG Board

FROM: Executive Director Carl Amento, Deputy Director Stephen Dudley, and Finance Director Christopher Rappa

DATE: May 20, 2020

The FY 2020-21 Proposed SCRCOG Budget contains the following highlights:

- **Amount of State OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG) Remains Uncertain**

  The amount of the FY 2020-21 RSG funds awarded to SCRCOG for the next fiscal year will ultimately depend on the final action of the Legislature on the state budget. Given currently available information, we are proceeding on the assumption of year-to-year flat funding for purposes of the proposed SCRCOG budget for next year. In other words, we have carried over the current year’s budget of $493,418 for our proposed FY 2020-21 budget. The Governor’s Office and the Office of Policy & Management (OPM) have given the COGs verbal assurances that they will do all they can to maintain level funding of RSG for next year. However, the financial effects of the extraordinary COVID-19 pandemic may ultimately force the state government to make a cut to RSG. RSG funding, municipal dues, and competitively-awarded grants received by SCRCOG, account for all non-federal revenue to SCRCOG. RSG funds are used for non-transportation regional planning, shared services and special projects.

- **State match for Federal Transportation Funds Remains the Same**

  As we will be in the second year of the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), it is expected that CTDOT will provide its 10% match for the next fiscal year. Carryover funds will continue to have no state match.

- **No Municipal dues increase recommended**

  The proposed FY 2020-21 SCRCOG Budget includes no dues increase. Previous dues increases have improved SCRCOG’s ability to provide match for and to more fully utilize federal transportation funding without creating unsustainably large carryovers of unused funds and also to provide a cushion against any further state funding reductions.

- **Filling of vacant staff position**

  Since Albert Ruggiero’s retirement about 1.5 years ago, SCRCOG budgets have carried a replacement seventh staff position which has remained vacant. For FY 2020-2021, we propose filling that position and returning to a workforce level of seven staff positions, including the Executive Director.

- **Total budget decreased from $2.3 to $2.17 million**
The proposed SCRCOG budget for FY 2020-21 will total $2,175,929 as compared to a FY 2019-20 budget of $2,301,415. This decrease of 5.5% is predominantly due to non-transportation grants that are expiring during or at the end of the current fiscal year.

- **Slight increase in transportation funding; utilization of carryover funding**

Federal and state transportation funding will increase 4.9% in FY 2020-21 to $1,166,329 from a current funding level of $1,112,329. Federal carryover funds in the amount of $48,000 are estimated to be available under the UPWP for use in FY 2020-21. Once FY 2019-20 comes to a close, any unused funds (regular and/or carryover) will be determined and can be used in FY 2020-21 following the approval of UPWP and SCRCOG budget amendments.

- **Non-transportation grant funding is decreasing**

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Regional Open Space Inventory both ended in FY 2018-19. The Farm Viability Grant will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

- **SCRCOG’s two applications for Regional Performance Incentive Program grants are pending** (Grant awards will be announced in June or July of 2020)

**REGIONAL CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE:**
SCRCOG has applied for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Program requesting $785,000 for a Regional Cybersecurity Initiative. This is a two-year program that will provide a comprehensive program featuring assessment of information technology infrastructure and employee cybersecurity training to bring all fifteen (15) SCRCOG municipalities to a higher level of protection against cyberattacks, including ransomware, malware, phishing and data breaches.

The program will include the creation of a comprehensive online cybersecurity self-assessment survey, which will help to identify vulnerabilities that need to be addressed. In addition, meetings will be held with the Information Technology (IT) working group to discuss and seek solutions for problems associated with remote work, as well as to develop or update cybersecurity and computer use policies for each SCRCOG town.

**REGIONAL SCHOOL FOOD WASTE DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM:**
South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) has also applied for a $420,000 grant in order to conduct a School Food Waste Diversion Pilot Program. Twenty schools in the SCRCOG region over a two-year grant period from approximately July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 will participate in the program.

The proposed pilot program involves working with the staff of 20 schools to set up food waste prevention, donation and diversion programs. Written guidelines will be provided
to each school for program set-up and implementation. At the end of the program, a
template for each of the municipalities/school districts will be created to facilitate the
replication of the pilot school programs and their expansion to other or even all of the
schools in the region. There is not yet a clear understanding of the magnitude of
potential cost savings that are associated with school food waste diversion. By working
with a variety of school sizes and comparing the various methods of diverting food
waste, we can determine what savings can be had by removing food from the solid
waste stream, and what best practices can be utilized to maximize those savings.

- **Operating Expenses Increase Slightly**

Total operating expenses (Salaries, Benefits, Travel, Computer Supplies & Software,
Rent and General Office Expenses) are slightly increasing by 2.4% from $1,007,638 this
year to a proposed $1,031,764 in FY 2020-21, primarily due to an increase of about
5.5% in health insurance rates for SCRCOG. The budgeted increase is also due to
changes in employee family status for health insurance coverage.

- **Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Local Match**

The production of the Hazard Mitigation Plan on a multi-town basis (14 towns) by
SCRCOG has proved to be the most cost-effective way to produce this plan for our
member municipalities. As the plan is only valid for five years from initial adoption, we
anticipate the start of the preparation of a new plan in less than two years. Because of
the rescission of the fourth quarter FY 2016-17 RSG funds, SCRCOG no longer had all
of the required 25% local match available to commence the previous update. The
SCRCOG Board, at that time, authorized a special assessment of $4,821 per
participating municipality to provide full funding of the required 25% local match. As it
turned out, the entire amount of the special assessment was not needed and a balance
of $10,827 remains. This remaining balance from the special assessment was approved
by the SCRCOG Board to be placed in reserves as the initial portion of the required
25% local match for the FEMA Grant for the next update. Available grants or additional
municipal contributions may be required to fund the remaining match. As we approach
the next plan preparation process, determinations will be made at that time as to how
the remaining match is funded.
The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) seeks a qualified person for the following full-time employee position available on July 1, 2020. The title of the position is: Municipal Shared Services Manager/Regional Planner/Transportation Planner. The employee will be stationed in SCRCOG’s office in North Haven, CT or may be assigned to work from home if the COVID-19 pandemic requires it.

**Position Description**

As Municipal Shared Services Manager, under the general supervision of the Executive Director, the selected employee will manage, coordinate, and develop SCRCOG’s regional inter-municipal shared services program which features eight working groups of municipal employees covering topics such as finance, purchasing, information technology/cybersecurity, public works, housing, urban forestry, solid waste and recycling, and energy conservation. The employee will work directly with any consultant(s) hired through SCRCOG to administer these initiatives. The Municipal Shared Services Manager will also coordinate any related grant opportunities and assist with a wide-range of related projects.

As Regional Planner, under general supervision of the Executive Director and the Senior Regional Planner, the selected employee will perform technical land use and environmental planning and will develop expertise in one or more of the following subjects: GIS, environmental protection, sustainability, resilience and climate change, trail mapping, watershed protection, land use, disaster planning and recovery, natural hazard mitigation, and community planning. The Regional Planner will assist in basic planning activities and functions throughout the agency and will do related work as required.

As Transportation Planner, under the general supervision of the Executive Director and the Director of Transportation Planning, the selected employee will do transportation and transit planning and related work as required.

**Management and Supervision**

This position reports to the Executive Director, the Director of Transportation Planning, and the Senior Regional Planner. The Municipal Shared Services Manager/Regional Planner/Transportation Planner will provide professional and technical support to lead staff and will work cooperatively with all other staff members.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

Specifically, as Municipal Shared Services Manager, the selected employee will:
- Manage regional inter-municipal shared services programs by planning initiatives, working with and managing consultants on related projects, managing collaboration platforms, and communicating initiatives with municipal employees in each Working
Further develop and utilize knowledge and experience in municipal finance, purchasing, information technology/cybersecurity, public works, housing, urban forestry, solid waste and recycling, and energy conservation, to advance agency’s programs and encourage collaboration and cost-saving efficiencies among SCRCOG municipalities.

Conduct research and perform analyses on a variety of topics related to the Working Groups’ activities and interests.

Review state and federal programs to stay current on topics related to the Working Groups’ activities and interests.

For each Working Group, coordinate, schedule, arrange, and confirm meetings, prepare agendas, attend meetings, take minutes when required, and prepare and distribute minutes or other meeting follow-up information.

For each Working Group, schedule teleconferencing through Zoom or other such platform, record presentations, distribute meeting materials before and after the meetings, maintain postings and resources on the Basecamp information platform and on SCRCOG webpages.

Specifically, as Regional Planner, the selected employee will:

- Support senior staff on projects related to GIS, environmental protection, sustainability, resilience and climate change, trail mapping, watershed protection, land use, disaster planning and recovery, natural hazard mitigation, and community planning to develop additional SCRCOG programs of benefit to our member municipalities and in furtherance of SCRCOG’s comprehensive regional planning efforts.

- Provide technical information and planning assistance, and respond to data and GIS mapping requests, to member municipalities regarding, but not limited to, land use, transportation, environmental planning, emergency management and other COG-provided services.

- Conduct research and perform analyses on a variety of planning issues including land use, transportation, housing, environmental impact, conservation/preservation, and emergency management. Review state and federal programs to stay current on aforementioned topics.

- Search and analyze grant opportunities that may be available to the region or the individual municipalities, and, when determined to be feasible, pursue regional grants through research, fact-gathering, and drafting of application materials, or assist and support municipalities with their individual grant applications.

Specifically, as Transportation Planner, the selected employee will:

- Work as directed on transportation work programs, research and planning activities, and/or agency projects. Review state and federal programs to stay current on the aforementioned topics.

- Work with consultants hired through the agency as directed. Review draft work with the Executive Director, Director of Transportation Planning, and Senior Transportation
Planner and assists with preparation of final publishable material and reports.

Additional Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist with development of agendas, position papers, presentations to SCRCOG members, and prepare and give testimony on behalf SCRCOG before forums and conferences and state and federal agencies.

- Assist with the management of consultants and planning projects hired through the agency.

- Attend meetings, conferences, workshops, and training sessions, as directed, in order to enhance knowledge and skills.

- Attend SCRCOG Board meetings, as required, as well as SCRCOG-related meetings with municipal, state and federal entities as needed or directed. Collaborate with adjacent Councils of Governments as needed.

- Draft articles, reports, website content, and correspondence for Executive Director.

- Facilitate public outreach/participation/education for various initiatives in order to create a proactive and robust public participation process.

- Prepare SCRCOG Annual Report and annual demographic profile of the region.

- Provide, as needed, support to Finance Director and Financial Manager in bookkeeping and the processing of financial transactions.

- Review state and federal publications on grant opportunities for municipalities and for SCRCOG and report same to Executive Director. Assists in grant writing and grant management for regional and individual municipal grant applications.

- Work with Executive Director to develop enhanced website content, and a communication strategy involving social media platforms.

- Work, as directed, on a wide-range of other SCRCOG projects.

- Assist with other tasks as necessary.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will be innovative, creative, motivated, personable and reliable.

Applicants must possess strong written, verbal, conceptual, analytic, quantitative, and communication skills. In addition, they should be able to work effectively in a highly-collaborative team setting and be a self-starter who can complete quality outputs within set deadlines.

To be considered, applicants must have a master’s degree from an accredited university in public administration/policy or another closely-related field.

Applicants must have at least one year of relevant work experience (more preferred) in the following subject areas:

- Inter-Municipal Shared Services
- Municipal Operations, such as Finance, Purchasing, Public Works, and Information Technology/Cybersecurity
• Regional Transportation and Community Planning
• Project Management and Budgets
• Grant Writing
• General knowledge of Municipal, Regional, and State Governments
• Familiarity with government financial management, budgeting and bookkeeping

Applicants should have the following technical skills:
• Facility with Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat and Outlook Calendar
• Experience with Basecamp and teleconferencing platforms such as Zoom

**Application Process**
To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to Mr. Carl Amento, Executive Director at camento@scrcog.org. Selected candidates may be asked to provide additional information or to appear for an in-person interview, if feasible, or a virtual interview.

Applications must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on June 17, 2020.

Salary will be based upon applicant's qualifications. Health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance benefits are available with employee contribution. A retirement plan is also available after a 90-day waiting period.

Questions may be directed to Mr. Carl Amento, Executive Director at camento@scrcog.org. Additional information provided in response to questions shall be shared with all applicants.

SCRCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments Budget
Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) By-Laws prescribe that the Council shall review and approve SCRCOG budgets, and

Whereas: SCRCOG’s Executive Committee has reviewed and recommends acceptance of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget totaling $2,175,929

Now, therefore be resolved by the South Central Regional Council of Governments:

That a Fiscal Year 2021 Budget is adopted (copy attached), and

That Fiscal Year 2021 SCRCOG municipal dues are established at 34 cents per capita, per the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s July 2018 population estimates.

Certificate:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the SCRCOG on May 27, 2020.

Date: May 27, 2020

By: ______________________
First Selectman Matthew Hoey, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments
PROPOSED REGIONAL SERVICES GRANT (RSG)
SPENDING PLAN FY21

Beginning in September 2018 and continuing today, the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG), utilizing RSG funds allocated to it by the state Office of Policy & Management (OPM), has established seven Working Groups focusing on fostering inter-municipal collaboration in municipal services and operations. These focus areas include: Finance, Information Technology, Purchasing, Public Works, Storm water Regulatory Compliance (MS4), Energy Conservation, and Solid Waste and Recycling. In the fall of 2019, an eighth Working Group was established to focus on Affordable Housing initiatives in the region. The goal of these Working Groups has been to nurture regional collaboration and discussion of best practices and develop implementable projects so that SCRCOG municipalities can attain greater efficiencies and cost-savings.

In an effort to achieve the goal of the Working Group program, SCRCOG staff, in conjunction with consultants, have facilitated numerous Working Group meetings featuring keynote speakers and robust discussions of the meeting topics. Several recommendations of the Working Groups have been adopted by SCRCOG municipal leaders to promote efficiencies and cost-savings. Other recommendations are in the planning stage. Many of the items detailed in this RSG Spending Plan for FY21 propose a continuation of the Working Group program into a third year.

In addition to the Working Group program, SCRCOG has submitted two grant applications under the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) (summaries of these two applications are included below). The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) originally intended on announcing the awarded grants in mid-May, 2020, but the announcement has been delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak. In preparation for all of the possible scenarios (i.e. SCRCOG receives both, either one, or neither grants) two spending plans have been created. Version 1 outlines a spending plan which assumes SCRCOG is not awarded either grant and that RSG funding remains the same from FY20. Version 2 outlines a spending plan which assumes that SCRCOG is awarded either one or both of the grants and that RSG funding remains the same from FY20.

SCRCOG’s RPIP Grant Summaries:

Regional Cybersecurity Initiative
SCRCOG has applied for a $785,000 grant in order to fund a Regional Cybersecurity Initiative. This is a two-year program which will provide a comprehensive program featuring assessment of infrastructure, adoption of cybersecurity policies and employee training to bring all fifteen (15) SCRCOG municipalities to a higher level of protection against cyberattacks, including ransomware, malware, phishing and data breaches.

Food Waste Diversion Pilot Program
SCRCOG has applied for a $420,000 grant in order to conduct a School Food Waste Diversion Pilot Program. 20 schools in the SCRCOG region, over a two-year grant period, will participate in the program. This pilot program will serve as a model which can then be replicated in other municipalities and school districts.
SCENARIO 1 – PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN

Note: This budget assumes that SCRCOG is not awarded either RPIP grants and that RSG funding remains the same from FY20.

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<td>1.</td>
<td>GIS Mapping Consultant</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Regional Planning and Municipal Assistance – Staff Labor and Expenses</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Shared Services/Operations Consultants (see table below for details)*</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>REX Project (Continuation of Regional Business Database and Agriculture Promotion Projects)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Regional Affordable Housing Initiative Consultant</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>UConn MPA Interns (2)</td>
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**Estimated Total RSG Grant to SCRCOG** $493,418

*Details of Shared Services/Operations Consultants*

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<td>3a.</td>
<td>Solid Waste &amp; Recycling (SW&amp;R), Food Waste, and Energy (Consultant: Pamela Roach)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Description: SW&amp;R and Energy will continue to convene Working Group meetings and invite subject matter experts to enhance discussion and develop opportunities. In addition, SCRCOG will pursue a truncated version of the Food Waste Diversion program detailed in the RPIP grant application. This program would include helping to establish a food waste diversion program and distribution of informational resources to interested schools in the region.</td>
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<td>3b.</td>
<td>Purchasing (Consultant: Wilma Petro)</td>
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<td>Description: SCRCOG will work with a consultant to develop or update purchasing policies for SCRCOG municipalities and to develop a regional purchasing cooperative/consortium which will create a mechanism for our region to achieve economies in the shared purchasing of goods and services.</td>
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<td>3c.</td>
<td>Technology/Cybersecurity</td>
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<td>Description: The Information Technology Working Group will continue to meet and discuss topics regarding software, hardware, and other computer</td>
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systems. In addition, the Working Group will pursue a truncated version of the Cybersecurity Initiative detailed in the RPIP grant application. SCROCG would offer training to municipal employees and attempt to offer some level of assessment. In addition, Initiative will involve consultation to the SCRCOG municipalities regarding the unique issues of cybersecurity created by remote work.

| Total for Shared Services/Operations Consultants | $ 110,000 |

**SCENARIOS 2 and 3 – PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN**

Note: This budget assumes that SCRCOG is awarded either one or both RPIP grants and that RSG funding remains the same from FY20.

| 1. GIS Mapping Consultant | $ 10,000 |
| 2. Regional Planning and Municipal Assistance – Staff Labor and Expenses | $ 306,918 |
| 3. Shared Services/Operations Consultants (see table below for details)* | $ 100,000 |
| 4. REX Project (Continuation of Regional Business Database and Agriculture Promotion Projects) | $ 19,500 |
| 5. Regional Affordable Housing Initiative Consultant | $ 24,000 |
| 6. UConn MPA Interns (2) | $ 33,000 |

**Estimated Total RSG Grant to SCRCOG**

| $ 493,418 |

*Details of Shared Services/Operations Consultants

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<tr>
<td>Awarded Both Grants</td>
<td>Awarded Only Cybersecurity Grant</td>
<td>Awarded Only Food Waste Grant</td>
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3a. Solid Waste & Recycling (SW&R) and Energy
Food Waste added in Scenario 2 only.
(Consultant: Pamela Roach)

Description: SW&R and Energy will continue to convene Working Group meetings and invite subject matter experts to enhance discussion and develop opportunities. In the event of scenario 2 where the grant is not awarded, SCRCOG would still pursue some of the goals outlined in the Food Waste Diversion grant.
### 3b. Purchasing
(Consultant: Wilma Petro)

Description: SCRCOG will work with a consultant to develop or update purchasing policies for SCRCOG municipalities and to develop a regional purchasing cooperative/consortium which will create a mechanism for our region to achieve economies in the shared purchasing of goods and services.

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<th>Scenario 1 (cont.)</th>
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### 3c. Technology

Cybersecurity added in Scenario 3 only.

Description: The Information Technology Working Group will continue to meet and discuss topics regarding software, hardware, and other computer systems. In the event of Scenario 3, SCRCOG will allocate funding to work toward some of the goals outlined in the Cybersecurity Initiative.

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<th>Scenario 1 (cont.)</th>
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### 3d. Risk Management/Insurance

Description: Risk Management/Insurance will be a new initiative undertaken by SCRCOG to create ways to regionalize forecasting and evaluating of insurance and safety risks. In addition, common areas and goals among towns in our region will be identified.

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### 3e. REX Project TBD

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<th>Total for Shared Services/Operations Consultants</th>
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