

**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 13, 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**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 JANUARY 9 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the January 9 meeting. There were two abstentions.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Penny Gross requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Montgomery County Councilmember Marilyn Praisner who passed away last week.

Chairman Knapp introduced District of Columbia Councilmember Kwame Brown who has been appointed from the District to participate on the COG Board and will serve as one of its Vice Chairs.

Last month the Board directed staff to revise the draft 2008 COG Board Policy Focus and distribute the final version at the February meeting. The final version was included in the Board's materials.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG's Executive Director David Robertson stated that he has met with several of the newly appointed members to the COG Board and its policy committees as well as the chairs of the respective committees.

COG received much media attention stemming from the teen driving report released earlier this year. In addition, staff held two successful legislative outreach events in Richmond and Annapolis to broaden the delegation's awareness of COG and what it does in research and analysis of a number of areas being considered by the two legislatures. We specifically used the teen driving piece as a recent example of potential areas of common interest.

Greater Washington 2050 will hold its kick-off meeting at COG on February 21; one primary objective will be to fast track regional goals addressed in the proposed Compact into tangible outcomes and measurable actions.

Staff is working with WMATA to develop a workshop in April on traffic safety; more information to follow.

COG recently received a request from Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisette that COG staff work to convene a meeting of public officials from the inner jurisdictions to discuss bike sharing.

On several administrative matters, COG staff has prepared and distributed a Board Member orientation notebook that includes pertinent information such as the work program and budget, a roster of Board members, and list of key staff. Staff will also be amending the way in which Board materials are distributed; packets will no longer be handed out the day of the meeting, materials will only be mailed in advance. Board members are asked to bring the mailed material with them to the meeting.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Appointment of 2008 Policy Committee Vice Chairs and Additional EPC Members

The Board adopted R9-08 adopting Chairman Knapp's recommended appointments of the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2008: Human Services Policy Committee, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, and Public Safety Policy Committee. He also recommended additional members to serve on the Emergency

Preparedness Council. Vice Chairs for the Aviation and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committees are chosen through a separate appointment process.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with a Contractor in Conjunction with the Work of Heart Respite Program

The Board adopted Resolution R10-08, authorizing the Executive Director to contract with a consultant in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 to provide support for the "Work of Heart" respite program. Since March 2004, COG has developed and implemented a respite program for the District of Columbia's foster children providing overnight and weekend placements and other valuable services.

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 R11-08 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$179,877 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 \$179,877. No COG matching funds will be required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a 'Grant Agreement' with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Administration for the Purposes of Conducting Forestry Restoration and Education

The Board adopted R12-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a grant agreement with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Administration in the amount of \$45,000 for the purposes of developing reforestation projects and hosting urban forest education forums at COG for District of Columbia and Fairfax County citizens. The project duration will be 19 months from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds are required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R9-08 through R12-08 were unanimously adopted.

7. RECOGNITION OF PAST 2007 CHAIRMAN GRAY

Chairman Knapp commended District of Columbia Council Chairman Vincent Gray for his service and leadership as 2007 COG Board Chairman; and presented him with an engraved gavel in recognition of his work.

8. COG LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Supplemental Documents: METREX Conference Preliminary Agenda

Several members of the COG Board have taken on leadership roles with initiatives that are very important to this Board including the Institute for Regional Excellence, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC,) and the international METREX conference.

City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams briefed the Board on the recent graduation of the Institute for Regional Excellence and the continued success and value of the program.

Applications for the upcoming class are being accepted through May 15th; selected applicants will be notified in July.

Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chairman Penelope Gross highlighted the work of the NARC Board, on which she serves. She stated that the organization is working to strengthen its policy in the areas of climate change and energy, both topics of particular interest to the Board. Ms. Gross also stressed the importance of strengthening COG's relationships with sister regional organizations in an effort to ensure that the region is speaking with one voice.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly briefly spoke about METREX, the network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, what this region can learn from it and the upcoming US conference. COG and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission are two of the sponsors of METREX's first conference in the U.S. which is to be held April 9-12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Alexandria. This is really the first opportunity for COG to partner with similar regions in Europe which are facing many of the same challenges experienced here. Participation is by invitation only and staff will be working to ensure maximum participation by COG's leadership.

City of Alexandria Vice Mayor Redella Pepper suggested a tour of TC Williams High School, its first 'green' school.

Mr. Connolly stated that Wolf Trap Foundation will be launching its own greening initiative and would welcome the opportunity to participate in the conference.

9. HOUSING POLCY FOCUS – EFFECTIVE STATE AND LOCAL STRATEGIES

In January the COG Board identified housing as one of its key priorities for 2008 and committed itself to further explore the issues of housing affordability. In this first presentation, Conrad Egan, CEO of the National Housing Conference briefed the Board on its recent workshop on regional housing solutions. The event highlighted the challenges surrounding the issue of affordable housing and culminated with the launch of www.housingpolicy.org, an online guide to state and local housing policy. The site provides local officials, and other stakeholders, with the most current data available on housing best practices from across the country. Staff from the NHC gave a tutorial on the website demonstrating the ease with which information can be found, as well as the breath of the information available. The website is open to the general public and does not require a sign up.

Vice Chairman Gross suggested the posting of a link to the housing policy website on COG's website.

Chairman Knapp asked how best practices were compiled being that this is such a new endeavor. The information provided on the website is drawn from HUD's best practice publications, Harvard's Joint Center on Housing Studies, and awards from the National Council of State Housing Agencies.

Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada asked if the website highlights specific success stories. There is a link on the site called "Solutions and Actions" which identifies communities that have experienced positive results from their housing policy; links to the original legislation that made the policy possible are also provided.

Mr. Robertson highlighted four aspects of the housing affordability issue that COG will be focusing on in the coming year: production and preservation targets; special needs housing; media strategy to keep these issues at the forefront; and foreclosures. Work is underway in each of these areas including conversations to partner with several organizations, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to help fund these initiatives. Freddie Mac has agreed to fund a summit which would look at the federal steps necessary to provide intervention as well as the role of financial institutions and local government and community based organizations. The summit is planned to be held in the spring.

Mr. Connolly requested cumulative data on the foreclosures in the region to better understand the depth of the issue.

10. ENDORSEMENT OF COOL CAPITAL CHALLENGE

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R6-08 (electronic)

The Climate Change Steering Committee has asked this Board to endorse the "Cool Capital Challenge" initiative and to urge its member governments, and COG as a corporate entity, to participate. Montgomery County Council Member and Chair of the Climate Change Steering Committee Nancy Floreen briefed the Board on the program and why it would benefit the region.

The Cool Capital Challenge is a grassroots campaign that unites individuals, schools, congregations, businesses, governments and other institutions to reduce the Capital Region's annual carbon dioxide emissions, with a goal of obtaining commitments for reducing one billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions by April 2008.

COG's Climate Change Steering Committee has reviewed the initiative and believes that participation in it offers a unique opportunity to reach out to the general public and private sector and coordinate with existing regional climate change activities. It also concluded that endorsing the challenge provided a very good way of raising awareness of how individuals, business, non-profits and others can take action. Several COG-member jurisdictions have already joined or are considering joining the Challenge. Participants are asked to pledge their reductions by April, 2008.

Ms. Floreen requested that the Board approve Resolution R6-08 endorsing the Cool Capital Challenge goal and directing staff to track progress in implementing the Challenge.

Vice Chairman Gross noted that we must develop policies for the disposal of CFL bulbs if we are going to recommend their usage. The recycling committee at COG, as well as the solid waste committee, is both working to address this issue.

Alexandria City Vice Mayor Redella Pepper requested that staff develop a resolution for local governments to adopt.

Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada asked if ethnic media outlets would be included in this outreach effort. Mr. Robertson responded they would be.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly suggested that when developing recommendations staff look to best practices from across the country, specifically suggesting work done in the state of Maine.

City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams cautioned that CFL bulbs not be branded as the only recommendation as there are cleaner, more disposal friendly alternatives.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, R6-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.

11. BOARD APPROVAL OF REGIONAL MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supplemental Documents: Legislative Report (electronic)
Resolutions R7-08A through R7-08H

At its meeting in January, the Board requested staff to track legislation before the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies which directly relate to its adopted 2008 Policy Focus and Priorities.

Mr. Robertson first briefed the Board on the recently held legislative outreach events in Richmond and Annapolis; efforts to build and strengthen COG's relationship with state legislators. The Richmond event "piggy-backed" on an existing standing meeting of the Northern Virginia Delegation while the Annapolis event was more of a meet and greet luncheon; both were widely viewed as a success.

COG General Counsel Lee Ruck then provided an overview of the prepared legislative report which focused on the topics of affordable housing, climate change and energy, green building and the Chesapeake Bay. For the first time, staff has prepared a series of resolutions supporting specific bills pending before the respective general assemblies, categorized by subject and by state.

The Board has identified the issue of affordable housing as a priority focus for 2008. Substantial legislation has been introduced in both states which could have significant impact on housing affordability in this region. Resolutions R7-08A and R7-08B endorse efforts in Maryland and Virginia to increase their stock of workforce and affordable housing.

Vice Chairman Gross expressed concern over consideration SB 768, recently passed by the Virginia Senate, which would amend Virginia's zoning proffer system to preclude monetary contributions to assist in underwriting offsite needs. The bill would reduce local government's capacity to provide or require affordable housing as part of the planning/zoning process.

Mr. Connolly suggested an amendment to the Virginia version R7-08B which would add a new number 4. to the "Now Therefore Be It Resolved" section to express concern and opposition to SB 786.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made and Seconded R7-08A and R7-08B were unanimously approved and adopted with amendment.

The Board has addressed issues of climate change and energy, most recently creating a Climate Change Steering Committee to inventory greenhouse gas production in the region, review local and regional reductions efforts to date, and propose a regional climate change policy and potential advocacy positions. The recommendations will not be made until June; therefore staff has not made specific policy recommendations. It has however, identified several bills in both Assemblies which support COG's stated position on the need for environmentally sound, efficient, and affordable energy. Resolutions R7-08C and R7-08D endorse such efforts including the strengthening of renewable portfolio standards in Maryland and the proposed Commission on Energy and Climate Change in Virginia.

Montgomery County Board Member Roger Berliner requested that all energy efficiency bills listed in the legislative report, but not mentioned specifically in the Maryland resolution R7-08c be included.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolutions R7-08C and R7-08D were unanimously approved and adopted with amendment.

COG has long been involved in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and has urged financial commitments and the local, state, and federal levels to meet clean-up goals and targets. Resolutions R7-08E endorses legislation which would allow distribution from the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund on a Competitive Basis. R7-08F endorses the concept addressing agricultural pollution in the Virginia General Assembly but calls for maintenance of a dedicated revenue source to insure its adequate funding.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolutions R7-08E and R7-08F were unanimously approved and adopted.

The Board recently endorsed the Intergovernmental Green Building Report which provided a series of recommendations on regional green building standards for new public and private commercial development. Several bills have been introduced in both Assemblies which support the Board's adopted position. Resolutions R7-08G and R7-08H endorse legislation which calls for the development of Green Building standards and a cost benefit analysis in Maryland and the requirement of Green Building standards in Virginia for all public buildings.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis requested that COG staff also research HB 373 which would provide funding for transit oriented development and develop a resolution in support of the legislation if it is consistent with existing COG policy.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolutions R7-08G and R7-08H were unanimously approved and adopted.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R8-08

A. FY2008 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Mayor of the City of Greenbelt and COG's Secretary Treasurer J Davis stated that there is a cash balance of \$2.69 million; the reserve increased from \$7.750 million to \$7.878 million; and COG's total revenue of \$15.610 million exceeded costs by \$3.24 million.

B. APPROVAL OF FY2008 BUDGET REALLOCATION

The FY 2008 Work Program and Budget allocated a projected \$650,000 to the contingency reserve, which exists to allow the Board to invest in high priority program activities put in place after the budget is approved. The Executive Director has recommended that \$150,000 from the contingency reserve be reallocated to the Greater Washington 2050 program. Staff was advised that this is a one time allocation and additional needs must come from other resources.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolution R9-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.

13. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

**ATTENDANCE: FEBRUARY 13, 2008
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<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	Y		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	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	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Vacant			
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	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y		
	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		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	N	Hon. Walter Tejada	Y
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y	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	N	Hon. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N		
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		

Other Participants
Conrad Egan, CEO National Housing Conference
Council Member Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County