



Regular Meeting Notice & Agenda
Friday, February 14, 2025 - 10:00 A.M.
Location: 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Conference Room G009F and *Virtual*

In Attendance:

Rochelle Palache, Chair (in person)
Al Bertoline (in person)
Lauren Gauthier (virtually)
Al Ilg (virtually)
Donna Karnes (virtually)
Stuart Mahler (virtually)
James Marpe (in person)
Jean Morningstar (virtually)
Stuart Mahler (virtually)

Gregory Daniels, Executive Director (in person)
Carmen Hufcut, Trainer Specialist (in person)
Maritza Lopez, Accounts Examiner (in person)
Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant (in person)

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Palache called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.
 - a. Roll Call of Board Members
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2025, SCSB Regular Meeting
A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Al Bertoline
The motion was seconded by Brenda Sisco
The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2025, SCSB Special Meeting
A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Al Bertoline
The motion was seconded by James Marpe
The motion was passed unanimously.

- c. Approval of the minutes from the February 6, 2025, SCSB Special Meeting
A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Al Bertoline
The motion was seconded by James Marpe
The motion was passed unanimously with Brenda Sisco abstaining.

3. Communications and Petitions

- a. **Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee Report** – Stuart L. Mahler
Subcommittee Chair Mahler offered that there is no report.
- b. **Privatization Contract Committee Report** – Chair Salvatore C. Luciano
 - i. **Privatization Contract Request from the Department of Public Health**

On behalf of Committee Chair Luciano, Chair Palache review the meeting with DPH that took place on February 6, 2025, in which DPH requested to temporarily privatize nursing home inspections. The productive meeting ended with an agreement that 1199 Union leaders and DPH Administrators would collaborate and propose a resolution that will be shared with this Committee within the next six weeks or so. Mr. Marpe's shared that the meeting was a positive and respectful collaboration between Union representatives and DPH Administrators.

- ii. **Privatization Request from DAS regarding Crane Operators**

DAS representative, Gene Burk, was invited to share an update on DAS the Crane Inspectors privatization request for temporary limited outsourcing to meet an essential state function. He is pleased to report that two people have been hired to fill those roles. At the recommendation of the Committee, an additional position was created to ensure that we eliminate the single point of failure. The outcome was exactly what everyone needed to move forward. He thanked the SCSB for their input.

- c. **Audit/Data Analysis Work Group – Chair Alfred W. Bertoline**

- i. **Audit/Data Analysis Work Group Report – Chair Alfred W. Bertoline**

Work Group Chair Bertoline reported that overall, this is a good report for the Work Group.

DEEP Audit: There has been a recommendation to make a change to the DEEP Audit report that was approved by the Board previously. Mr. Bertoline explained that the APA completed an audit of DEEP two years ago in which ethics affidavits were not properly completed. When SCSB completed our audit of DEEP, we also noted concerns about ethics documentation and referenced the APA findings in our audit. DEEP strongly replied that this was unfair because the documentation referenced in

the APA audit referred to contractor affidavits and our audit referred to employee affidavits; therefore, it should not be considered. Mr. Bertoline has made the decision to remove the language referring to the APA audit and leave the findings that we can substantiate.

Mr. Bertoline congratulated DEEP for offering our training to their employees; 42 DEEP employees have signed up to participate in our training courses. He sees this as a very positive ending result.

A motion to accept the DEEP audit with the changes was made by Al Bertoline. The motion was seconded by James Marpe. The motion was passed unanimously.

Audit Year FY'2025:

Mr. Bertoline explained that four more major agencies have been selected to be completed in FY'25. Although we will have a carryover into FY'26, we are in a much better position going forward as a result of the improved audit system developed by staff and the experience gained to date.

Triennial Audit Report:

Mr. Bertoline summarized that seven agencies were audited. One was fully compliant; however, the other six agencies collectively produced 25 findings. He noted that if we did not do this work, no one would have found these errors. After finding the errors, we reported them to the agencies, and worked with the agencies to mitigate future errors. We have done good work, and he is looking forward to continued momentum and having a positive impact on State purchasing.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Mahler, Mr. Bertoline clarified that the DEEP audit is included in the Triennial Report.

A motion to accept the Triennial Report as written was made by Lauren Gauthier. The motion was seconded by Donna Karnes. The motion was unanimously passed.

Chair Palache added that the success of the audit work is a testament to the dedication of Al Bertoline and the Staff. A good structure has been created and she thanked everyone for their participation in that success. On behalf of the Board, she celebrates the success of the Audit team.

ii. Budget Sub-Work Group Report – Chair Brenda L. Sisco

Work Group Chair Sisco updated the Board members on the status of our budget for FY'26-27 by explaining that the Governor issued his budget proposal to the General Assembly last week. The Appropriations Committee has been holding hearings to determine their final budget submission. The initial Governor's budget did not fund our requested budget of \$874,601, which represented both Personal Services (PS) and Operating Expenses (OE); the Governor allowed our agency only \$766,902. Ms.

Sisco cautioned that the Governor’s proposal showed cuts in many agencies. In discussions with our staff, she has determined that our agency’s request was already lean, especially in terms of our OE. We will work with the Appropriations Subcommittee and put forth additional information to demonstrate why we need to be made whole on our budget request. She explained that we are early in the process, and she pledged to work with the Board and staff on this matter.

Ms. Gauthier referenced the budget testimony on the Appropriations calendar today at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Sisco explained that we are normally given an assigned 15-minute time slot during the day; however, we are not the only agency that has not been given an assigned time. We will be submitting a testimony that explains our need and will continue to follow up with the Committee members. We have clear testimony written and will continue conversations with Legislators and the Governor’s office. The testimony will be submitted today. In response to Ms. Gauthier’s request to review the testimony, Ms. Sisco explained that in the past, the Board has not approved testimony prior to submission. She has reviewed it, and it is very good.

d. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman

i. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman

1. Regulations Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
The SRPP Work Group is being rescheduled to take place in March 2025.
2. Legislative Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
Work Group Chair Ahneman was not in attendance and no report was submitted.

ii. Personnel Review Sub-Work Group Report – Chair James S. Marpe

In response to Sub-Work Group Chair Marpe, Chair Palache shared that she has not yet received input from all Board Members and requested additional time to allow members to submit their feedback. Executive Director Daniels will be sharing his input as well.

e. Training Work Group Report – Thomas Ahneman

On behalf of Work Group Chair Ahneman, James Marpe cancelled today’s meeting.

Ms. Hufcut noted that only a portion of DEEP employees were mandated to take the training that was offered; however, when DEEP offered the training to other staff, a total of 42 employees seized the opportunity. She offered kudos to DEEP’s Administration for their professionalism throughout the audit process and stated that the agency has been fantastic to work with.

Additionally, Ms. Hufcut shared that, through Gene Burk at DAS, a new onboarding DAS employee requested and has completed all of the training courses available. Again, she offered kudos to Gene Burk, the DAS staff, and the new employee for participating in our training classes.

f. **Staff Report**

i. Administrative and Operations – Gregory F. Daniels, Executive Director

APA Audit: Executive Director Daniels shared that the Office of Governmental Accountability, of which SCSB is one part, has been audited by APA. He expects a final audit report to be issued soon and will share it with the Board when it is received. He anticipates one finding that referred to a late filing that took place during the transition period that was immediately addressed when it came to our attention. He does not anticipate any continued concerns in this area.

Mr. Mahler asked that we be clear when referring to this audit to explain that we are the subject of the APA audit.

Legislation:

- In response to Mr. Marpe’s inquiry, Executive Director Daniels offered an explanation of the two bills referenced in the January monthly report:
 - Senator Summers has proposed a bill seeking to set a time limit for the Governor to appoint a Chair for this Board should a vacancy occur. Currently, there is no time restraint placed upon the Governor to do so. Whether or not the Board supports this initiative is a matter that the Board should take a position on.
 - The Second bill is only a placeholder bill at this time. Executive Director Daniels believes that the forthcoming language in this bill may include language from SB389 and SB391, which were merged last year. He referred back to the 13 points that were discussed at an earlier meeting.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Gauthier, Chair Palache recommended that SRPP operate within that work group to create the legislative subcommittee to address the legislation for this session.

ii. **Chief Procurement Officer Report:** Nothing to report

iii. **Legal Update** – Aaron I. Felman, Staff Attorney

1. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4e-16 (q) – Privatization and Federal Funding
2. SRPP Work Group Regulation Drafting/Outlining Project

Staff Attorney Felman was not in attendance to offer his report.

4. Old Business

a. Consideration/Action on the Temporary Chief Procurement Officer Hiring

Chair Palache said this is ongoing and will be discussed later.

b. Consideration/Action on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Audit Report

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

c. Consideration/Action on the Triennial Audit Report for FY '24

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

6. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the SCSB

DEEP Fiscal Administrative Manager Jacob Rocco spoke on behalf of his agency to thank the Board for their work on the audit. Beyond the DEEP staff mandated to take our trainings, a lot of other staff are also interested and look forward to participating. DEEP takes its responsibility to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars very seriously. He specifically thanked Maritza Lopez and Carmen Hufcut for their work on the audit and for coordinating training for their staff.

7. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. was made by James Marpe

The motion was seconded by Al Bertoline

The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia M. Hall
Administrative Assistant