

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol St., N. E.
Washington, D.C., 20002-4226

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE ROLE, MEMBERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, in December, 1995, the COG Board of Directors established the Environment and Public Works Directors Committee (EPWDC) as a policy advisory committee on certain environmental issues, in part replacing the former Environmental Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, the EPWDC's assigned responsibilities included advising the Board on a range of environmental issues including restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River management, urban stormwater, water supply, recycling and solid waste, energy, and multi-media environmental issues, as well as oversight for the Regional Water and Environmental Fund work program and budget; and

WHEREAS, with the exception of the Chair of the EPWDC, who is an elected official appointed by the COG Board Chair, membership on the EPWDC is exclusively environmental and public works department directors and water and wastewater utility general managers, whose agencies and organizations are the primary funders of the Regional Water and Environmental Funds; and

WHEREAS, at the time the EPWDC was established, regional air quality planning and policy development was and continues to be the responsibility of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC); and

WHEREAS, since 1998, actions have been taken that have reassigned policy advisory roles originally assigned to the EPWDC to other newly established committees, including the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, the Water Supply Task Force, the CAO Energy Policy Advisory Committee, Homeland Security work groups and others; and

WHEREAS, the primary remaining roles of the EPWDC include Regional Water and Environmental Fund oversight, and a peer-networking venue among the region's environment and public works directors and water and wastewater utility general managers; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for COG to host a "Regional Environmental Conference" to periodically examine the "big picture" on regional environmental issues, to share information across environmental media, and to enable dialogue on crosscutting environmental issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Board formally modifies the role of the EPWDC so that it is no longer a policy committee of the Board.
2. The EPWDC is retained as an oversight committee for the Regional environmental work program and budget funded through the Regional Water and Environmental Funds. In this capacity, the EPWDC shall advise the COG Board Finance Committee as it crafts the annual COG Work Program and Budget. The EPWDC shall meet as necessary to carry out these duties.

3. Voting membership on the EPWDC shall be solely environmental and public works directors and affiliated utility general managers from COG member governments. The chair (and vice-chairs, if desired) shall be drawn from this membership.
4. The EPWDC is further retained as a regional environmental peer-networking committee for its members and shall have the lead responsibility, in cooperation with all other COG environmental policy committees and technical committees, for facilitating the design and implementation of a periodic regional environmental conference to promote a regional dialogue and exchange on all environmental issues.
5. The Executive Director, or his designee, is directed to work with the EPWDC membership and prepare, by the July, 2003 COG Board meeting, revised by-laws for the EPWDC reflecting this resolution. Authority to make by-law revisions after this initial set of changes shall be the purview of the EWPDC, with Board concurrence.
6. These actions shall be effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution.
