

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room**

**January 9, 2008**

**BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT  
PRESENT**

**\*SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

**STAFF**

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director  
Lee Ruck, General Counsel  
Nicole Hange, Clerk to the Board**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Michael Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12 MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the December 12 meeting. There were two abstentions.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chairman Knapp acknowledged two of the Board's outgoing members Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg, and Gaithersburg City Councilmember John Schlichting for their leadership on the Board. He also welcomed the following new

members to the Board: Supervisor Frank Principi and Supervisor Wally Covington III, both representing the Prince William County Board.

Mr. Knapp also recognized Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Jacqueline for her service as COG's 2007 corporation President.

The Institute for Regional Excellence will hold its graduation on January 11, 2008 at the US Botanic Garden Conservatory. All members who wish to attend should contact David Robertson.

As requested at the December Board meeting, COG staff has compiled a list of regional stakeholders to participate in Greater Washington 2050; the list of participants was distributed.

## **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director David Robertson stated that he met with several Board members and others throughout the month of December to discuss the policy goals and focus for COG in 2008. In the coming weeks, he will be meeting individually with the newly appointed members to the COG Board and will be providing them, and existing members with the newly developed Board Member orientation manual.

Mr. Robertson reminded the Board that it is again that time of year when local governments make their appointments to the various policy boards and committees at COG; staff has received several appointments to date and would like to have all appointments made before the February Board meeting to ensure full member participation.

February 5<sup>th</sup> COG will be hosting the first of its state focused legislative outreach events in Annapolis, Maryland. Staff is currently working to schedule a similar event in Richmond, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The National Association of Regional Councils will be holding its annual Conference of Regions February 4-6 in Washington, DC. Any Board member that wishes to attend should contact Mr. Robertson.

The New Partners for Smart Growth, co-sponsored by COG, will also be held here in Washington February 7-9; additional information is available.

COG received positive media attention for its action on green buildings last month.

Mr. Robertson also announced the departure of two members of COG's senior staff Calvin Smith the Director of Human Services, Planning and Public Safety and Chris Willey Director of Technology Programs and Services; both will have their last day on January 18.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents Resolutions R5-08

### **A. Resolution for UASI Grant Authorization**

The Board adopted Resolution R5-08, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee, to receive a grant in an amount not to exceed \$251,000 in federal Department of Homeland Security funding, administered by the Senior Policy Group to provide Secretariat support for the Emergency Preparedness Council, Chief Administrative Officers and RESF's. No COG matching funds are required. The project duration will be January 1 through March 31, 2008.

## **7. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R1-08 (electronic)

The following members were nominated to serve as officers of the COG Board of Directors for 2008: Chairman- Michael Knapp, Montgomery County; Vice Chairman Penelope Gross, Fairfax County; and Vice Chairman Kwame Brown, District of Columbia.

Mr. Knapp commended past Chairman Gray's leadership on the Board and looks forward to working with him in the future.

**ACTION: 2008 Board Officer Nominations were approved and Resolution R1-08 unanimously adopted.**

## **8. COG BOARD POLICY FOCUS FOR 2008**

Supplemental Documents: 2008 Board Policy Focus (electronic)

In continuation with COG's focus on growth and sustainable development, Chairman Knapp outlined the proposed COG Board Policy Focus for 2008. He stated that it is important for COG to maintain this focus as well as target several new priorities including Greater Washington 2050 and climate change.

Chairman Knapp added that COG's legacy 40 years from now will not be building new things but improving upon and investing in existing infrastructure and developing sustainable regional policies; noting that the vehicle from which to begin this work is Greater Washington 2050.

Executive Director David Robertson presented a summary of the draft proposal. New initiatives in 2008 will include a Regional Housing Continuum focusing on affordable housing across the region, specifically the loss of housing and the more efficient allocation of resources and the impact of high foreclosure rates; Greater Washington 2050 initiative which will develop recommendations to improve the outcomes of regional quality of life in the future; continued focus on regional climate change and the development of regional target potentials for greenhouse gas emissions; and to update and strengthen the regional emergency coordination plan.

Continuing areas of focus include Metro Dedicated Funding, Anacostia Restoration, BRAC implications, Census 2010 specifically responding to the region's changing demographics, and Green Building Initiatives.

COG will also be convening several locally-hosted regional "Thought Leaders" dialogues throughout the year. The purpose of these meetings will be to more broadly engage public, private, and civic leaders on regional issues.

Mr. Robertson added that COG staff will be focusing on increasing its visibility and enhancing relationships with state and local officials as well as providing better member services and will be looking at how to streamline and consolidate some of COG's policy and technical committees. In consultation with committee leadership, staff will brief the Board in June with recommendations for a more efficient, less fragmented committee structure. Vice Chairman Gross stressed the importance of succession planning at COG, specifically in terms of building and maintaining jurisdictional relationships and ensuring a smooth transition of newer members.

City of Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille questioned how education and healthcare is or could be addressed in the draft approval. Ms. Gross responded that these issues are ones that may be able to be appropriately addressed in the Thought Leadership series. Chairman Knapp added that they might also be addressed in the Greater Washington 2050 initiative in terms of work force development as well as Census 2010 planning.

Arlington County Board member Jay Fissette stressed the need to promote and encourage action and suggested incentives for action are included in the policy focus document.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officers stated that COG should try to reach out to the region's superintendents as well as school presidents when discussing education. Staff was requested to analyze how best to include a more clearly stated and focused educational component in the document.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Lori Waters added that one way to engage school officials would be through the green buildings initiative as its next focus will be on greening our schools. Because the relationships amongst school officials and local governing bodies vary, this could be a way to engage their active participation in a specific area.

## **9. AUTO SAFETY BRIEFING AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Last month the Board received copies of the "How Safe Are Our Roads" Report which showed an increase in alcohol related fatalities, injuries and crashes last year following a two-year decline in the region. The report underscored the dangers of impaired driving and automobile accidents, especially accidents involving teen drivers. Kurt Erickson, president of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and Lon Anderson Staff Director of Public and Government Relations for AAA Potomac highlighted some of the key issues and challenges, and made recommendations for specific action by COG to ensure the region has consistent and effective laws, enforcement and education.

The report found alcohol related injuries, crashes, and fatalities up from the previous years. What is troubling Mr. Erickson stated, is that DUI arrests have fallen 2%. Contributors to this decline are resources issues, specifically a lack of targeted funding for DUI enforcement; and decrease in sobriety checks; and public complacency. On a positive note, the District saw the largest drop in alcohol related injuries in 2006, falling nearly 38%.

Mr. Anderson stated that car crashes are the number one killer of teen drivers, bar none. While the region experienced several teen drive fatalities within a few month's time span last year, the rate was not much different from years past. What is alarming, he stated, was that 67% of those killed were not wearing a seatbelt. The problem isn't that the region has inadequate laws in place curb bad behavior, the problem is a lack of parental education and awareness and weak penalties. Maryland and Virginia currently have task

forces aimed at combating DUIs. What is a bit inconsistent are the graduated drivers license requirements and those could be streamlined. Mr. Anderson called upon local governments to work with schools, driving programs, and students as to the dangers of irresponsible driving. He also urged officials to look at increasing their penalties for driving infractions to show young drivers how serious we are that they stay safe.

Vice Chairman Gross asked if data on female/male occurrences were available to better target outreach. Mr. Erickson responded that the data is available but has not yet been analyzed, that is the next step of the report.

Montgomery County Council Member Roger Berliner asked what exactly local governments can do to improve these statistics. Mr. Erickson stated that drivers' education classes and curriculum should be expanded to better inform students, and parents, of the potential dangers of driving.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisetta first asked if there were any drawbacks to adopting a resolution urging uniformity in the region's graduated drivers license requirements. Hearing none, he offered several amendments to the Resolution R2-08: (1) adding a number 5. to the resolved section to read "Local governments and schools systems are urged to promote education of both students and parents about the laws of licensing for young drivers," (2) adding language to the whereas recommendation to prohibit texting while driving.

Ms. Gross stated that texting does not relate to licensing in that it is an action performed after receiving a license and would therefore be voting against that particular amendment.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the amendment to add a prohibition on texting while driving was rejected by a vote of 6-7.**

City of Falls Church Mayor Robin Gardner questioned the curfew and whether or not exceptions were made for work and afterschool activities, they are and it was requested that language be added to the resolution making that point more explicit.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, R2-08 was unanimously adopted with Mr. Fisetta's first amendment as well as Ms. Gardner's amendment.**

## **10. APPROVAL OF ROUND 7.1 COOPERATIVE FORECAST**

Supplemental Documents: Growth Trends Report (electronic)  
Resolution R3-08 (electronic)

COG prepares regular forecasts of population, household and employment growth every three years and adjusts the forecasts annually to reflect new actions and development, such as implementation Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations (BRAC). Paul DesJardin COG's Chief of Housing and Planning briefed the Board on the latest forecast updates. Mr. DesJardin stated that the most current projections include assumptions of BRAC implications in and around Ft. Belvoir. He also stated that the region has made marginal improvement in locating jobs around activity centers and clusters. A copy of the Growth Trends Report summarizing the data was included in the Board's handouts.

Chairman Knapp added that the forecasts are a compilation of the official growth projections from each member jurisdiction's planning department.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, R3-08 approving the Round 7.1 Cooperative Forecast was unanimously adopted.**

## **11. DRAFT AIR QUALITY PLAN FOR FINE PARTICLES**

Supplemental Documents: Air Quality Plan (electronic)

Air Quality Plan Power Point (electronic)

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee released a new plan last month to reduce particle pollution through 2009 and beyond. This is the second the second regional air quality plan issued in the past year and the state air management agencies will host hearings on the plan during the last week of this month. Dave Snyder, Chair of the Committee briefed the Board on the plan.

Mr. Snyder stated that the region is making tremendous progress in cleaning up the air we breathe. In 2005, our region met the one-hour federal health standard for ozone, a major component of smog. It was a year when the region had no "Code Red" days and a major achievement. There is now a second more stringent standard for ozone based on eight hour average data. While the region has not yet met this standard, MWAQC recently adopted a plan showing that it will meet the 8-hour ozone standard by 2009.

The other major factor affecting the region's air quality is particulate pollution. Mr. Snyder stated that currently the large particle standard is being met and it appears that we are very close to meeting the small particle standard, the most problematic from a health standpoint. A new plan has been developed to continue to reduce the small particle emissions and identifies a variety of measures to do so. The largest benefit will come from new state controls on power plants. New federal measures will reduce pollution from locomotives, heavy duty trucks and buses, and reduce the sulfur in diesel fuel. Some of these measures such as low sulfur diesel fuel introduced in the region last year are already contributing to cleaner air.

Many local governments in this region are adopting programs that will reduce fine particle pollution. These measures include telecommuting, tree canopy programs, wind energy purchases, building energy efficiency, light emitting diode traffic signals, and renewable portfolio standards.

Mr. Snyder added that COG's member jurisdictions are important contributors to cleaning the air as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The new air quality plan describes these local government activities in detail. In addition, this spring COG is planning to publish a catalogue of best practices demonstrating the region's leadership in cleaning up the air.

## **12. APPOINTMENT OF 2008 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R5-08

Chairman Knapp appointed the chairs of the following COG Board policy committees for 2008: Metropolitan Development Policy Committee- Ludwig Gaines, City of Alexandria; Human Services Policy Committee- Tommy Wells, District of Columbia; Public Safety Policy Committee- Terry Seamens, City of Takoma Park; Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee- Martin Nohe, Prince William County; and the Aviation Policy Committee- Rob Krupicka, City of Alexandria. Chairmen of two public-private advisory boards were also appointed: the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council- Gerald Connolly, Fairfax County; and Greater Washington 2050 Coalition- Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County.

**ACTION: 2008 Policy Committee Chairs were appointed and Resolution R5-08 was adopted.**

### **13. MEMBER TIME**

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette requested that COG staff monitor legislation in both the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies which relate to the 2008 Policy focus and report back to the Board with suggestions for potential action in February.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Lori Waters announced that her Board has created an ad hoc committee focused on green buildings which will evaluate COG's Green Building Report and will be looking to other jurisdictions for best practices.

Fairfax County Board Member Penny Gross announced that she has been appointed by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine to serve on the state's Commission on Climate Change; COG's Director of Environmental Programs Stuart Freudberg was also appointed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, February 13, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE: JANUARY 9, 2008  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<b>District of Columbia</b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Vincent Gray	N		
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
<b>Maryland</b>				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	Y	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Vacant			
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
<b>Virginia</b>				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

<b>Other Participants</b>
Lon Anderson, AAA Potomac
Kurt Erickson, WRAP
Dave Snyder, Councilmember City of Falls Church
Bill Bronrott, State Delegate Maryland General Assembly
Hilda Barg