

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
May 9, 2007**

**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 Vincent Gray called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 11, MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the April 11th meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gray announced that COG's annual Bike to Work Day would be held May 18 and encouraged all to attend.

The Chairman reminded members to mark their calendars for the upcoming Futures Forum on May 30; the event is a one time opportunity to use COG's 50th Anniversary as a catalyst for shaping the direction of the region's future.

COG received some very good news regarding the InterCounty Connector lawsuit. The original decision of the insurance company to deny coverage has been reversed resulting in tremendous savings for the organization.

Last month, the Board approved a regional climate change initiative and the creation of a Climate Change Steering Committee to conduct research, develop policies, and set goals for the region. Members of the committee have been appointed with Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen as its Chair.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson announced that the governing bodies of several COG jurisdictions have adopted ceremonial proclamations in honor of COG's 50th Anniversary; it is expected that many more will do the same.

COG had several media hits in the last month including COG's regional Climate Change Initiative and an extremely successful RESF Hurricane Response Exercise.

Mr. Robertson met with Virginia Delegate Jim Scott on a possible new initiative focused on brain injury services and potential regional coordination.

In addition, the Freddie Mac Foundation sponsored a Wednesday's Child night at the National's game which he attended.

Mr. Robertson also reminded the Board of the upcoming Foster Parent Gala on May 12th and encouraged all to attend.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R37-39 (Electronic)

A. COG Board Resolution on Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

The Board adopted Resolution R37-07 supporting full federal funding of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. COPS was created as a result of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. As a component of the Justice Department, the mission of the COPS Office is to advance community policing in jurisdictions of all sizes across the country. Congress has passed legislation authorizing COPS funding at \$1.04 billion; however, appropriations have been substantially less. At the current level of funding only a number specifically earmarked projects are fully supported while other much needed services are left unfunded.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory for the Fiscal 2008 Operation of the Chain Bridge Monitoring Station

The Board adopted Resolution R38-07, authorizing the Executive Director to execute a three year contract with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) for continuation of the Potomac River water quality monitoring program at Chain Bridge. COG has sponsored this regional monitoring program since 1983. The total cost of the three year contract is \$370,000. Funding for the first year of the contract is included in the FY

2008 Regional Water Fund work program and budget. The remaining two years of the contract will also be funded by the Regional Water Fund, contingent upon availability of funds. No COG local matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit the grant proposal, Entitled “Research Interviews in Support of the Toxic Substances Division (DDOE) Pesticide Regulatory Program” to the District of Columbia, to Execute a Subcontract with George Washington University, and to Receive and Expend Grant Funds.

The Board adopted Resolution R39-07, authorizing the Executive Director to apply for and execute a subcontract with project partner George Washington University, and receive and expend up to \$100,000 in grant funding from the District of Columbia’s Office of Contracting and Procurement for the purpose of researching pests affecting District of Columbia residents, residents’ pesticide usage, and their attitudes and beliefs concerning pests, in order to minimize potential human and environmental health hazards of pesticides. The total estimated cost of the project shall not exceed \$100,000. No COG local matching funds are required.

7. AIR QUALITY PROGRESS

Supplemental Documents

A. New Regional Air Quality Plan Released

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Chairman Nancy Floreen briefed the Board on the region’s air quality planning process, how the region’s air quality is improving, the challenges ahead and the new air quality plan.

The Washington metropolitan region has, in the past, struggled with attaining air quality standards as set by the Environmental Protection Agency. To better enable the region to meet these standards, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was created to prepare air quality plans. These plans have resulted in improved air quality though more needs to be done. MWAQC has drafted a new plan which would bring the region into compliance with the new ozone standard by 2009 and the fine particle standard by 2010. As household expansion and vehicle miles traveled continue to increase the challenge will be keeping mobile emissions down; though it is expected that cleaner engines and cleaner fuels are expected to help.

The new air quality plan, the state implementation plan or “SIP”, contains measures to reduce air pollution at the federal, state, and local levels. Existing control measures would still be in place and several new ones, including the reformulation of paints, sealants and adhesives as well as regulation of emissions from power plants, would be added. Local governments in the region have already committed to this issue by adopting energy efficiency measures such as wind energy and low emission vehicle purchases for government facilities and the use of renewable portfolio standards to encourage the use of alternative energy.

Ms. Floreen noted that the biggest challenge will be getting the word out as to what individual citizens can do to reduce these harmful pollutants.

MWAQC will vote to approve this new plan on May 23. Assuming it is approved, the states would then submit the plan to the EPA by June 15. Staff will begin working on a plan to reduce particle emission which is expected to be released next year.

Fairfax County Supervisor and COG vice Chair Penny Gross asked what, if anything is being done to research and improve air quality of indoor areas. Joan Rohlf, COG's Chief of Air Quality Planning, stated that outside organizations do monitor indoor air quality but that COG has not generally done so; funding for this area is typically minimal.

Maryland Delegate William Bronrott noted that the Maryland General Assembly recently adopted "Clean Cars" legislation and suggested that other jurisdictions look into doing the same.

Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg requested more information on indoor air quality.

B. Clean Air Partners Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Roberta Willis Sims, Vice President of Corporate Relations for Washington Gas Light Company, briefed the Board on her organization's successful partnership with Clean Air Partners over the last decade. Washington Gas was a founding member of the Partnership which was created in 1997 with the common goal of promoting cleaner air, a cleaner environment, and public education of what citizens can do to ensure a cleaner environment.

Washington Gas has served the Washington metropolitan area for 160 years and was first chartered by the United States Congress with illuminating the Capitol. It supports customers in the District of Columbia and the suburbs in Maryland and Northern Virginia.

Clean Air Partners' mission has been, and continues to be, educating the public on the health effects of air pollution and motivating employers and others to take appropriate action on improving air quality. The Partnership has been extremely successful in the last 10 years in achieving its goals. It has introduced the implementation of 'air quality action' days which, once declared, trigger public outreach efforts and encourages employers and others to reduce emissions. It has also developed an 'air quality action guide' which provides information on the air quality ratings; these are often used by meteorologists when reporting the weather. Survey's conducted by the Partnership show that much of the public, roughly 70%, know what a code red day means and that most of those same respondents changed their normal behavior on those days.

The successes of the Partnership are directly linked to the policy objectives established by Washington gas whose focus continues to be on fuel diversity, increasing access to natural gas supplies, lobbying for aid to lower income populations, and utility regulation.

In commemoration of the Partnership's tenth anniversary, both COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Washington Council will recommit to this partnership in a ceremonial Memorandum of Understanding signing on June 5th.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, the Board Unanimously Approved the Signing of a MOU between COG and BMC.

8. PRESENTATION ON GWI KNOWLEDGE WORKER STUDY

Jim Dinegar, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and Tim Priest, Executive Director of the Greater Washington Initiative (GWI) briefed the Board on the findings of the recently released "Human Capital: Greater Washington's Knowledge Workers" study and potential next steps.

The study compared the knowledge workforce of the metropolitan Washington region to the workforce in five competing metropolitan areas, including: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco-San Jose. The sectors of Education and Research; Healthcare; Information Technology; Media, Arts, and Design; and professional services were identified as those areas comprised of 'knowledge workers' and classified employees according to what they do, not where they work.

The basic premise driving the study was that a regional economy that attracts jobs requiring higher levels of education becomes more productive and better positioned for future growth. It found that the metropolitan Washington region has a concentrated knowledge workforce of 1.1 million people, which is expected to grow 16% by 2014. This region has the highest median household income of similar regions at \$74,408 per year compared; regions with a relatively small percentage of knowledge workers have median household incomes of \$49,132.

Per capita, this region has more knowledge workers in IT, education and research, and professional services than the benchmark regions. It also leads the nation in professional services and IT among all metropolitan areas with more than one million people. The region however has a notable weakness in the healthcare industry, though this sector is expected to grow nearly 18% in the next 10 years. This factor is partly being contributed to the cost of living in this area. This study also found that while the region graduates 60,000 students each year, in some professions, there are not enough students graduating to meet demand from the areas employers.

Maryland State Delegate William Bronrott asked what this region can be doing to better compete in the global market as well as make it easier for nurses, teachers, public safety workers to live near where they work. Mr. Dinegar responded that this region already has many of the ingredients in place to attract and retain a very high end workforce. The key he thinks are green policies. In the fall, his organization will be hosting its Potomac Conference and will focus on "green" as a competitive advantage, noting that it will be necessary, in the near future, for this region to adopt environmentally sustainable policies in order to maintain a high level of desirability.

Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross suggested that one of the challenges in this region is better enabling the integration of knowledge workers from other countries into our own economy. Often foreign born workers are unable to obtain the same jobs here that they were trained for back home because of poor language skills and proper American certifications.

Mr. Priest noted that the universities and businesses need to collaborate in addressing the challenge of worker demand; he added that the region still must recruit from outside the area to fulfill the need.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stated that there is a shortage of quality care for the elderly and mentally disabled, specifically those with lower-incomes, and asked if that lack of both facilities and workers are encompassed in the overall healthcare shortage that was

identified. Mr. Priest stated that the shortage of facilities are not included, only the workers noting that the study was very comprehensive at almost 200 pages and that additional information could be provided upon request.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette asked what the role of effective land-use is in ensuring the quality of life goals that are driving the knowledge workforce. Mr. Dinegar replied that it is an issue of balance, one that is being addressed by COG and will be focused on at the Potomac Conference.

Virginia State Delegate Jim Scott stated that he was surprised that the provision of affordable housing was not one of the top five goals for the region moving forward. Mr. Dinegar replied that a key reason for this is that this region is a high-priced region and it is very difficult to turn that around.

Chairman Gray stated that this would be an issue for COG to research further into and that perhaps the report could be distributed to each of the member jurisdictions.

9. PRESENTATION ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Before presenting the findings and recommendations of the obesity report, Montgomery County Council Member and current Chairman of COG's Human Services Policy Committee George Leventhal, presented Chairman Gray an appreciation of service award for his work in chairing that committee last year.

Nationally in the last 15 years, we have moved from no state having more than 15% obese adults to only one state having a population of obese adults under 20%. Through local healthcare expenditures it is obvious that there is a direct link between the physical wellbeing of constituents and the health, economic, and quality of life of our communities. Obesity relation costs nationally have reached \$70 billion dollars, much of which is paid by the taxpayer.

This trend is playing out in the younger populations as well. Since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of obesity has increased dramatically in the U.S., with the number of overweight children and adolescents tripling.

Mr. Leventhal cautioned that this is a very personal issue, specifically when creating policy to combat obesity and that politicians should tread carefully when discussing this issue with constituents and focus mainly on the health of our children; adding that politicians should not make this their individual issue rather a broader community concern.

The HSPC has developed recommendations, transmitted through resolution, for COG member governments and local school boards aimed at combating childhood obesity. The recommendations include the adoption of standards for all food and physical exercise programs provided in schools to conform to national standards. Lunches should meet USDA's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children regulations and physical education should meet the National Association of State Boards of Education recommendations. Mr. Leventhal added that not only should school meals be regulated but all food served in schools, and discourage excessive distribution of snacks and treats often given as rewards for certain behavior. In addition, due to federal regulation in No Child Left Behind, there has been an over emphasis on reading and math leaving little room for physical education curriculum.

The resolution recommends the enhancement of data collection including Body Mass Indexing and the Youth Risk Behavioral Index to better understand this epidemic at the local level.

It also recommends incorporating measures to encourage and enhance exercise, biking, pedestrian options and access to healthy food as part of local land use planning and zoning.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R36-07 was unanimously adopted.

10. FY 2007 3rd QUARTER REPORT

Supplemental Documents: 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg, COG's Secretary Treasurer, stated that there is a cash balance of \$2,598,035; the reserve increased from \$6,926,512 to \$7,228,538; and COG's total revenue of \$20,924,397 exceeded costs by \$891,074.

11. MEMBER TIME

Due to the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech University, Virginia State Delegate James Scott requested that COG review the region's gun laws and the potential for regional cooperation; specifically referring data sharing, deputizing, and differences in state and federal law. Mr. Chairman referred the issue to the Public Safety Policy Committee for further review and recommendations.

Executive Director David Robertson noted that the PSPC will be taking this issue up at its next meeting and that COG has taken firm positions on gun control in the past and this information will be included in the PSPC discussions.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007.

**ATTENDANCE: MAY 9, 2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2007**

<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	Y		
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
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. Robin Gardner	N	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants

Jim Dinegar, President/CEO Greater Washington Board of Trade
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Tim Priest, Executive Director Greater Washington Initiative

Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council

Roberta Willis Sims, Washington Gas
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George Leventhal, Montgomery County Council
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