

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

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room  
June 14, 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**

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**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 MAY 10, 2006 MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the May 10, 2006 meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

A briefing by the Washington Area Housing Partnership was added onto the agenda after the original agenda was distributed.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The first annual Local-State Partnership Dinner was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. It was a good opportunity to network with colleagues at the state level and build a solid foundation for teamwork in the coming year.

Several Board members joined COG and the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee for a Water Quality Tour of Loudoun County. The tour was a unique opportunity to witness first hand the types of pollution control measures that are in place, and how they work.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Homeless Enumeration Report has been completed by COG's Homeless Services and Coordination Committee, and is based on a one-day account of the region's homeless population. This study is a valuable resource for member jurisdictions in determining the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

The Board's packet included an overview of a proposed COG green building initiative which would build upon work already underway and may include additional analysis and recommendations by local governments.

Chair Fisetto reminded the Board the annual retreat would be held on July 28-30 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, in Cambridge, Maryland.

## **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director David Robertson thanked Chair Fisetto for his attendance and participation in COG's annual Staff Appreciation Awards ceremony.

Mr. Robertson met with staff of the Greater Washington Initiative regarding a proposed joint project which would allow the region to strengthen its ties with the major marketing networks; a more in-depth discussion will be had at the Board's annual retreat.

As a part of COG's continued effort to deliver its message out to member local governments, two presentations were given to the Prince George's County Council and Prince William County Board regarding issues of high priority to the organization.

Several events and reports have received much media attention in the past month including Bike to Work day, the Annual Foster Parent Gala and Hybrid Car Plug-Ins. In addition, COG hosted a very successful Methamphetamine Forum and the outcomes/recommendations from that event and the report from the Human Services Policy Committee will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

The Government Accountability Office has just released a report on Metro dedicated funding; COG staff will make sure member jurisdictions receive both an executive summary and a copy of the full report.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Resolution Authorizing COG to Host Critical Homeland Security-Related Equipment on Behalf of the Region**

The Board adopted Resolution R29-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to execute the approved proposal to provide hosting services for the National Capital Region Interoperability Program (NCRIP). The State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region will provide COG with \$75,000 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to execute the proposal to provide the needed hosting services. No COG matching funds are required.

## **B. Approval of Contract to Purchase New Information Technology Systems**

The Board adopted Resolution R30-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to execute a contract with Dell, Inc., to purchase software and hardware for a storage area network (SAN), in an amount not to exceed \$95,000. The budget for this purchase is included in the approved FY 2006 budget under the capital expenditures and contingency line item. As a capital expenditure, this purchase will be amortized for three years and the annual cost will be recovered through COG's indirect cost allocation plan.

## **C. Resolution in Support of a Grant to Expand the Higher Education Scholarship Program**

The Board adopted Resolution R31-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to seek grant funding to expand opportunities for tuition-free college level education and training for child care providers who wish to obtain an advanced degree in early childhood education. COG has been administering the Higher Education Scholarship Program (HESP) for ten years which grants scholarships to family child care providers and center-based child care staff. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and used at area colleges and universities. A grant proposal will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor to expand the number of HESP scholarships provided. Grant funds not to exceed \$325,000 over two years will be requested. No COG matching funds are required.

## **7. REGIONAL PAWN DATABASE UPDATE REPORT**

In 2005, COG assisted law enforcement officials as they implemented a Regional Pawn Sharing Database System, a two-year pilot project, to help recover stolen property and solve crimes in the region. The electronic database, funded through a federal grant secured by Congressman James P. Moran (D-VA), connects law enforcement officers to items sold in pawn shops in jurisdictions other than their own. Since its introduction, the system has solved more than 450 cases of theft and assisted in the recovery of \$450,000 worth of stolen property in COG member jurisdictions.

The regional system is one of the nation's first and has been so successful that it caught the attention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) who selected the database for an "Innovation in Information Technology" award. Given its success, COG expects the pawn data system to serve as a model for a broader, long-term effort for COG jurisdictions to participate in data sharing across the board.

Chief Mary Anne Viverette, Chief of Police for the City of Gaithersburg and President of the IACP, presented the award to COG and thanked Congressman Moran and COG for the tremendous work in this area. After remarks by the Congressman a photo session was held with him and members of the IACP and Chair Fisette.

Several Board members commended the accomplishments of the database and the role Congressman Moran played in securing funding for the initiative. City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stated that a pawn shop might be opened on the city's border and asked how she can ensure it makes use of the system. Congressman Moran responded that participation in the system is voluntary, but local police departments can encourage the establishments to use it highlighting the tremendous benefits of doing so.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R26-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **8. RESOLUTION ON WASHINGTON AREA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (WAHP) FUNDING SUPPORT**

The COG Washington Area Housing Partnership (WAHP) recently amended its membership structure to foster greater public sector participation, while continuing to solicit private sector funding for the Partnership's aggressive work programs on affordable and workforce housing. The Partnership released an Affordable Housing Toolkit earlier this year and has begun, or scheduled, workshops in many of the jurisdictions to aid in incorporating the recommendations.

Barbara Favola, Arlington County Board Member and Chair of the WAHP, asked that the Board approve Resolution R32-06 which would add voluntary contributions as a line item to the funding requests that are sent to localities.

Fairfax County Board Chair Gerald Connolly stated that there are two impediments to getting new businesses into the region: transportation and affordable housing. He stated that we must look at affordable housing at the regional level and work to devise strategies that fight the problem as well as preserve existing affordable housing.

Dr. Jacqueline Brown, Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, asked if the Partnership planned to hold a workshop in Prince George's to which Ms. Favola responded that they will present to all COG jurisdictions as well as those unincorporated localities that would like the report.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters stated that while the WAHP has been tremendously helpful in the area of affordable housing, she is concerned that jurisdictions are increasingly being asked to give additional money to fund projects when COG continues to operate with a surplus. She added that if a jurisdiction declines to give additional funding to certain projects, that does not mean it disagrees with the concept; rather there are other areas that require those dollars.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R32-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **9. REVIEW OF 2006 DRAFT ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN**

Earlier this year, the Board charged the Energy Advisory Committee with developing a strategic plan for energy. The plan has been completed and expands upon existing goals to outline a more complete vision and mission for energy sources and demands, as well as its environmental impacts and the possibility of what could occur if there is a disruption to energy resources.

James Gorby, Chair of the Chief Administrative Officer's Energy Advisory Committee, stated that the draft plan provides a more complete vision for energy efficiency and conservation by strengthening data collection, promoting diversification, raising awareness of energy users, and developing policies and adopting practices which increase the energy efficiency of vehicles, appliance, and buildings. Policy and planning efforts could be enhanced by adopting a framework for regional energy data collection by setting regional targets for the reduction in energy consumption and a greater variety of energy sources. In order to be successful, state and local energy education programs need to be coordinated to ensure a single regional message and there must be consistent monitoring and updating of energy policy, planning and best practices.

Mr. Gorby asked that the Board approve transmittal of the Draft Energy Strategic Plan to the local governments and other stakeholders for a 60-day comment period prior to COG Board action in September 2006.

Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen requested that the 60-day comment period be expanded to 90 days to allow adequate attention by those running for reelection.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, R27-06 was unanimously approved and adopted as amended.**

## **10. ACTION TO ESTABLISH ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

The Anacostia River is one of the most polluted waterways in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. In 2005 local officials and key stakeholders held a retreat to address ways to accelerate restoration progress and increase effectiveness of these bodies. That retreat and subsequent discussions reinforced the need for a Comprehensive Restoration Plan adopted by an executive level Anacostia Watershed Restoration Leadership Council. At the Board's February meeting, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams requested that the matter be referred to the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee for its recommendation. Mayor Williams spoke today on behalf of the initiative and John Lovell, Frederick County Commissioner and Chair of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, briefed the Board on the recommendations of the Committee.

Mayor Williams stated that this is a major revitalization initiative; one which will serve as a symbol of the resurgence and unification of the District of Columbia and that he hoped the Board would support the recommendations of the Committee which endorsed the creation of a Leadership Council.

Mr. Lovell gave a brief background of past Anacostia restoration efforts. He stated that while there have been many substantial accomplishments they generally reflect initiatives by individual jurisdictions and that an accelerated and watershed-wide restoration will require a more integrated approach, including a comprehensive restoration plan and a more formal governance framework.

At the retreat last year, agency staff and other stakeholders involved in restoration looked back over 20 years of restoration work and took satisfaction in much of the progress. However, they concluded that fulfillment of the watershed's restoration potential will require a new approach. The 2001 Agreement spelled out a vision for the watershed, but that vision is proving elusive. At the heart of a new approach is the preparation of a Comprehensive Restoration Plan coupled with a new entity to provide executive leadership.

Ted Graham, COG's Water Resources Program Director, reviewed the proposed governance structure noting that its key elements are a Comprehensive Plan and a Leadership Council who will assume ownership of the plan and provide unity in seeking restoration funding. Since 1987, regional coordination has been the responsibility of the Restoration Committee, made up of technical staff representatives from nine local, state & federal agencies. The essence of the proposal is to augment this with an executive level Leadership Council supported by a larger policy-level Steering Committee.

The Leadership Council's core membership would include the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the County Executives in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, the Governor of Maryland, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers;

additional members can be selected as the Council deems appropriate. The Council's responsibilities would include the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan, essentially providing oversight and accountability, and approval of a budget. It would meet annually and would be supported by a Steering Committee that would meet 3-4 times annually.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R28-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **11. HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATES**

### **A. Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)**

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council and the Chief Administrative Officers Committee have worked hard to improve the area's emergency preparedness. In September of 2005, the Board requested an examination of local preparedness in response to the events surrounding Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Recently, COG and local governments participated in a preparedness assessment through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The assessment serves as a blueprint in better determining how best to strengthen the homeland security plans currently in place. Tony Griffin, Fairfax County Executive and Chair of COG's Chief Administrative Officers, briefed the Board on the EMAP's process and the outcomes.

Mr. Griffin stated that the National Capital Region approached EMAP because it is believed that it is the best prepared to give us an idea of how well the region is prepared as well as how well individual jurisdictions are prepared.

Findings from the report will assist local programs in identifying areas of need and strategic priorities for strengthening emergency management capabilities. It will also allow the region to identify gaps with existing strategies, plans and procedures as well as identify new opportunities for the NCR to strengthen local capabilities, leverage resources, and identify regional challenges.

EMAP identified several strengths and weaknesses for the National Capital Region. The NCR has become increasingly more effective and efficient in terms of communication and understanding who is in charge during various incidents, local emergency operations plans and mutual aid agreements have been established and implemented, and there is a comprehensive Exercise and Training program in place.

The following were noted as areas in need of improvement: hazard identification, impact analysis and mitigation; mitigation, recovery, and COOP planning has not been consistently addressed throughout the region; authorities and responsibilities at the regional level are not well defined.

The identified gaps will be addressed but will need full funding of many programs to adequately do so. The region's Emergency Managers have made the recommendation to the CAO's that the following programs be fully funded to meet those needs: Emergency Planning Exercise and Training Programs, grant positions as emergency planners, planning for all hazards approach, and all ETOP exercises. The challenge, in terms of meeting those recommendations, is how much Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding will be available.

The CAO's have asked the Emergency Managers to go back and refine their recommendations in light of the recently released UASI funding projections; specifically to determine which areas are in critical need of attention, as the funding levels were much lower than what was requested and anticipated.

## **B. FY 2006 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Funding**

Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board Chair and Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Council, briefed the Board on recent federal funding reductions for the National Capital Region (NCR) and addressed some of the concerns raised by area public leaders and citizens on how the region can continue to strengthen preparedness and response in light of these reductions.

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) is a major grant funding program of the Department of Homeland Security; for the last 3 years UASI grants have been the primary funding vehicle for the NCR. These dollars have funded first responders programs, outreach and public education campaigns, as well as a host of other critical areas. Last year the NCR received \$77.5 million, this year that number was cut almost in half to \$46.5 million.

The Department of Homeland Security recently instituted new mechanisms by which regions would be eligible for this funding. In the new evaluation process each area was rated on the risk of the area (2/3) and the effectiveness of the application (1/3). After the department's evaluation, the NCR was found to be in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile for risk but the bottom 25% for application submission. In addition, while the NCR was deemed the top 25% for risk, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia were not. Requests have been made for information on DHS risk assessment and a letter was just received from the DHS but has not been fully reviewed by area leaders.

Mr. Connolly stated that when you have outcomes like this, something is wrong with the process; it is questionable how a region, one which was home to a terrorist attack in 2001, could be at the top for risk, have scored at or above average on most areas of the evaluation and still be in the bottom 25% in terms of application submission.

The inherent issue with the drastic funding cuts by the federal government is the NCR's ability to sustain its preparedness investments and maintain the ability to accurately and efficiently make long term planning decisions.

D.C. Councilmember Carol Schwartz noted each state also applied for its own funding and that the District of Columbia, home of the nation's capitol and target for the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, received \$4 million which is less than any other state.

Chair Fisette added that the mere fact that the NCR has its own Department of Homeland Security is an indicator of the region's uniqueness in terms of risk.

Rep. Tom Davis, chair of the Committee on Government Reform, has scheduled a hearing to discuss this issue with DHS and local and state officials tomorrow, June 15. As part of this hearing, the Board was asked to approve a draft letter to Rep. Davis that will be submitted along with written testimony by COG urging an explanation and reconsideration of the funding allocation.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board approved transmittal of a letter to the Committee on Government Reform.**

**ATTENDANCE: June 14, 2006**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

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

<b>Other Participants</b>
Chief Mary Ann Viverette City of Gaithersburg President, International Association of Chiefs of Police
Barbara Favola Member, Arlington County Board Chair, Washington Area Housing Partnership
James Gorby, Fairfax County Chair, CAO's Energy Advisory Committee
Anthony Griffin County Executive, Fairfax County Chair, CAO's
George Nichols Principal Environmental Planner, COG
Dr. Edward Graham Water Resources Program Director, COG