

**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 8, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Brown asked members to mark their calendar for COG's Annual Meeting on December 8 at the Grand Hyatt Washington.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On July 27, COG hosted a Regional Health Insurance Dialogue at the request of the City Administrator for the District of Columbia. The dialogue provided regional insurance commissioners and health care finance directors from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia an opportunity to hear from local policy experts about the new federal health care provisions as well as to begin a conversation about how the region may opt to work together to form a health insurance exchange.

Mr. Robertson stated that similar to last year, staff is preparing draft legislative priorities for use during the 2011 meetings of the state assemblies and District of Columbia City Council; the Board will take action on the proposed priorities at its November meeting.

COG was recently notified by the Environmental Protection Agency that it was among the four communities selected to participate in the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Program. The program will provide COG with technical assistance, similar to the TLC, to develop and implement smart growth and climate change adaptation strategies in the Washington region.

Mr. Robertson stated that he will be participating in an upcoming meeting of the 2030 Group, a group of developers and business men who have begun a study of regional leadership and governance, focused on the need for more effective regional governance structures or revenues.

After months of high heat and little rain, the region, without significant precipitation, may be facing drought conditions. COG's drought committee is in the process of developing recommendations and an announcement should the dry weather continue.

Mr. Robertson announced that a public forum on the WMATA Governance Task Force will be held on September 17th and will include a presentation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 14 MINUTES

The minutes of the July 14 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: R43-10 through R50-10

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TO DEVELOP A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Board adopted R43-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to administer the Prince George's County "Climate Action Plan" and to receive and expend up to \$150,000 to develop a county-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory and climate strategy. No COG matching funds are required.

B. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR REPORTING AIR QUALITY DATA FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION

The Board adopted R44-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to seek \$25,000 in funding from the Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality for COG's FY 2011 § 105 Air Pollution Control Program. The request is to prepare and report daily air quality index and levels for the Washington Metropolitan area, to coordinate energy operation procedures during air pollution episodes and to update the air quality trends data for the region. COG's required match for this request is \$13,000 and is included in the FY 2011 work program and budget.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR URBAN TIMBER (WASTE WOOD) RECOVERY MARSHALLING AND UTILIZATION YARD DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Board adopted R45-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a grant agreement and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purposes of developing an Urban Timber Recovery Marshalling and Utilization Yard Demonstration Project for the District government. No COG matching funds are required. The project duration is two years.

D. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT THE WEDNESDAY'S CHILD PROGRAM

The Board adopted R46-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the Freddie Mac Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$77,800 for the Wednesday's Child FY 2011 program operations. No COG matching funds are required.

E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO DEVELOP A 2010 SUMMER STORM AFTER ACTION REPORT

The Board adopted Resolution R47-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$30,630 to develop a Summer Storm After Action Report (AAR) in coordination with the District of Columbia. The tasks include planning and hosting an AAR conference and to produce an AAR. Funding for this effort will be provided through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA). No COG Matching funds are required.

F. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Board adopted Resolution R48-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$250,000 to conduct an analysis of the current definition of populations with "special needs" within the District of Columbia and develop a new comprehensive definition. Funding for this effort will be provided through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA). No COG matching funds are required.

G. RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE IRE ADVISORY BOARD

The Board adopted Resolution R49-10 making appointments to the IRE Advisory Board for the 2010-2011 program period. The COG Institute for Regional Excellence offers, in partnership with the George Washington University, a Regional Executive Development Program to area public sector managers. The year-long program is recognized by the National Certified Public Manager Consortium. Cohort 8 will graduate in October 2010 and Cohort 9 will begin later that month. The Advisory Board is responsible for curriculum and program oversight and is a requirement for certification.

H. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLIMATE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROPOSAL

The Board adopted Resolution R50-10 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region for a Climate Showcase Communities grant to develop a marketing campaign that promotes innovative tools and incentives to reduce residential electricity and gas consumption in the Washington region. The grant request will not exceed \$460,000, and will include \$230,000 in matching funds provided through in-kind contributions and private sponsorships.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R43-10 through R50-10 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. STATUS REPORT ON CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR SNOW RESPONSE

Supplemental Documents: Regional Snow Response Update

After the unprecedented 2009-2010 snow season COG sponsored an After-Action Leadership Forum in April, to examine issues of snow removal, transit service, utility and critical infrastructure, government closure decision-making, and emergency response. In May, the Board received a presentation on the forum's recommendations and requested an update on actions to respond to those recommendations, prior to the 2010-2011 snow season. The Board was briefed on COG's overall program activities concerning snow and other weather related issues, specific action and outcomes, and a communications plan to improve citizen awareness and response.

Arlington County Board Member and Chair of the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee Walter Tejada stated that during its last briefing, the Board tasked a number of COG committees with addressing several recommendations deemed as critical to improving snow response operations across the region; one of the primary recommendations from the forum. Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County's Director of Public Affairs and Chair of COG's R-ESF 15 highlighted the Winter / Snow Standard Emergency Messages Template that her group developed to improve communications during snow emergencies. The 45 page template will provide jurisdictions with readily accessible and consistent public messaging points for use during a variety of weather related incidents. Jurisdictions will be able to modify the template according to their individual needs; however the core messaging points are critical to ensuring the region's citizens are provided with timely, accurate and coordinated information during a snow emergency.

Dave McMillion, COG's Director of Public Safety and Health highlighted additional to-date actions on the snow forum's recommendations including local review and review of snow response plans, development of uniform parking practices and the regional pooling of emergency equipment and personnel. Mr. McMillion stated that most of the jurisdictions have conducted a review of their snow operation response during the 2009-10 season, which included an evaluation of snow plans and the necessary changes to the plans will be made accordingly.

A team from COG's Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) addressed parking practices and coordination during snow events as their required policy project this year and developed a set of comprehensive parking recommendations for localities to facilitate more effective snow removal operations including the adoption of a "snow parking alert" which would initiate jurisdictional snow parking regulations and the adoption of an "alternate-side of the street" parking policy, whereby vehicles park on odd numbered sides of the street on odd dates, and even numbered sides on even dates. COG staff will work with the appropriate COG committees to further review these recommendations.

In terms of regional resource pooling, Chief Purchasing Officers agree that limited resources restrict a jurisdiction's ability to share equipment and personnel with its neighbors and concluded that a Regional Pool of Equipment and Staff is not feasible at this time.

The Board will be provided updates as necessary on the implementation of the recommendations or the need for additional policies.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COG'S AVIATION POLICY PROGRAM

Supplemental Documents: Aviation Policy Memo
Resolution R51-10

In 2009, the Board took action to enhance COG's Aviation Policy Program. The standing Aviation Policy Committee was discontinued effective January 1, 2010 and going forward all aviation policy matters would be advanced to the COG Board, acting as a "Committee of the Whole" on an as-needed basis. Additionally, the Board directed staff, as a means to drum up additional participation lacking with formal committee structure, to develop and host several regional community forums on aviation policy issues. The Aviation Policy Committee Chair, Arlington County Board Member Mary Hynes was requested to oversee implementation of the new approach and, in one year, report back to the Board on the effectiveness of the enhanced program. Ms. Hynes summarized how the new approach has improved COG's Aviation Policy Program and provide recommendations to further strengthen and enhance the program.

Two forums were held, one on the economic impacts of aviation on surrounding communities and a second on noise abatement; a third forum on helicopter noise is planned for September 22. While the first two forums were value added, they failed to increase participation by local elected officials and other stakeholders. Ms. Hynes stated that while there may be value in hosting future forums from time to time, it does not appear that scheduling forums on a regular basis as part of COG's aviation policy work program is warranted.

It is her recommendation, and that of staff, that COG should maintain an aviation policy program, funded at a modest level, with policy oversight by the Board of Directors. To facilitate the program, it was recommended that the Board appoint an elected official "Aviation Policy Liaison" (and an alternate) that would work with staff to advise the Board on aviation policy issues as well as coordinate with MWAA. The Liaison would report annually or more frequently if warranted to the Board, and would also coordinate with other COG policy committees on aviation policy matters. In addition, it was recommended that COG upgrade its website, in cooperation with MWAA, to provide an ongoing source of information on aviation issues including aircraft noise.

Ms. Hynes also provided an update on the status of Congressional proposals to alter the slot and perimeter rules at Reagan National Airport which are contained in the FAA Reauthorization, H.R. 5900, the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010. The NCR Congressional Delegation is currently fighting the changes however; it is very likely that changes will be made in the next few years, even if we win the current battle. While COG has held to a long-standing position in opposition to any changes to these rules, economic realities, as well as dramatic improvements in the aircraft fleet and flight path management technology suggest that a reconsideration of these rules would be appropriate. If such reconsideration is advanced, it should be done in very close collaboration with MWAA, as well as the local congressional delegation and in coordination with the communities most affected by aviation at Reagan National.

City of College Park Mayor Andrew Fellows recommended that COG add to its aviation areas of focus the issue of general aviation; particularly the constraints of post 9/11 regulations on smaller airports.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R51-10 was unanimously approved and adopted to implement recommendations for COG's aviation policy program.

9. COG APPLICATION FOR HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT

Supplemental Documents: HUD Grant Application Abstract

In August, COG submitted a grant application for approximately \$7.2 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in response to the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. The multi-sector, multi-jurisdictional program will build on and enhance COG's Region Forward report, adopted by the COG Board earlier this year. Mr. Robertson highlighted COG's grant application and outlined steps underway to implement Region Forward in anticipation of a grant announcement by HUD later this year.

COG's grant application included a request for \$5 million in 2 grant funding to produce a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). Through the Consortium, COG was able to contribute \$2.2 million in leveraged resources, much more than the required 20 percent match. Mr. Robertson stated that the development of the grant application was truly a regional effort with a tremendous amount of COG and local government staff time and effort, in addition to broad stakeholder engagement. A regional consortium of over 50 stakeholders was convened to help shape and guide the process.

COG's concept for the RPSD is to create "Complete Communities" in the National Capital Region. This concept builds upon the framework begun in *Region Forward* and takes it to the next level. The planning process will identify current and future regional centers and determine specific elements such as affordable housing, transit, or green infrastructure needed to transform centers into Complete Communities. The Complete Community concept is an evolution of COG's regional activity centers, which were defined by employment forecasts. Complete Communities will be characterized as mixed-use, compact and walkable centers of activity.

Mr. Robertson stated that HUD is expected to announce grant award winners in late November or December. Regardless of the outcome, there are several components of *Region Forward* which COG will begin including: a baseline analysis on the goals and targets defined in *Region Forward*, a revision of the activity centers maps to be more reflective of long-term aspirations not just jobs and transit, and the development of an enhance communication strategy that includes GIS and visualization techniques. While the HUD grant is not essential to the completion of these tasks, the funds would help to accelerate the process.

10. COG RETREAT OUTCOMES

Supplemental Document: 2010 Retreat Summary

COG held its twelfth annual retreat July 23-24, which was attended by 29 COG members. The primary focus of the retreat was sharpening COG's focus on sustainability and regional action. Sessions on implementation of *Region Forward*, green workforce development and a presentation on the State of Metropolitan America built on this theme. Mr. Robertson briefed the Board on the retreat outcomes and next steps.

The opening dinner was focused on building a 21st century workforce. Jane Oates, the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration discussed the Administration's workforce priorities and stressed the importance of regional planning and partnerships between community colleges and employers; she commented that work COG is doing through its workforce initiative is a great first step and that we should continue to make workforce and economic competitiveness a priority.

The Saturday morning session focused on sharpening COG's focus on sustainability and regional action through the implementation of Region Forward. Presenters provided a recap of COG's Region Forward effort and outlined implementation actions by COG already underway, and opportunities to

promote this work more widely in the community and with other stakeholders. They also discussed how COG's sustainable communities grant application will build on this work.

A highlight of the day was luncheon speaker, Alan Berube, research director for the Metropolitan Research Center at Brookings, who discussed the findings of the *State of Metropolitan America – On the Front Lines of Demographic Transformation*: key demographic trends re-shaping the nation, that the scale of demographic transformation is uneven across the country and that the demographic changes require action at the national and local levels.

A Saturday afternoon presentation introduced retreat participants to a few members of The 2030 Group, a group of developers and business men who have begun a study of regional leadership and governance, focused on the need for more effective regional governance structures or revenues. The University of Maryland is helping the 2030 Group by leading the study.

Other topics discussed during the retreat included transportation funding and safety, building a stronger more resilient workforce through green and emerging technology and revising COG's strategic plan to better align with the goals of *Region Forward*.

City of Falls Church Vice Mayor David Snyder stated, in reference to Brookings *State of Metropolitan America Report*, that COG should reach out to and build relationships with regions with similar characteristics and experiences, not just those within close proximity. Several members noted the relevance of the report and the need to infuse its findings in COG's work program; a briefing to the full Board of Directors, and potentially other policy committees, was recommended.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond suggested that COG, building on its focus on economic and workforce competitiveness and a new book out by Richard Florida called *The Great Reset*, think about how we can use the economic downturn as a an opportunity to more smartly invest in human capital and emerging industries and how we can retool our thought processes to reshape our region for the better.

City of Greenbelt Mayor J Davis suggested that COG use the public outreach and communications plan of *Region Forward* as a framework to help change the pessimistic mindset of the region's residents that has resulted from economic instability.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

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.

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 R52-10 was unanimously approved and adopted.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010.

**ATTENDANCE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2010
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2010**

<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. Neil Albert	Y		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	N	Hon. Michael Brown	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	N
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	N
College Park	Hon. Andrew Fellows	Y	Hon. Robert Catlin	N
City of Frederick	Hon. Randall McClement	N	Karen Young	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Emmett Jordan	N
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Ralph Moultrie	N
Council	Hon. Camille Exum	N	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. John Britton	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Eulle	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Walter Tejada	Y	Hon. Jay Fisette	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Nader Baroukh	N	Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	N		
Manassas	Hon. Sheryl Bass	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Hon. Suhas Naddoni	Y
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		