

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

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room**

**September 14, 2011**

**BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT**

**\*SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

**STAFF**

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director  
Sharon Pandak, General Counsel  
Diane Humke, Clerk to the Board**

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

Vice Chairman Principi called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chairman Principi asked members to mark their calendar for COG's Annual Meeting on December 14, 2011 at the Marriott at Metro Center.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director presented to the Board a letter from Congressmen Frank Wolf and Steny Hoyer asking COG to undertake an effort to conduct a meeting on emergency preparedness.

The Executive Director presented the Commercial Construction and Census Reports to the board as well as a flyer for Rail-volution a conference regarding building communities with transportation to be held October 16-19.

Mr. Robertson briefed the Frederick Board of Aldermen and the Manassas City Council on COG programs and activities.

COG Purchasing Manager met with the City of Rockville's Purchasing Director to discuss cooperative purchasing. In Fairfax County, DEP staff participated on a committee to help the county choose a consultant for the Fairfax County Residential Energy Education Project.

Mr. Robertson met with Governor O'Malley's staff on improving participation at COG by senior state officials. Discussed the COG Incident Response Committee with Virginia's Homeland Security Advisor. Spoke with Virginia Delegate Jim Scott about telework issues. Met with officials from the National Center on Family Homelessness on opportunities for regional collaboration.

Commuter Connections staff participated in transportation events in DC, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Rockville. DCPS Child Welfare staff hosted a Wednesday's Child Lunch and Learn for the Montgomery County Department of Social Services and a Wednesday's Child Match Party Preparation Meeting and Back to School giveaway in DC.

#### **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2011 MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting were approved and adopted.

#### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R41-2011 thru R44-2011

##### **A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ISSUE A CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND CONDUCT A SERIES OF THREE REGIONAL TRANSIT SEMINARS FOR WMATA.**

The Board adopted Resolution R41-2011, authorizing the COG Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$110,000 to conduct a series of three regional transit seminars each focused on strengthening coordination between transit agencies, roadway departments, and first responders in the National Capital Region. Funding for this effort will be provided from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through a subgrant from the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, acting as the State Administrative Agent for the Urban Areas Security Initiative grant. No COG matching funds are required.

##### **B. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO CONDUCT AN URBAN FOREST CANOPY ANALYSIS WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION.**

The Board adopted Resolution R42-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to approve the receipt of grant funds from the U.S. Forest Service through the State Forester of the District of Columbia to conduct a two-year study of urban tree canopy in the District of Columbia, Anacostia Watershed in Maryland, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Data collected and analyzed will be added to COG's existing regional GIS database and supplied to the named participating jurisdictions. COG will also work with its grant partners to discuss how this data will aid in developing a sub-regional tree canopy management plan for the named community grant partners. Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Forest Service through the District of Columbia Urban Forestry Administration and is not to exceed a total of \$165,000. A \$15,000 COG match is required. (\$7,500 in FY 2012 from the current fiscal year work program budget and \$7,500 in the proposed FY 2013 work program budget).

### **C. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF "GIVE TO THE MAX DAY" CAMPAIGN IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.**

The Board adopted Resolution R43-2011 authorizing The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments along with the United Way of the National Capital Area and the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region to co-sponsor the "Give to the Max Day" campaign in the Washington area. This effort is modeled on a program in Minneapolis that used social media, web-donations, and other online giving tools to raise \$14 million for Minnesota non-profits in one 24-hour period. Give to the Max Day will be announced on September 15 and Give to the Max day is scheduled for November 9. The program is intended to engage donors who may not participate in workplace giving or more traditional campaigns. COG will be responsible for helping to promote this effort with area local governments. No funding support from COG will be required.

### **D. RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WALMART FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.**

The COG Board adopted Resolution R44-2011, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee, to apply for grant funding from the Walmart Foundation for a sustainability internship program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. COG will collaborate with MobilizeGreen and ICLEI to identify, recruit, and train ten student interns/graduates from area colleges, universities, and community colleges for 3-month paid internships with local government members to work on projects that advance COG's Region Forward and sustainability goals, including greenhouse gas inventories, climate action planning, and green purchasing policy projects. COG seeks funding for program development, intern stipends, and project evaluation. No COG match is required.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R41-2011 through R44-2011 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

### **7. HIGHLIGHTS OF AUGUST MULTI-STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE EVENTS**

Supplemental Documents: PowerPoint Presentations

The Mid-Atlantic and National Capital Region experienced two multi-state events in August, an unprecedented earthquake on August 23 and Hurricane Irene during the weekend of August 26-28. The COG Board was briefed on regional preparation, messaging to the public and response to these two events and how after-action studies and feedback will be incorporated into ongoing work and future plans.

Merni Fitzgerald, Director, Public Affairs Fairfax County, Chair, RESF-15, External Affairs presented to the Board the various different modes of communication that were used during both the earthquake which was unexpected and Hurricane Irene which was expected. Many public officials used websites such as Facebook and Twitter to get emergency messages out. Public officials are more easily able to get information out to the public by using blogs, and social media along with mobile apps for smart phones and text alerts to reach a broader range of the public to communicate information during times of emergency.

Tony Alexiou, Deputy Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Montgomery County Chair, Emergency Managers Committee, briefed the board on lessons learned from both the earthquake and Hurricane Irene stating that we should expect the unexpected, inform the public of what to do to stay safe, train first responders on what to do during an earthquake, and include earthquakes in hazard mitigation plans.

City of College Park Mayor, Andrew Fellows highlighted that if the public is not getting information then the job of communicating is not getting done. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that every mode of

communication was used to communicate so if someone didn't get an alert they weren't paying attention.

Vice Chairman Principi, stated that flyers were handed out warning residents of flooding and road closures. Ms. Fitzgerald said that that was an effective mode of communication.

City of Falls Church Councilmember, Dan Snyder stated that the issue is not getting the information out but that there is no central agency that puts the messages out so messages can be different depending on where you are and what mode of communication is used indicating that there is a structural problem.

Arlington County Councilmember, Walter Tejada, asked about ways to communicate to those in the community that may not have access to social media or can't use their electronic devices due to loss of power and also asked if there was a way to get communication out to those who do not speak English. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that many social medial sites are multi-lingual and many different forms of communication are used to get the message out to those without power or who do not have computers, e-mail, or cell phones.

**ACTION: Receive Presentation.**

## **8. COG SPONSORSHIP OF FINANCIAL PLANNING DAY**

Supplemental Documents: Financial Planning Day Flyer, Resolution R45-2011

Dan Drummond, City of Fairfax, presented to the Board a request that COG co-sponsor Financial Planning Day. Financial Planning Day will be held at the Bell Multi-Cultural High School in DC on October 15, 2011.

Financial Planning Day is part of a nationwide program aimed at helping families manage their personal finances. The national recession has had a significant impact on the ability of individuals and families to not only afford essentials but plan for their future and improving financial education and planning skills of residents in the National Capital Region is key to helping emerge from the economic downturn.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R45-2011 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **9. COG RETREAT OUTCOMES**

Supplemental Documents: Retreat Summary Presentation

COG held its thirteenth annual retreat July 23-24, which was attended by 31 COG members. The primary focus of this year's retreat was examining the steps COG and its member local governments should consider in order to achieve the goals outlined in the *Region Forward* planning guide and revitalize economies still suffering from the effects of the recession. The retreat featured sessions that described the region's changing demographic make-up, the need for community energy plans and a metropolitan business plan.

Dave Robertson briefed the Board on the retreat outcomes and the next steps focusing primarily on member retention and the beginning of a pilot teleconferencing program, recruitment of new member jurisdictions, Laurel, Leesburg, and Charles County, and building a Metropolitan Business Plan along with an ad hoc committee.

The opening dinner and keynote address focused directly on how the National Capital Region can continue to thrive given the federal government's changing fiscal priorities. Jared Bernstein, a senior

fellow with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, discussed the ways local officials are trying to stimulate economic activity and suggested a focus on business sectors that are expanding such as health care and green energy.

The Saturday morning session provided a detailed look at the region's changing demographic picture and how those changes will influence the region's workforce, economy and public services. Paul DesJardin, COG's Director of Planning and Community Services, outlined the changes that were evident in the 2010 Census as well as in the American Community Survey (ACS) a new census survey that has replaced the old long form census document.

Saturday's mid-morning session on Community Energy Planning discussed strategies local communities can adopt to reduce energy costs, control emissions and increase reliability. Peter Garforth, detailed major uncertainties such as the shift in weather patterns and the increasing cost and declining reliability of energy sources prove the need for community energy planning.

Saturday's luncheon focused on metropolitan business planning and whether the concept would work for the region. Amy Liu, the deputy director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institute, discussed the economy as a main reason for developing such a plan and focused on several points that are the key to developing a metropolitan business plan.

Other topics that were discussed were pursuing opportunities to recruit new member governments, using new technologies such as video teleconferencing to enhance public and member participation and the TIGER grant program.

Supervisor Fairfax County, Penelope Gross, asked if the Metropolitan Business Plan would include the input from business planners in each jurisdiction. Mr. Robertson said they would be included along with economic development directors. She also expressed her wish to participate on a task force that will review the plan's feasibility.

City of Frederick Councilmember Karen Young, supported the teleconference pilot program stating that teleconferencing should be secondary to face to face but makes it easier for members to participate.

**ACTION: Receive Presentaion.**

**10. 2010 REGIONAL CRIME REPORT**

Supplemental Documents: Crime Report

The Police Chiefs Committee, in conjunction with its Police Planners Subcommittee, annually collects and analyzes selected crime statistics for the Washington metropolitan area; this information has aided in the development of local/regional crime-fighting strategies. The report also details the crime statistics of each local jurisdiction as well as crimes reported by state and federal officers. Local police departments, sheriff's offices, and state and federal police services supply COG with the data for this report.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Deputy Chief Jeff Delinski and Vice Chair, COG Police Chiefs Committee highlighted the results of the 2010 Report on Crime and Crime Control. The report found a 5.3 percent reduction in Part 1 crimes which include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. Crime rates have been falling nationally, though the drop was sharper in the metropolitan Washington region.

Decreases were seen in all Part I categories except for Burglary with 275 more burglaries in 2010 than in 2009. Deputy Chief Delinski stated that these decreases can be attributed additional focus and crime prevention initiatives by local law enforcement units.

Deputy Chief Delinski stated that continued cooperation and communication among agencies throughout the NCR will further enable jurisdictions to work toward continued reductions in major crimes. The use of innovative technologies, including License Plate Readers, and computers and GPS in police cars, as well as other enhanced data sharing technologies available to officers, such as LInX, has enabled the NCR to improve its crime reduction efforts during this period of economic downturn.

COG Police Chiefs Committee recommends that we continue to educate the public and reduce opportunities for crimes; encourage cooperation between communities, business leaders and law enforcement; and expand the use of innovative technologies.

In order to continue making the metropolitan area a safe and livable community for residents and visitors, collaboration and coordination between law enforcement agencies on a regional level will be critical to continued reductions in major crimes.

Roger Berliner, Montgomery County, asked how to deal with the ever growing problem of flash mobs and the impact of imposing curfews. Deputy Chief Delinski stated that flash mobs are hard to predict and understand and police departments rely on word of mouth and social media to try and stop them.

Chairman Harrison stated that curfews are hard for police to enforce because they are busy with many other more serious crimes.

Vice Chairman Phil Mendelson, stated that in his jurisdiction earlier curfews were rejected and had mixed reviews because if they are too strictly enforced, police/public relations are strained.

Further review on flash mobs and other crime trends is to be researched and presented to the Board at a future date.

**ACTION: Receive Presentation.**

## **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND LEGAL MATTER**

The Board convened in Executive Session to discuss the results of the performance evaluation process conducted by the Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee (ECBR) and other Board members and to discuss a legal matter.

## **12. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

Upon returning to public session the Board of Directors voted on the recommendations made by the ECBR.

**ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, the R46-2011 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

**14. ADJOURN- NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2011

**ATTENDANCE: 9/14/2011**

| <b>Jurisdiction</b>                | <b>Member</b>                   | <b>Y/N</b> | <b>Alternate</b>        | <b>Y/N</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b><i>District of Columbia</i></b> |                                 |            |                         |            |
| <b>Executive</b>                   | Hon. Vincent Gray               | N          |                         |            |
|                                    | Mr. Allen Lew                   | Y          |                         |            |
| <b>Council</b>                     | Hon. Phil Mendelson             | Y          |                         |            |
|                                    | Hon. Michael Brown              | N          |                         |            |
| <b><i>Maryland</i></b>             |                                 |            |                         |            |
| Bowie                              | Hon. G. Frederick Robinson      |            | Hon. Dennis Brady       | N          |
| City of Frederick                  | Hon. Randall McClement          |            | Hon. Karen Young        | Y          |
| College Park                       | Hon. Andrews Fellows            | Y          | Hon. Robert Catlin      |            |
| Frederick County                   | Hon. David Gray                 | N          | Hon. Jan Gardner        |            |
| Gaithersburg                       | Hon. Sidney Katz                |            | Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula    | Y          |
| Greenbelt                          | Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis        | Y          | Hon. Emmett Jordan      |            |
| Montgomery County                  |                                 |            |                         |            |
| <b>Executive</b>                   | Hon. Isiah Leggett              | N          | Mr. Tim Firestine       |            |
| <b>Council</b>                     | Hon. Roger Berliner             | Y          |                         |            |
|                                    | Hon. Valerie Ervin              | N          |                         |            |
| Prince George's County             |                                 |            |                         |            |
| <b>Executive</b>                   | Hon. Rushern Baker              | N          | Mr. P. Michael Errico   | N          |
| <b>Council</b>                     | Hon. Karen Toles                | Y          |                         |            |
|                                    | Hon. Andrea Harrison<br>(Chair) | Y          |                         |            |
| Rockville                          | Hon. John Britton               | N          |                         |            |
| Takoma Park                        | Hon. Bruce Williams             | Y          | Hon. Terry Seamens      |            |
| Maryland General Assembly          | Hon. Galen Clagett              | N          |                         |            |
| <b><i>Virginia</i></b>             |                                 |            |                         |            |
| Alexandria                         | Hon. William Eulle              | Y          | Hon. Redella Pepper     |            |
| Arlington County                   | Hon. Walter Tejada              | Y          | Hon. Jay Fisette        |            |
| City of Fairfax                    | Hon. Dan Drummond               | Y          | Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield |            |
| Fairfax County                     | Hon. Sharon Bulova              | N          | Hon. Catherine Hudgins  |            |
|                                    | Hon. Penelope A. Gross          | Y          | Hon. Patrick Herrity    |            |
|                                    | Hon. John Foust                 | Y          | Hon. Michael Frey       |            |
| Falls Church                       | Hon. Nader Baroukh              |            | Hon. David Snyder       | Y          |
| Loudoun County                     | Hon. Andrea McGimsey            | Y          | Hon. Scott York (Alt)   |            |
| Manassas                           | Hon. Sheryl Bass                | N          |                         |            |
| Manassas Park                      | Hon. Suhas Naddoni              | N          | Hon. Frank Jones        |            |
| Prince William County              | Hon. Frank Principi             | Y          |                         |            |
|                                    | Hon. Wally Covington            | Y          |                         |            |
| Virginia General Assembly          | Hon. James M. Scott             | Y          |                         |            |