

**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 13, 2010

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 Gross called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12 MINUTES

The minutes of the November 12 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gross recognized the following outgoing and incoming Board members:

Arlington County: Jay Fiset (outgoing)
Walter Tejada (incoming)

City of College Park: Robert Catlin (outgoing)
Andrew Fellows (incoming)

City of Frederick: Alan Imhoff (outgoing)

City of Rockville: Susan Hoffman (outgoing)
John Britton (incoming)

She also recognized the following outgoing policy committee chairs and thanked them for their service: Metropolitan Development Policy Committee – Alderman Alan Imhoff, City of Frederick; Human Services Policy Committee - Councilmember Ingrid Turner, Prince George's County; National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council: Councilmember Michael Knapp, Montgomery County.

Chairman Gross stated that this month marks the 20th Anniversary of COG moving into this building at 777 North Capitol Street NE. The regional effort, led by the District of Columbia, to allow COG and its building partners, ICMA and ICMA-RC, to develop, construct and own their headquarters building has provided COG with financial security that is even more important in this very difficult economic period.

After the Board meeting, there will be a celebration of this date and will included several current and former District of Columbia officials that were instrumental in this effort as well as COG's former Executive Director Walter Scheiber and other COG building partners and supporters.

Chairman Gross also took a minute to thank her colleagues on the Board for their support and leadership during her year as Chair, she also acknowledged the COG staff for their hard work.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson stated that he and staff have continued to reach out to stakeholders of the Greater Washington 2050 Initiative; he has also participated in television interviews on NBC 4 and New Channel 8 with Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board Chairman and Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Chairman.

COG received media attention last month on a demonstration of two wheelchair accessible cabs. The District of Columbia's accessible cabs will be fully operable in March.

Mr. Robertson announced that in an effort to expand COG's reach, COG is now on Facebook; staff is reviewing additional social networking opportunities.

Save the dates were sent out for COG's upcoming state outreach events in Maryland and Virginia. COG will be hosting a breakfast in Richmond for the Northern Virginia delegation on January 21. On January 28, COG will be hosting a luncheon for Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's County delegation members in Annapolis.

In November, the Board received a presentation on FEMA changes to limit the uses of UASI sustainment funding which would make it more difficult for the NCR to build the capabilities needed to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and natural disasters. That change has since been rescinded due to overwhelming opposition.

Mr. Robertson announced that COG will be hosting an Aviation Forum on January 19 to explore the economic impacts of aviation in the National Capital Region.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R1-10 through R6-10.

A. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for Funding from EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Equipment Operating in the Metropolitan Washington Region

The Board adopted Resolution R1-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$2,877,298 in grant funding from EPA Region III to provide diesel emissions technology to reduce emissions from diesel fleets in the metropolitan Washington region. The total cost of the services shall not exceed \$2,877,298. No COG matching funds will be required.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) for the "Upper Sligo Creek: Flora Lane Tributary-American Eel Restoration and Outreach" Project

The Board adopted R2-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a proposal and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 to the CBT for assisting the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in modifying an existing fish barrier, enhancing in-stream habitat for American eel and native resident fish species, and performing riparian reforestation and outreach-related work. The project duration will be 18 months from the receipt of funding. A \$30,000 COG match is required. The COG match will be provided through FY2010 and FY2011 Urban Nonpoint Source Program funds.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Grant Agreement with the District Department of the Environment for Foundry Branch TMDL Baseline Monitoring and Modeling-Related Services

The Board adopted Resolution R3-10, authorizing the Executive Director to execute a grant agreement with the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) in an amount not to exceed \$144,300 for Foundry Branch TMDL baseline monitoring, GIS mapping and modeling-related technical services. The project duration is two years. No COG matching funds will be required.

D. Resolution In Support Of A Contract To Undertake A Regional Housing Counseling Survey And Assist With The Establishment Of A Regional Housing Counseling Network

The Board adopted Resolution R4-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a contract with the Urban Institute to undertake a regional survey of foreclosure-related activities of housing counseling organizations and to assist COG staff with the establishment of a regional housing counseling network, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Contract services are fully funded in FY2010 work program and budget. No COG matching funds will be required.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Subgrant for Additional Tasks to Be Added to the Police Chiefs' Contract for Subject Matter Expertise and Professional and Technical Support

The Board adopted Resolution R5-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend UASI funds received from the State Administrative Agent, and amend the contract which

provides subject matter expertise and technical support to the COG Police Chiefs Committee, and their UASI projects. No COG matching funds will be required.

F. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Subgrant to Pay For the Ongoing Maintenance Contract and Recurring Service Fees for the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS).

The Board adopted Resolution R6-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend UASI funds received from the State Administrative Agent, to pay the ongoing maintenance contract and recurring service fees for the RPDSS. The State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region will provide COG with \$93,500 in FY09 Urban Area Security Initiative funding which is good through 2012. No COG matching funds will be required.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolutions R1-10 through R6-10 were Unanimously Approved and Adopted.

7. APPROVAL OF FY 2011 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Supplemental Documents: FY 2011 Work Program and Budget

Mr. Robertson summarized the proposed FY 2011 Work Program and Budget and management actions to ensure that COG carefully monitors and responds to likely further changes in its budget throughout the balance of FY 2010 and in FY 2011.

The Budget and Finance Committee met in the fall to develop a work program and budget that was attentive to the needs of COG's local governments during this uncertain economic climate. The proposed budget would, for the first time, decrease in FY 2011, but would still keep COG in a good position to help its members meet key challenges and take advantage of promising opportunities.

Additionally, management has recommended, and the COG Budget and Finance Committee has agreed, to freeze COG membership assessments for FY 2011 in response to the extraordinary fiscal challenges facing COG's member governments. This is the second year that COG will freeze assessments. Traditionally membership assessments make-up 12 percent of COG's proposed FY 2011 Work Program and Budget, which will decreased by \$1.5 million to \$25.9 million for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2010. The 5.5 percent decrease from FY 2010 reflects decreases in all program areas.

Renewed funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program will enable COG to continue its emergency preparedness planning in FY 2011. The UASI grant supports professional and technical work in several work program areas, with project oversight and management by staff funded in public safety and health and technical support in the Department of Environmental Programs.

Mr. Robertson stated that he will keep the Board apprised of COG's financial health on a quarterly basis or more as appropriate.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R7-10 was unanimously approved and adopted.

8. ADOPTION OF WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS TASKFORCE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R8-10

Closing the Gaps to Build the Future

During its February 2009 meeting, the Board approved its 2009 Policy Focus and Priorities, including a focus on regional workforce preparation. The Board subsequently commissioned the Workforce

Competitiveness Task Force to review the current state of the region's workforce development system and provide recommendations for enhanced coordination and integration of stakeholders.

The 20-member Task Force was comprised of local and state government officials and regional organizations involved in economic development, K-12 education, public and private post-secondary educational institutions, and workforce investment and training.

Over nine months, the Task Force held meetings with local and national workforce experts to develop a greater comprehension of these issues, and to identify successful strategies for increased integration. *Closing the Gaps to Build the Future* summarizes the Task Force's findings and identifies opportunities for the NCR. This report marks the first time that the NCR has addressed workforce development at the regional level. City of Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, Chairman of the Taskforce, provided an overview of the initiative and what it means for the region. Nicole Hange, COG's Policy Coordinator, highlighted the report's key findings and next steps.

The report examines the continuum of education and workforce preparation, from preschool to retirement and identifies opportunities for enhanced collaboration. It stresses that economic development strategies must work together with measures that enhance workforce capacity and it advocates for an integrated, regional approach to workforce development. It also provides examples of best practices with promising opportunity for replication in the NCR.

Closing the Gaps to Build the Future is the first step in engaging workforce leaders across sectors in a long overdue discussion on better preparing, retaining, and retraining the region's workforce. It calls on regional leaders to take the report and use it as a springboard for further dialogue and information sharing and to come up with ways to better integrate often different but inherently interrelated goals and needs.

The report identifies short and long-term opportunities for COG to assist the taskforce and the larger workforce community in continuing the dialogue and turning learning into action. It hinges on COG's commitment to be a partner in this effort and integrate aspects of the report into the Board's 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities.

The most immediate of the proposed next steps will be convening a large forum of employer, education, workforce development and economic development stakeholders. This setting would provide key stakeholder groups the opportunity to delve into the issues and ideas raised in the report and to identify areas where there is interest and energy to pursue regional action. Staff is recommending, keeping up the momentum, that the event be held in early Spring.

Several members stressed the importance and timeliness of this report and presented ideas for inclusion as regional leaders delve deeper into the issues including: the veteran population, non-English speakers, and emerging industries.

District of Columbia Council Member Kwame Brown, and COG's 2010 Board Chairman, reinforced the need for COG to keep jobs and the economy at the forefront of its work and stated that these issues will be hardwired into the COG's 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R8-10

9. ADOPTION OF GREATER WASHINGTON 2050: *REGION FORWARD* ©

Supplemental documents: Region Forward

The COG Board of Directors launched the Greater Washington 2050 initiative in early 2008. This effort has been led by a Coalition of more than 30 public, business, civic and environmental stakeholders, and

championed a regional scenario workshop and public survey, in addition to the draft *Region Forward* plan. *Region Forward* proposes regional goals, targets and a voluntary compact agreement to guide future planning in the National Capital Region. Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, who chaired the Coalition over the past two years, provided an overview of the initiative. David Robertson highlighted the key elements of *Region Forward* and discussed the next steps for COG and local governments.

GW 2050's *Region Forward*, builds on a wide range of exercises, regional planning studies, and public input. The Greater Washington 2050 initiative began with discussions following the "Reality Check on Growth" event of February 2005 and COG's 50th Anniversary in 2007. A consensus emerged that the region's leaders didn't want another "vision" exercise so much as an action-oriented plan to guide future growth, building upon the legacy of existing research, plans and accomplishments.

Region Forward creates a framework to address our existing and future regional challenges. This framework involves clear action-oriented goals, a mechanism to measure regional progress, and a Compact agreement that respects jurisdictional autonomy while incentivizing action. The voluntary Greater Washington 2050 Compact of *Region Forward* establishes a common vision for the National Capital Region; the goals that define that vision, and the *Region Forward* report provides the regional benchmarks we can use to better communicate progress.

Ms. Bulova stated that implementing *Region Forward* will require new and improved approaches to coordinating land-use, transportation, and environmental at the regional level so that resources are used wisely and make our region more competitive in the 21st century.

Following Board consideration and action today, COG will forward copies of *Region Forward* to all local governments in the region for their endorsement by March of this year, and COG will seek endorsement by non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Robertson stressed that the proposed regional compact is voluntary and endorsement would not trump individual land use plans within jurisdictions, rather it would allow them to work through COG and track progress. The goals in the report are not meant to compare one jurisdiction against the other, rather they are regional goals.

Several Board members, including those representing Prince George's County, the City of Fairfax and Prince William County, raised concern over the activity centers maps included in the report indicating that the sole basis of using employment criteria is somewhat limiting and needs to be revised using newer and broader planning principles. An additional concern was raised that the regional activity centers do not always match jurisdiction's comprehensive plans.

Ms. Bulova noted that an endorsement of the report and compact would not be an endorsement of the previously adopted activity centers maps as currently depicted. The regional activity centers will continue to be an ever changing and evolving planning activity for our region in the future. The *Region Forward* report provides a basis for examining new criteria as a basis for revised regional activity centers and the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee is anticipating revising the regional activity centers in its work plan for late 2010 and early 2011 using Round 8 Cooperative forecasts and updated planning principles that look beyond just employment.

Arlington County Board Member Walter Tejada questioned how this work will be funded. Mr. Robertson stated that it is included in COG's 2011 Work Program and Budget. City of Rockville Council Member John Britton suggested that COG work to leverage federal funding to support additional efforts.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond stated that while a laudable effort, the initiative does not take into account that we are an auto-dependent society and policies must reflect such.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R9-10 was approved and adopted. Abstention: Harrison and Moultrie.

10. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Supplemental documents: Resolution R10-10.

The following members were nominated to serve as officers of the COG Board of Directors for 2010: Chairman Kwame Brown, District of Columbia; Vice Chairman Andrea Harrison, Prince George's County; and Vice Chairman Frank Principi, Prince William County.

Upon approval, Ms. Gross official handed the Chairman's gavel over to Chairman Brown, whose energy she stated would serve this organization well and with whom she looked forward to working in the future.

ACTION: 2010 Board Officer Nominations were approved and Resolution R10-10 was unanimously adopted.

11. RECOGNITION OF IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

Chairman Brown thanked the immediate past Chairman for her leadership in 2009. Her enthusiasm and positive energy helped COG move a number of important issues forward, including both the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition and the Workforce Competitiveness Taskforce.

He added that in 2009 under Chairman Gross' leadership, COG continued to make progress on climate and energy issues and created a new policy committee to make sure we meet our regional goals; the Chesapeake Bay, one of Ms. Gross' top priorities over the years, received renewed attention in 2009 as well. Chairman Brown stated that during his year as Chairman, COG will build on this work and keep the momentum going.

On behalf of the COG Board, Chairman Brown thanked Ms. Gross for her service as COG Board Chairman and presented her with a token of appreciation.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

**ATTENDANCE: JANUARY 13, 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. Neil Albert	N		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y	Hon. Michael Brown	Y
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	N
College Park	Hon. Andrew Fellows	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. Randall McClement	N		
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	Y
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Ralph Moultrie	Y
Council	Hon. Marilyn Bland	N	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	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 Eulle	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fisette	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. Hal Lippman	Y	Hon. Dan Maller	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	N	Hon. Jonathan Way	N
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

Other Participants
Cody Smith, Greenhorne & O'Mara
Dana Minerva, Anacostia Restoration Partnership

