

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**777 North Capitol Street, N.E.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**MINUTES**

**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**COG Board Room**  
**February 12, 2003**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Mary K. Hill, Prince William County, Virginia, Chair of the Board  
Gerald E. Connolly, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Judith F. Davis, City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Vice Chair of the Board  
Robert E. Dorsey, City of Rockville, Maryland  
Camille A. Exum, Prince George's County, Maryland  
G. N. Jay Fisette, Arlington County, Virginia  
Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County, Maryland  
Daniel E. Gardner, City of Falls Church, Virginia  
Penelope A. Gross, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Catherine M. Hudgins, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Fariba Kassiri, Prince George's County, Maryland  
Michael Knapp, Montgomery County, Maryland  
John Koskinen, District of Columbia  
Sarah "Sally" R. Kurtz, Loudoun County, Virginia  
Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia, Vice Chair of the Board  
Redella S. Pepper, City of Alexandria, Virginia  
Kelvin Robinson, District of Columbia  
Bruce Romer, Montgomery County, Maryland  
John B. Schlichting, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland  
Bruce R. Williams, City of Takoma Park, Maryland

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES NOT PRESENT**

Stephen A. Brayman, City of College Park, Maryland, Alt. Robert T. Catlin  
Adrian Fenty, District of Columbia  
Marvin L. Gillum, City of Manassas, Virginia  
Robert F. Lederer, City of Fairfax, Virginia  
G. Frederick Robinson, City of Bowie, Maryland  
James M. Scott, Virginia General Assembly  
Paul S. Stull, Maryland General Assembly  
John Thompston, Frederick County

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Charles Louis Kincannon, Director of U.S. Census Bureau  
Lynn Frank, Chief of Public Health Services, Montgomery County Chair, COG Health Officers Committee  
Kurt Erickson, Executive Director of Washington Regional Alcohol Program

**STAFF**

David J. Robertson, Interim Executive Director  
Lee Ruck, General Counsel  
Stuart A. Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs  
Ronald F. Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning  
Calvin Smith, Acting Director of Human Services, Planning and Public Safety

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance. Chair Hill called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Shuttle astronauts.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DATE JANUARY 8, 2003**

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the January 8, 2003 meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Hill welcomed new Board members: Prince George's County Council member Camille A. Exum, and Loudoun County Supervisor, Sarah "Sally" R. Kurtz.

**a) Institute for Regional Excellence Accreditation**

Chair Hill announced that COG successfully completed the accreditation process held on January 22-24 for COG's Institute for Regional Excellence. The process will culminate in a national accreditation that will allow COG to directly issue the Certified Public Manager's designation to all participants of the Regional Executive Development Program.

**b) COG 2003 Meeting and Conference Calendar**

Chair Hill brought to the Board's attention a chart listing COG Board and Policy Committee meetings and other Public Interest Group meetings and conferences for 2003.

**c) Proposed First Meeting of National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council and Appointment of Members**

Chair Hill announced that the first meeting of the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council is scheduled for March 6, 2003, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. here at COG. Chair Hill reminded the board that the Emergency Preparedness Council was established by the COG Board in November 2002, and is successor to the *ad hoc* Task Force on Homeland Security. In addition to the elected officials she appointed to the Council last month, she will invite representatives of several public and private sector stakeholders to serve on the Council and attend its first meeting. Included in materials given out at the Board meeting on February 12, 2003 was a complete list of appointments. Chair Hill also announced that Carol Schwartz and Bruce Williams will serve as vice chairs on the Emergency Preparedness Council.

**d) Appointment of Additional Policy Committee Officers**

Chair Hill announced additional leadership appointments to COG policy committees:

**Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at National and Dulles Airports**

Chair- Barbara Favola, Arlington County

**Metropolitan Policy Development Committee**

Vice-Chair- Vincent Orange, District of Columbia

**Human Services Policy Committee**

Vice-Chair- Eleanor Towe, Loudoun County

Vice-Chair- Sandra Allen, District of Columbia

**Public Safety Policy Committee**

Vice-Chair- Margaret Kellems, District of Columbia

Vice-Chair- Tony Knotts, Prince George's County

**e) Appointment of Truck Safety Task Force Members**

Chair Hill announced that strengthening COG's role in transportation safety—especially truck safety—is one of her priorities for 2003. The Board previously established a Truck Safety Task Force and delegated the appointment responsibility to the COG Board Chair. A list of appointees has been provided to the Board. Chair Hill anticipates the Task Force will hold its first meeting prior to the March 12 COG Board meeting.

**f) COG Annual Meeting**

Chair Hill announced that the COG Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2003 conflicts with meeting of National League of Cities' Congress of Cities Conference being held in Nashville. She recommends that the Board keep the COG Board Annual Meeting date as scheduled, but asked the Executive Director to suggest alternative dates and report to the Board at its March 12 meeting.

**g) Executive Director's Report**

The Interim Executive Director highlighted activities as of January 2003 by other COG policy bodies, officials and staff. He thanked the Board for its support and confidence in him, and said he will continue to work to meet the high standards set by the Board members for COG. He reported meeting with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission executive, Michael Byrne of the Department Homeland Security, and Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson's transportation transition team on matters related to homeland security. He will schedule orientation briefings with new Board members, and provide jurisdictions with a "COG 101" update. The director welcomed new hires and recognized anniversary dates of current employees.

**h) Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation/Awards to Immediate Past President and Outgoing Board Members**

Chair Hill presented a plaque to Dan Gardner, Mayor of Falls Church, for his leadership last year, and a certificate to Jim Estep, former Prince George's County Council Member and member of the Board. She announced that a certificate had been prepared for Carol Schwartz. She will present award to Ms. Schwartz at March 12 meeting.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolutions on the Consent

Agenda:

**a) Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration to Implement an Educational Pollution Prevention Program in D.C. Public Schools**

**Resolution R10-03** – Authorizes the Director to enter into contract with D.C. Health Department, Environmental Health Administration to conduct a pollution prevention education program at 3-4 public high schools in D.C.

**b) Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration to Implement an Environmental Conservation Based on Educational Program in D.C. Public Schools**

**R11-03** - Director is authorized to enter into contract with D.C. Health Department, Environmental Health Administration to conduct conservation-based education program at public schools representing the eight wards.

**6. REMARKS OF INCOMING CHAIR**

Chair Hill outlined policy and programmatic goals for COG in 2003. After acknowledging the work of former Chair Bruce Williams, she listed past accomplishments of COG. She recognized the efforts of developing and approving the RECP on September 11, 2002, and recognized her own initiative of providing police officers and fire officials with liability and indemnification protection.

Goals for 2003 include educating the public about the regional plan, seeking participation for stakeholders in the regional truck safety task force and holding a meeting in February to increase collaboration between the Board and major policy committees at the Policy Leadership Conference. She wishes to continue supporting the work on affordable housing through the Washington Area Housing Partnership.

**7. STATUS REPORT ON PART 150 NOISE COMPATIBILITY STUDY AT RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT**

Ms. Favola briefed the Board on the study, which is designed to forecast future noise contours at National Airport. She proposed abatement actions to mitigate community noise impacts. CONAANDA agreed to partner with MWAA throughout the process. COG is responsible for a community outreach survey to support the study, and MWAA is responsible for preparing a detailed study.

Ms. Hudgins asked about studies for Dulles and other airports. Ms. Favola said that options will be considered after the 18-month Part 150 Study of National. Mr. Fisetto requested an update of the helicopter noise study. Ms. Favola deferred to George Nichols, who said he hoped to present findings of current helicopter study in April. Ms. Pepper expressed concerns about different responses to the survey from different zip codes, and the need for a scientific survey in order for the FAA to take the study seriously. Mr. Robinson expressed concern about the scope of the survey. Ms. Favola said COG staff will provide Board with results of the telephone survey.

**8. CENSUS BUREAU'S RELEASE OF "AMERICAN COMMUNITIES SURVEY" DATA FOR THE WASHINGTON REGION**

Mr. Kincannon briefed the Board on the new American Communities Survey (ACS), which will replace the "long-form" questionnaire currently used by the Census. The Board was asked to approve R7-03, which will provide funding for the ACS. Ms. Davis asked whether ACS will still be used in 2010. Mr. Kincannon said the long form will no longer be used, but that population information would be available every year. First year data for population of 65,500; after third year, data from areas of 20,000, until information is available at the level comparable to what had been available only once a decade. There would be a

"moving picture" of the population rather than "a snapshot once a decade." Ms. Davis expressed concern about Prince George's County's uncounted numbers. She said the numbers had been amended, but wanted to know how federal funding for 2010 would be affected. Mr. Kincannon said that, depending on federal law, data would come from ACS. Mr. Robinson asked about the review process of the population count. Mr. Kincannon said that the survey does not develop population count: Those counts are based on decennial census and carried forward through the Population Estimates Program.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R7-03. A copy of the resolution will be transmitted to the Congressional delegation for funding.

In follow-up, Mr. Gardner asked what state or federal laws applied. Mr. Kincannon said there will be no change from current system.

## **9. PROPOSED CHANGE TO PROCESS FOR ADOPTING THE COOPERATIVE FORECASTS**

Alexandria Council member Joyce Woodson, Chair of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning at COG, and Paul DesJardin, Chief of Planning at COG, briefed the Board on recommendations for an amendment to the cooperative forecasting process to help support the transportation and air quality efforts. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R8-03, which would change the process for adopting the cooperative forecasts.

Ms. Woodson briefed the Board on history of the Cooperative Forecasting Program. Forecasts are the official projections of COG's member jurisdictions, and are widely used in a variety of technical and policy applications to address land use, transportation, air and water quality issues facing the region. Concerned about whether the most recent data is used, Mr. Mendelson asked when forecasts would be used for the conformity analysis. In response, Mr. Kirby said the forecasts would be done on the same schedule as transportation inputs. TPB approves inputs in the spring for use of conformity analysis. Neither cooperative forecasts nor inputs would become official and final until the conformity process is completed.

Chair Hill expressed similar concerns. Mr. Mendelson asked for a simplified timetable of proposed changes.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R8-03. A copy of the resolution will be transmitted to local governments.

## **10. PRESENTATION ON DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**

Lynn Frank, Chief of Public Health Services, Montgomery County Chair, COG Health Officers Committee, reported on the analysis of the existing disease surveillance system in the Washington Metro area. She said the problem is that the two states and D.C. operate under different laws and lack a coordinated disease surveillance system. There is a need for consistent, ongoing surveillance to detect emerging disease outbreaks or the existence of an attack. Ms. Frank explained that Montgomery County is trying to get all three jurisdictions on the Essence II surveillance system, a civilian equivalent of Essence I, used by the military. Essence II is designed to gather data electronically and transmit it to Johns Hopkins University. Hopkins analyzes the data and sends it back to local jurisdictions. Epidemiologists then examine the data to determine whether an outbreak has occurred.

The surveillance system would factor in absenteeism, holidays, snow days, and over-the-counter drug sales, etc., to prevent a "big blip" in the system. Calls to 911 are also monitored under the system. The disease surveillance system is compliant with confidentiality laws.

Chair Hill asked Mr. Ruck about federalism and first responders issues. In response, Mr. Ruck informed the chair that a work group of attorneys is working on multijurisdictional legal questions.

Ms. Frank said the goal is to adopt a regional system within a year. Mr. Mendelson asked what could be done to improve that timetable. Ms. Frank said that additional funding would improve the timetable. She recommends that COG draft a plan to send to governors of Maryland, Virginia, and Mayor Williams, asking for their commitment to the regional surveillance system. Ms. Frank will also provide a formal outline of the responsibilities and costs for each local government so that the Board can vote on the matter.

#### **11. PRESENTATION OF WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM REPORT "HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS?"**

Kurt Erickson, Executive Director of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, reviewed WRAP's new report on impact of alcohol-impaired driving in the region. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R9-03, which would establish a task force to compile additional data for enforcement, treatments and prevention activities to reduce alcohol- and drug-related driving.

According to latest regional data (2001), there were more alcohol-related traffic deaths and crashes in the region than in any other year in the last five years. Additionally, 2001 marked the region's fourth consecutive year recording increased drunk-driving crashes, and third year in a row of increased drunk-driving deaths. The good news is that the region is far below the national average of percentage of fatal car crashes related to alcohol. Mr. Erickson laid out more facts and figures about drunk-driving arrests in the area.

Ms. Gross expressed surprise that the number of arrests in Fairfax County is going down. She said Fairfax police are always running sobriety check points. She asked if courts are adjudicating or just letting people go? Mr. Erickson said that the report didn't address that issue. Ms. Gross said she'd heard of an instance where a designated driver thought it was OK to drink if she "chased" alcohol with non-alcoholic drink.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R9-03. Public Safety Committee will create task force on impaired driving, and report findings to the Board no later than September 2003.

#### **12. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Chair Hill requested that Policy Committee meeting minutes be available to Board members.

#### **13. INTERNET AUDIO FOR BOARD MEETINGS**

Chair Hill asks COG to look into feasibility of Internet audio for Board Meetings.

#### **14. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 12, 2003**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.