

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
March, 8 2006**

**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

Chair Jay Fisette called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the February 8, 2006 meeting.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Association of Regional Councils has wrapped up its nationwide search for a new Executive Director. Fairfax County Supervisor Penelope Gross was an active member of the selection committee that led an intensive search to find the most qualified candidate. After weeks of searching, the NARC Board voted unanimously to appoint Cameron Moore to replace Robert Sokolowski, who retires in June. Ms. Gross

thanked COG for its support in this effort, recognizing that NARC would not have been able to afford the great service COG provided.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jurisdictional data reports focusing on key demographic and economic characteristics have been released for Montgomery, Arlington, and Fairfax counties; a similar report will be distributed for each of the COG jurisdictions by the end of the year.

The Emergency Food, Shelter, and Healthcare Directory, a regional comprehensive directory that provides critical information and resources for those less fortunate, is in its final stages of production and will be disseminated to key elected and appointed officials in each jurisdiction and will be provided as a link on the COG website.

The Regional Pawn Database Sharing System, linking local law enforcement with pawnshops across the region, has won the International Association of Police Chiefs Award for innovative technology; a status report of this system will be presented to the Board at a later date.

There are several COG-sponsored events coming up in the next few weeks: Day Labor Summit Part II on March 30th, Predatory Lending Conference on April 27th, and the Foster Parent Gala on May 20th; all members are encouraged to attend.

The 2nd Annual Animal Services awards program, honoring animal control officers, rescuers, volunteers, and others for their outstanding service to animals, animal owners, and their local communities, was held last week at COG and had a great turnout.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R17-06 (Electronic)
NARC Letter of Recommendation (Electronic)

(A.) Chair Fissette recommended appointments to the following standing and ad hoc administrative committees for 2006:

- A. Budget and Finance Committee – Responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the COG Board on the proposed FY 2008 work program and budget, and advise the COG Board, as necessary, on COG's budget and financial matters.
- B. Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee – Responsible for providing oversight to the COG Board on the annual evaluation of the executive director and for advising the COG Board on any revisions to employee compensation and benefits.
- C. Pension Plan Administrative Committee – Responsible for providing oversight for COG's employee pension plan and for advising the COG Board on any plan amendments.
- D. Annual Retreat Planning Committee – Responsible for planning the program content and other activities at COG's proposed July 28-30, 2006 annual retreat.

(B.) NOMINATION OF PENELOPE GROSS FOR RE-ELECTION TO NARC BOARD

The COG Board of Directors authorized the COG Board Chair to transmit a letter to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) advising that it is COG's intent to nominate Supervisor Penelope Gross, Fairfax County, for re-election to the NARC Board of Directors, representing Region III (DC, MD, VA and WV).

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, consent agenda items A and B were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

7. POTOMAC CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

Supplemental Documents: GWBOT Power Point (Electronic)
Envision Greater Washington Work Plan (Electronic)

The Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT) Potomac Conference – “A Conversation About Our Region's Future” was held on February 23-24, 2006. The conference was a follow up to the 2005 Reality Check on Growth and sought to build regional consensus around strategies to establish a multi-sector, multi-year region visioning effort in the National Capital Region. COG regional data and information helped to frame much of the Potomac Conference discussion and Chairman Fisette moderated Friday afternoon panels on regional development challenges and opportunities.

Chair Fisette stated that, as one of the regional bodies representing all jurisdictions in the metropolitan area, it is important to facilitate discussion amongst the jurisdictions as the region moves forward from the Reality Check Summit. He invited each member to provide guidance and direction for efforts, as well as how COG and area governments should be involved.

After a short video, George Vradenburg, co-chair of the Potomac Conference, and Kathy Whelpley, vice president of the Community Foundation, briefed the Board on the conference and efforts for a multi-year vision focus.

Mr. Vradenburg stated that the Conference brought together leaders from private, public, and non-profit sectors. Its vision is a “National Capital Region working in new ways across old boundaries to make and execute a regional vision of a prosperous, competitive, and equitable community.” What is necessary for success, he says, is thinking regionally but implementing locally; it is not good enough to just have a plan, there must be a well thought-out implementing strategy. Each level of government and each sector will have a leadership role; this initiative needs the active involvement of all stakeholders in order to achieve the desired goals.

Ms. Whelpley stated that the focus is not so much on the increase of people coming to this region as it is on providing for those who are already here. As the region grows, so too do the income, educational success, and opportunity divides. This is where the nonprofit sector can be of great support, specifically the Community Foundation. Both Executive Director David Robertson and Mr. Vradenburg will present to the Community Foundation next week, and it is fully expected that the Foundation will take on a leadership role.

Mr. Robertson stated that the proposal is for a fast-paced work-group, charged to look at the outcomes from the Potomac Conference and identify the work-plan; in order to be successful, it is critical that public officials be engaged from the beginning. He

added that the Board needs to ask itself- do we like the current conditions, do we like the future, and do we think COG can be a force for change, noting that a do-nothing approach would not bring the region into the place the Board has hoped it would be.

Alexandria City Councilmember Redella Pepper offered her full support for this effort and does not think it would succeed without the help of COG.

Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen questioned how this initiative would be different from the efforts already underway by many jurisdictions and cautioned on being duplicative. Mr. Vradenburg responded that what the Board is being requested to support is simply the creation of a work-group to discuss these issues and develop a course of action. The program would build upon, not replace, efforts already underway.

Prince William County Board Supervisor Hilda Barg requested that a presentation, similar to the one given today, be presented to the individual jurisdictions.

Fairfax County Board Supervisor Penelope Gross suggested that when assigning 10 key leaders for the Work Group, city/county managers, Chief Administrative Officers, and health officials need to be involved, not just the elected officials. She added that it would be helpful, as a baseline, to distribute the Greater Washington Soul of the City Report-which shows how different parts of the region rate in such areas as education and housing-to each of the participants to better educate them as well as a link should be provided on the COG website.

Mr. Vradenburg added that there is a disconnect within the business sector and suggested that it be given this presentation as well.

Prince George's County Councilmember Camille Exum raised concerns on supporting this effort without a clearly defined governance structure as well as the allotment of only ten persons to represent an entire jurisdiction.

Frederick County Commissioner John Lovell echoed Ms. Exum's concerns and added that he is weary of having think tanks deciding what is best for each jurisdiction noting that it could have significant impact on the lesser developed areas. He also stated that the 90-day timeline for this Work Group is a bit tight.

Chair Fisetto responded that this is a multi-year effort and that the 90-day work group is solely to discuss the issues and propose a work plan that the Board would then approve or disapprove.

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams voiced his support for this initiative and stated that it will be good for the region. He strongly suggested that a "reality check" be built in and to incorporate incremental progress in order to gauge actual progress and performance.

Chairman Fisetto added that the Annual Retreat would be a great venue to further discuss this issue upon the completion of phase one of the Work Group.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board agreed to the creation of a Potomac Conference Work Group.

8. HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

Supplemental Documents: Adopted 2006 EPC Work Program (Electronic)
Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities Update (Electronic)

Montgomery County Homeland Security Director Gordon Aoyagi and COG staff member David McMillion updated the Board on the region's emergency plans, specifically in regards to lessons learned since Hurricane Katrina.

In September 2005, following concerns about federal, state and local response to Hurricane Katrina, the COG Board of Directors requested that COG review the National Capital Area emergency plans to begin to incorporate lessons learned, address areas of special need, and more carefully examine assumptions concerning federal emergency response and support for local and state governments.

Much progress has been made in terms of better planning for the needs of special populations, including animal services. In additions, the lines of communication have been established with the Washington Joint Force Headquarters to confirm that military installations in the NCR are authorized to provide immediate response to the surrounding civilian communities in life and death situations.

Mr. Aoyagi stated that one of the biggest lessons learned is that state and local governments need to rely on each other for immediate support, not the federal government. This is where mutual aid plays a major role. In November 2005, COG approved the National Capital Mutual Aid Agreement and since that time all most all jurisdictions have signed, those which have not signed have calendared the issue for discussion before their councils.

Mr. McMillion added that staff is actively reviewing the lessons learned in order to better prepare this region.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stated that she was pleased to see the inclusion of special populations and asked how the issue of training and drilling was being addressed. Mr. Aoyagi indicated that there is a training and exercise work group to make sure knowledge is focused on specific capability.

Chair Fisette stressed that the key to successful emergency management response is the early identification of who is in charge.

Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg added that a better job needs to be done in terms of educating the community to shelter in-place; this includes not just how to plan but how to react. She also suggested that a pocket sized card with key information be distributed so that people can easily access it in times of emergency.

Fairfax County Supervisor Penelope Gross responded that these types of cards have been distributed and agreed that more should be sent out if there are jurisdictions in need.

City of Manassas Park Mayor Frank Jones announced that first responder credentialing has begun through the Virginia Department of Transportation. He added that when planning for crisis it is necessary to keep in mind that many government officials are sent to auxiliary and the normal peace-time staffing will not be there.

Fairfax County Chairman Gerald Connolly stated that headway has been made in terms of emergency preparedness and citizen education, but stated that in order to be successful, the participation of all jurisdictions is necessary. He also stated the Emergency Preparedness Council will be meeting quarterly after the Board meetings.

9. METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE: FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

Supplemental Documents: Power Point Presentation (Electronic)
Air Currents (Electronic)

Phil Mendelson, Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), briefed the Board on the key priorities and areas of focus for MWAQC in 2006, including the preparation of regional air quality plans and recent revision to the MWAQC bylaws.

MWAQC is responsible for developing clean air plans containing measure to reduce emissions and to conduct transportation conformity analysis whenever the new transportation plans are proposed. The plan must be consistent with air quality goals, in that they do not worsen existing air quality, do not cause new air quality violations, and do not delay attainment of the NAAQS; the plan must also link transportation planning and emission reductions. There are federal penalties for not maintaining air quality standards; the region could loose federal transportation dollars for highways.

MWAQC's goal is to help the region grow in ways that keep its air clean, protect the health of its citizens, and insure federal transportation dollars continue to the region. Mr. Mendelson noted that there are three areas of growth policy that are good for clean air: those which reduce the need for travel, support energy conservation, and technologies that control or eliminated pollution.

MWAQC's governance structure changed at the beginning of 2005 and as such the bylaws were amended to reflect those changes. Amendments include: the creation of a cabinet level Interstate Air Quality Commission, the Technical Advisory Committee chairmanship is now given to a state air official, and the budgetary structure has changed to 1/3 for air agencies, 1/3 for state DOT's, and 1/3 for local governments.

Frederick County Commissioner, John Lovell asked what the overall affect on the environment would be by going back to fossil fuels. Mr. Mendelson answered that there would be a negative affect.

10. PROPOSED FY07 FEDERAL BUDGET AND STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Supplemental Documents: Preliminary Federal Budget Analysis (Electronic)
State Legislative Update (Electronic)

The President's Proposed FY 2007 Budget contains many direct and indirect financial implications for the National Capital Region, for the state and local governments comprising the region, for those governments which are participating jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and for COG, itself. At the request of the Board of Directors, General Counsel Lee Ruck prepared a preliminary analysis of the President's budget, with particular attention to those proposals – both increases and cuts – which have particular relevance to the National Capital Region.

Mr. Ruck stated that the budget proposes a \$350 billion deficit, which does not factor

in the costs of the war in Iraq. There are reductions in domestic spending, both discretionary and mandatory. He highlighted a series of program cuts, including certain energy and environmental programs, health and human services, and Community Development Block Grants. Homeland Security funds going to first responders are being cut, although UASI funding is being increased. The proposed budget would fully fund SAFETEA-LU, and the budget sets aside \$102 million to be available for additional projects. Both the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Extension and the Largo Metrorail Extension are potential competitors for funding under this set aside.

Fairfax County Chairman Gerald Connolly stated that the loss of CDBG funding will have significant impact on the local governments in our region. The drug-free school program has been zeroed out which mean local governments will have to pay the costs or cut the program.

Chair Fisetto suggested that COG staff look into the specific impact the proposed federal budget will have on local governments- working together with the jurisdictions to obtain this information.

There was a brief discussion on the progress of dedicated funding for Metro. The District was the first to proposed legislation and hearings are underway; while there have been setbacks in Virginia, legislation is still alive; and in Maryland hearings have just begun.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2006.

**ATTENDANCE: March 8, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	Y	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	N	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	Y		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	N		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	N
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. Pepper	Y		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Daniel Gardner	N	Ms. Marti Meserve	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N	Mr. Bruce Tulloch	N
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	Y	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Sean Connaughton	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N

	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

Other Participants
George Vradenburg, President Vradenburg Foundation Chair, Potomac Conference
Kathy Whepley, Vice President, Community Foundation
Gordon Aoyagi Homeland Security Director, Montgomery County
David McMillion, Department of Homeland Security and Planning, COG