

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

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

February 11, 2009

**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**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Penny Gross called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the January meeting. City of Falls Church Councilmember Hal Lippman abstained.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gross recognized the outgoing policy committee chairs and thanked them for their leadership. City of Takoma Park Councilmember Terry Seamens, who steps down as the 2008 Chairman of the Public Safety Policy Committee, was present to receive his certificate of appreciation. The following former chairs will have their certificates sent to them: Metropolitan Development Policy Committee - Councilmember Ludwig Gaines, City of Alexandria; Human Services Policy Committee - Councilmember Tommy Wells, District of Columbia; Aviation Policy Committee - Rob Krupicka, City of Alexandria; and Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee - Supervisor Marty Nohe, Prince William County.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As part of member outreach Mr. Robertson recently met with Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner who has been appointed to serve as the 2009 Chairman of the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee. He is also planning similar meetings with the other policy committee chairs.

Mr. Robertson stated that he continues to work with the staff executives of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington and the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers to discuss sustained collaboration in support of area nonprofits.

COG received significant media attention in the last month including coverage of regional Inaugural planning efforts, a report of what worked and what could be improved upon will be given to the Board later this year, and the Annual Homeless Enumeration which will be reported to the Board this spring.

The latest COG podcast "Go Recycle: Workplace Recycling," features Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator for Montgomery County, who discusses the GO Recycle Campaign organized by COG.

There are several notable events in the next few weeks: COG sponsored luncheon for the Maryland State delegation February 17 in Annapolis; NARC Board Conference February 23-25; and COG's Green Affordable Housing and Jobs Forum March 3.

COG staff planned two outreach events for the Virginia General Assembly recently. On January 26, Mr. Robertson presented COG's policy focus and priorities to the members of the Northern Virginia Delegation during one of its standing meetings. On February 5, COG participated in VACo and VML's Legislative Day which consisted of a luncheon discussion by the Governor on the state of the Commonwealth's economy and a briefing by Rep. Jim Moran's Chief of Staff Frank Shafroth on the pending federal stimulus bill and what it will mean for states and localities. Staff had an opportunity to meet individually with 17 of the delegation members before co-sponsoring a reception for members of the General Assembly with VACo and VML.

COG along with the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Federal City Council, DC Chamber of Commerce, Destination DC, and the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, hosted an "Inauguration Appreciation Luncheon" February 9 for all of the agencies and organizations that supported a very successful inaugural weekend.

Mr. Robertson announced that Nicole Hange, the Board's Clerk, will be taking on additional responsibilities and an expanded role as Policy Coordinator with the specific task of focusing on state legislative and federal outreach.

The Board was provided a list of bills, in both the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies which relate to COG's identified policy focus and priorities.

Chairman Gross asked if members were required to pay a fee to attend the Green Affordable Housing Conference. Mr. Freudberg stated that a registration fee was being asked of participants to cover the event's costs but would not be asked of COG Board members.

City of Falls Church Councilmember Hal Lippman asked if there was anyway for the elected officials to get preliminary results of the Homeless Enumeration. Mr. Robertson will work with staff to see if the information can be distributed in a two part process.

COG's General Counsel Lee Ruck provided a brief analysis on the differences between the House and Senate versions of the federal stimulus bill. House and Senate Conferees are currently meeting to resolve the differences in the two chamber's versions of the bill. The Board will receive a more detailed briefing at its March meeting once the legislation is final.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova stressed concern over the zeroing out of CDBG funding in the Senate bill and added that the turn around time for project identification is very short and therefore localities need to be ready or risk losing the money. Ms. Bulova suggested the addition of education to Mr. Ruck's stimulus side-by-side.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette stated that the side-by-side chart is very useful and requested that the Board members receive an updated version as soon as the bill is finalized. He also requested that COG staff, in addition to the state legislation provided, track Virginia SB 1212 which grants localities the authority to create a clean energy financing program using energy efficiency block grant dollars.

City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams stated that bills are being introduced in the Maryland General Assembly very late this year and staff should review what other legislation might have been introduced since their initial review.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R8-09 through R13-09.

A. Adoption of Bylaws for the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee

The COG Board of Directors approved consolidating separate policy committees on human services and public safety into a new Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee in late 2008, in part to recognize shifts in program priorities, as well as the need to reduce meeting and administrative expenses. The COG Board of Directors adopted new bylaws for the committee. The COG Board will also adopt revised bylaws for other policy advisory committees in subsequent months.

B. Appointment of 2009 Policy Committee Vice Chairs and Additional EPC Members

Chairman Gross recommended the appointment of the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2009: Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee-Justin Wilson, City of Alexandria and Tommy Wells, District of Columbia; and Metropolitan Development Policy Committee-Michael Brown, District of Columbia. Vice Chairs for the Aviation and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committees are chosen through a separate appointment process.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding from the Summit Fund of Washington in Support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership

The Board adopted Resolution R10-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$300,000 in grant funding from the Summit Fund of Washington to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$300,000. No COG matching funds will be required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Application to the Quality Health Foundation for a Grant Award

The Board adopted Resolution R11-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a grant application to the Quality Health Foundation for funding support for improving the healthcare of individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders using regional learning collaboratives. Funding in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 is requested for a period of one year. No matching COG funds will be required.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Expend Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds for the Enhancement of the Water Security Monitoring Network in the National Capital Region

The Board adopted Resolution R12-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend FY 2007 Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$490,000 for the purpose of purchasing additional water quality monitors and communication hardware and software upgrades as part of the expansion and enhancement of the National Capital Region's Water Security Monitoring Network. No COG matching funds will be required.

F. Resolution Authorizing the Engagement of a Consultant to Perform a Pension Investment Policy Review and Fund Performance Evaluations on COG's Defined Benefit Plan

The Board adopted Resolution R13-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to contract with a consulting firm to perform a pension investment policy review and fund performance evaluation of COG's defined benefit plan. The firm will also provide consulting services associated with the evaluation of investment manager performance, asset allocation review services, and provide other miscellaneous reviews impacting the short and long-term financial health of the COG Defined Benefit Pension Plan. Funding for this effort will be charged against the Pension Plan fund in an amount not to exceed \$40,000. No COG matching funds will be required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R8-09 through R13-09 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. COG BOARD POLICY FOCUS FOR 2009

Supplemental Document: Proposed COG Board Policy Focus for 2009 (Electronic)

Chairman Gross stated that for the past several years, the COG Board has identified growth and development as its top policy focus and recognized the need to improve coordination with its colleagues on the TPB and MWAQC; this year's proposal will continue that effort.

The proposed 2009 Policy Focus and Priorities recognizes the tough fiscal challenges facing the region. It is an aggressive, but lean agenda that launches just two new initiatives, one on workforce development, education and training, and the second on economic sustainability and

recovery. The common factor in both of these issues is that to be successful COG must respond to current needs and position it and the region for future success.

The balance of the priorities for 2009 are largely focused on completing tasks such as the Greater Washington 2050 initiative, continued movement on high priorities such as Metro funding and housing foreclosure, and organizing COG to swiftly implement the outcomes of our very successful 2008 report on climate change.

Chairman Gross stressed that the Board's success in 2009 will depend on active engagement and participation.

Mr. Robertson provided the Board with a more detailed description of the two new initiatives. In regards to "Regional Workforce Preparation" he stated that while COG's Strategic Plan speaks to economic development and competitiveness and also educational opportunities for children and adults; its policy structure and programs have limited focus on education and workforce training. Other regional organizations exist to address specific segments or elements of education and workforce training. However, the region's continued economic vitality will require continued focus on education and workforce training, especially in light of aging and special needs populations.

Responsibility for workforce education and training is shared by a wide-range of federal, state and local government agencies and other regional and sub-regional organizations and institutions. Ensuring that the region is well-positioned to emerge from the current economic crisis more resilient and competitive will require a better understanding how the workforce systems currently perform and anticipate and prepare for the likely labor market needs of the next five to 20 years.

The recommendation is for the COG Board to appoint a Regional Workforce Competitiveness Task Force to oversee this effort, develop a work plan and schedule, work with partner organizations, and produce a report and recommendations by December 2009. The Task Force would seek opportunities for new partnerships or regional pilot programs with key federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Labor.

Secondly, Mr. Robertson stated that COG will make economic sustainability and recovery a priority in 2009. The current economic challenges facing this region and nation also hold the promise of opportunity to reassess strengths and weaknesses and energy more resilient and better able to compete nationally and globally. COG will focus on a) the identification of new policies or programs in the Federal stimulus legislation or other federal program that may provide opportunities for a regional pilot program or new collaborative effort; b) partnering with the private sector to accelerate recommendations for green collar job training and business development included in COG climate change, energy and green building policy recommendations; and c) identification of opportunities for expanded or enhanced multi-jurisdictional service agreements, e.g. cooperative purchasing and the regional health care coalition.

8. GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 STATUS REPORT

Supplemental Document: Greater Washington 2050 Status Power Point (Electronic)

Greater Washington 2050 is a regional initiative approved by the COG Board in January 2008 to improve the quality of life for Washington area residents in the next 50 years by fostering stronger regional awareness, leadership and action. Led by COG and a coalition of public, business, civic and environmental stakeholders, Greater Washington 2050 will build on what many members of the Greater Washington Coalition believe is an opportunity for convergence on regional issues of growth, transportation and the environment. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board Chairman and Chairman of the Greater Washington 2050, reported on accomplishments to date of the Greater Washington Coalition and its four Task Forces and the anticipated completion of this initiative in late 2009.

Ms. Bulova stated that the Coalition was created to oversee the initiative and develop a *Greater Washington 2050 Compact*. Coalition members have established four Task Forces to address development of planning principles; a regional Compact; planning tools for measuring progress; and communications and outreach strategy

The goal of the Communications Task Force has been to determine how the Coalition engages non-traditional stakeholders and move the public from an environment of “thinking and acting locally” to “thinking and acting regionally.” A regional attitudinal survey on growth and quality of life issues will be rolled out later this month. The results will surely have an impact on how the work of the Coalition moves forward.

The Planning Principles Task Force was charged with forging the planning aspirations of the region’s jurisdictions into a common regional vision by incorporating the business community and environmental advocates. A preliminary set of principles has been approved by the Coalition. The principles are framed by a series of aspirational principles that define our region’s vision for 2050 and are followed by principles that describe the implementation strategy to achieve this vision through strategic, social, and participatory principles.

The Planning Tools Task Force has been working to develop a set of strategies and metrics from which to measure the success of this initiative. In November this group spearheaded a one-day “Scenario Thinking Workshop” of 90 regional leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness about key risks and opportunities our region faces, identify especially robust strategies likely to produce good results no matter how the future unfolds, and explore the extent to which participant’s hopes for the future are aligned around a shared strategic direction.

The Compact Task Force was charged with drafting a compact or agreement for the National Capital Region. To date, the Task Force has been examining agreements or structures successfully used in other regions to promote greater regional collaboration, set goals and assess regional progress. Early on the Task Force determined that the Compact itself should be relatively short, with explanations, procedures, implementation strategies, and the like being addressed in narrative appendices or annexes. The Task Force believes that “short and crisp” will make the Compact more easily understood and may make it more acceptable to the COG jurisdictions.

From now through the Spring, the Coalition will: publish results of Scenario Workshop; publicize results of regional survey; complete final draft Compact; and begin to seek local approval and action on principles, goals, metrics and compact. Additionally, an aggressive communication strategy will be implemented to ensure optimal buy-in.

The final draft Compact will be reviewed/edited during the COG Retreat and will then go out for public comment period. Members will review and discuss the draft compact, principles, survey and other materials at the July COG retreat and the final draft will be presented for the Board’s adoption in November.

9. UPDATE ON REGIONAL IMPACT OF FINANCIAL AND CREDIT CRISIS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Supplemental Document: Municipal Market Update (Electronic)

In October 2008, the Board received a sobering report on the effect of a destabilized national economy, rising interest rates and tightening credit on the ability of local governments, including those with otherwise strong bond ratings, to borrow money to support schools, road improvements and other municipal projects, including governments. Joanne Carter, Managing Director at the PMF

Group briefed the Board on the current economic condition, outlook for the future, and what that will mean for local governments.

Ms. Carter stated that the region's economy is in better shape than it was in October though there are lingering impacts on borrowing. Interest rates have fallen pretty dramatically due to increased participation by retail investors and increased demand for municipal bonds. She stated that the region is experiencing a bifurcated market where those with strong credit have solid access to the market, those with poorer credit are having a much more difficult time. The market continues to demand higher interest rates for those with weak credit. Additionally, there has been a 64% reduction of insured insurance because of the decline in market liquidity.

Ms. Carter stated that the market is still unpredictable and local governments should do what they can to protect their assets and credit.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette asked if there was any indication that rating agencies would change the criteria they use for providing governments and other entities with bond ratings. Ms. Carter stated that there was some interest in doing so a while back but it has not resurged. In her opinion, it would be in their best interest to do so since municipal bonds rarely default, even in this market.

10. PRIORITY NEAR-TERM BUS PROJECTS

Supplemental Documents: Regional Priority Bus Project List (Electronic)
Priority Bus Project Presentation (Electronic)

During the COG Retreat in July 2008 officials made clear their intent that COG must begin to balance its long term goals, with short term needs. Several projects and initiatives were identified that would allow tangible results in the ensuing months and which would also support COG's long term goals and vision. One of the near-term goals, that of identifying opportunities that would enhance connections among the various jurisdictional bus systems in the region to make bus transit more efficient, has recently been accomplished. In December, the TPB approved recommendations by its Regional Bus Subcommittee on priority bus projects with regional significance that could have short-term benefits. Steve Yaffe, the VA Transit Services Manager in Arlington County and Former Chair of the TPB's Regional Bus Subcommittee briefed the Board on the list of high priority bus projects and next steps.

Mr. Yaffe stated that the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee developed its recommendations to include regionally significant high-priority measures designed to improve access to bus transit and to improve the circulation of buses while in operation. The subcommittee first identified a set of problem areas and potential solutions: competitive travel-time in a congested environment; easy access to buses as well as easy transfers between buses; and building support facilities to park and maintain the equipment. The recommended problem areas were identified by the transit operators and include bottlenecks, transit staging areas and other bus facilities.

Mr. Yaffe discussed other sets of endorsed projects, such as emerging corridors, storage and maintenance facilities, and marketing and customer information, and HOT lane enhancements.

11. FY 2009 SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Supplemental Documents: FY 2009 2nd Quarter Report

Mayor of the City of Greenbelt and COG's Secretary Treasurer J Davis stated that there is a cash balance of \$4.34 million; the reserve increased from \$8.51 million to \$8.55 million; and COG's total revenue of \$19.34 million exceeded costs by \$4.15 million.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009.

**ATTENDANCE: FEBRUARY 11, 2009
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2009**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	N		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	N		
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	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	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Henry Marraffa	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	Hon. Marilyn Bland	N	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	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		

Other Participants
Council Member Terry Seamens City of Takoma Park
Joanne Carter PMF Group