

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

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

**April 9, 2008**

**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**

-----

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

Chairman Michael Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 12 MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the March meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On April 29, COG and WMATA will be holding a pedestrian safety workshop at the National Press Club for policy makers and professionals from around the region. Now is an excellent time to work together on pedestrian safety, while the issue is still on everyone's minds thanks to the attention COG's bi-lingual street smart campaign has generated. Vice Chairman Gross added that we must stress, specifically to the media, that the issue is not an immigration problem; it is a pedestrian safety problem.

Chairman Knapp reminded the Board that the annual Foster Parent Gala will be held Saturday, May 17 at the Renaissance Washington, DC hotel; members should be receiving their invitations in the coming days.

The annual COG Retreat will once again be held at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland, the weekend of July 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff is working with the Executive Committee to develop an engaging and thought provoking agenda; suggestions should be directed to Mr. Robertson.

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

Mr. Robertson continues to reach out to newly appointed members of the COG Board as well as other COG committees.

He stated that he recently met with the president of Montgomery College to discuss a proposed regional thought leader dialogue program.

COG will be hosting, along with Freddie Mac, a regional housing foreclosure summit in late spring to address the economic and social challenges the region is facing as a result of the recent spike in housing foreclosure rates.

"Litter Enforcement Week" concluded this past weekend with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup over 2,700 volunteers gathering more than 75 tons of trash.

The Regional Homeless Services Directory has been released and distributed to member governments and other necessary stakeholders. The Human Services Policy Committee will be reporting to the Board at its next meeting on the results of the annual regional homeless enumeration conducted in January of this year.

COG again received a lot of media attention this month from its Street Smart Campaign and the HOV toll study.

Arlington County Boardmember Jay Fisette requested a briefing on the region's foreclosure crisis. Mr. Robertson stated that such a briefing would likely be combined with the outcomes of the upcoming foreclosure summit.

Chairman Knapp also welcomed newly appointed Board Member John Foust from Fairfax County.

COG's General Counsel Lee Ruck briefly updated the Board on several pieces of legislation it had been tracking in the Maryland General Assembly. He also announced that the Virginia State Administrative Agent has approved Virginia Dominion Power's proposal for a coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Va. The Board adopted Resolution R14-08 at its last

meeting raising concerns on the potential negative air quality impacts the plant could have on this region. The plant must still be approved by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental documents: Resolutions R20-08 through R24-08

### **A. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to Support a Pedestrian Safety Workshop**

The Board adopted Resolution R20-08 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$50,000 in funding from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to provide contract and staff services in support of a Pedestrian Safety Workshop. No COG matching funds will be required.

### **B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds to Administer a Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies Exercise Planning Seminar for the National Capital Region**

The Board adopted R21-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to sign and expend Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds provided by the District of Columbia State Administrative Agent. The 8 month grant will provide funding to secure contractor services to implement a one-day Regional Infrastructure Interdependencies Exercise Planning Seminar. The grant will not exceed \$52,046. No COG matching funds will be required.

### **C. Resolution Authorizing COG to Fund an Independent Evaluation of the Regional Response to the February 12, 2008 Ice Storm**

The Board adopted Resolution R22-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract with James Lee Witt Associates to complete an independent evaluation of the regional response to the February 12, 2008 ice storm. The purpose of the initiative is to provide support requested by the Senior Policy Group and the State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region for COG to enter into and administer a contract with James Lee Witt Associates. COG is being provided \$131,753 through a Subgrant from the SAA to fund the independent evaluation of the regional response to the ice storm. No COG matching funds will be required.

### **D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Additional Funding from Freddie Mac for its Foreclosure Collaborative**

At its last meeting, the COG Board adopted Resolution R17-08 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Freddie Mac for \$175,000 to fund a three point foreclosure collaborative. Freddie Mac has agreed to provide an additional \$125,000 for the purposes of providing grant assistance to non-profit organizations to address the strains of the foreclosure crisis. The Board adopted Resolution R23-08 authorizing the Executive Director to accept and expend the additional funding.

### **E. Nomination of Penny Gross for Re-Election to NARC Board of Directors**

The Board authorized the chairman to nominate Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chairman Penelope Gross for re-election to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Board of Directors. Supervisor Gross has served on the NARC Board since

2004 representing regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations in District III (DC, MD, VA, WV). The NARC Board election will take place at the annual conference and exhibition, June 15 – 17 in Des Moines, Iowa.

#### **F. Approval of Capital and Contingency Expenditure for Facility Replacement and Upgrading**

The adopted FY 2008 (July 2007 to June 2008) and FY 2009 (July 2008 to June 2009) work program and budget allocate a projected \$650,000 and \$607,000, respectively, to the capital and contingency reserve. The capital and contingency reserve is a separate line item in COG's fiscal year operating budget, supported by building and investment income. The purpose of the capital and contingency reserve is to support facility replacement and repair or new program activities not anticipated when the fiscal year work program and budget was adopted. The Executive Director recommended that \$125,000 be allocated from the FY 2008 capital and contingency reserve and \$277,000 from the FY 2009 capital and contingency reserve to complete a two-year replacement and upgrade in the data center. The Board adopted Resolution R24-08 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into competitive contracts to complete this work.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R20-08 through R24-08 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

#### **7. REVISED WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA) JOINT DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES**

Supplemental Documents: Joint Development Guidelines (Electronic)

The WMATA Board recently approved new guidelines for joint development projects proposed near Metrorail stations that will help shape not only local plans, but regional plans at both COG and the TPB. The proposed guidelines have been developed based on the findings of the Joint Development Task Force, which included twenty-one members from outside WMATA, and advice from local jurisdictions. Nat Bottigheimer, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Development at WMATA, briefed the Board on the new guidelines and how they affect regional and local goals for more transit oriented development.

The Task Force Report provided 17 findings and recommendations emphasizing three overall themes: to conduct more pre-development planning; streamline the project review process; and focus more on transit-oriented development and transit improvement outcomes rather than revenue. So far, in addition to adopting the new guidelines, WMATA has begun to merge station access planning with joint development and has implemented identification of station access investment needs in advance of advertisements or negotiations of price.

Changes of significant importance to local governments include the organization's charge to amplify its requirement of staff to consult with local jurisdictional partners and affected communities as well as establishing an expectation for staff to advocate for development conditions supportive of transit-oriented development and transit station investment.

There were several recommendations made but not included that may be integrated into the guidelines in the future, including: the sharing of all project financial information, incorporation of DBE hiring goals and offering workforce housing to all public employees region-wide.

Metro will bring both its DBE Policy recommendations as well as its transit-oriented development policy to its Board of Directors later this year.

Chairman Knapp asked if there was a public outreach plan for proposed development, Mr. Bottigheimer responded that the process is more informal but the expectation is that meetings would be held with local officials and other stakeholders.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stressed the importance of involving municipalities, not just the counties, early on in the planning process to ensure all parties have adequate in-put and notice.

As a member of the WMATA Board of Directors, City of Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille applauded the work of Metro to drastically improve its joint development guidelines adding that the opportunity is ripe to improve the organizations community outreach.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Jacqueline Brown suggested that Metro begin to think ahead into the future and the possibility of new waterway transit.

The Chairman requested further analysis by the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee of these recommendations and their potential implications on regional and local goals for more transit-oriented development.

## **8. BRIEFING ON THE TRANSPORTATION-LAND-USE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM**

Supplemental Documents: Memo on Selected TLC Projects  
Power Point Presentation (Electronic)

The Transportation Planning Board initiated the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program in 2007 to provide support to local jurisdictions as they deal with the challenges of integrating land use and transportation planning at the community level. On February 20, the TPB approved eleven technical assistance projects for inclusion in the FY 2008 TLC Program. John Swanson, Senior Transportation Planner at COG, briefed the Board on the history of the program the new projects and next steps.

Through the program, the TPB provides communities with up to \$20,000 worth of technical assistance to catalyze or enhance planning efforts. In addition, the program also provides a regional "TLC Clearinghouse," a web-based source of information about transportation/land-use coordination, including regional and national experience with transit-oriented development and other key strategies.

Originally it was envisioned that six programs, two each from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, would be funded at \$20,000 each in FY 2008. Due to the high number of applicants from Maryland, the Maryland Department of Transportation agreed to make available \$100,000 in funds from Maryland's Technical Assistance account in the TPB's Unified Planning Work Program to fund an additional five projects. Work is expected to begin in this month and conclude by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Staff expects the TLC program to continue its growth in FY 2009. To accommodate this growth, the program will add in some flexibility in grantee amounts, to range between \$10,000 and \$60,000. It will also focus on identifying specific transportation projects and other implementation activities that are needed to advance the recommendations of the TLC technical assistance projects, including the encouragement of funding for such projects through local and state programming processes. Staff will also be developing 'toolkits' to address key implementation challenges and different perspectives on density and congestion both regionally and locally.

June 30 is the deadline for applications for the FY 2009 program.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette offered the notion of a local "match" for projects to ensure buy-in and provide a more robust program.

## **9. AIR QUALITY PLANNING: NEW OZONE STANDARD ANNOUNCED**

Supplemental Documents: Memo on New Standards

In March the Environmental Protection Agency announced a new, more stringent ozone standard. This standard will present new challenges for the Washington region, which is expected to meet the current ozone standard next year. City of Falls Church Councilmember and current Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee David Snyder briefed the Board on the new standard, its effective date, and how it will affect the Washington region.

The new standard replaces the ozone standard revision made in 1997, when EPA revoked the one-hour standard in favor of the 8-hour ozone standard. The purposed of EPA's latest revision is to strengthen the standard to make it more protective of public health and welfare. The Air Quality Index has also been updated to reflect the change and will take effect immediately with the 2008 ozone season.

EPA's process for implementing the new standard will be a three step process. State air agencies will recommend areas within their state for nonattainment designation by March 12, 2009. EPA will announce designation the following year and the designated nonattainment areas must submit State Implementation Plans for meeting the new standards by March 12, 2011.

Staff reviewed air quality data from the past three seasons to determine the impact the new standard may have on the region. As a result of the new AQI, it is expected that the region will experience 83% more Code Orange and 95% more Code Red days this season.

Mr. Snyder stated that the Committee is planning to engage in a public awareness campaign so that citizens are not only aware of the new standards but can plan appropriately. He requested a partnership between MWAQC and the Public Information Officers Committee to more effectively get the message out.

Vice Chairman Gross requested that the Clean Air Partners report back to the Board on the new air quality forecasting prior to the summer ozone season.

## **10. BRIEFING ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING COMPOUNDS IN THE POTOMAC RIVER**

Supplemental Materials: Resolution R19-08  
Power Point Presentations (Electronic)

The Board has been briefed in the past regarding compounds in our region's water that may have caused abnormalities in fish and other aquatic life. Recent newspaper accounts have raised awareness of the issue, detailing the results of water quality monitoring in the Potomac River and some of the region's "finished" water supply. COG staff assembled a panel of experts with monitoring, public health and water utility responsibilities to provide an overview of what's being found in the Potomac River and in the water supply. The panel presented known risks posed and stimulated a discussion about options for a future course of action.

Panelists included: Vicki Blazer with the U.S. Geological Survey (who was unable to attend due to illness); Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH of the George Washington University Medical Center; and Thomas P. Jacobus with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct Division.

Last month, news stories reported that certain drugs, like antibiotics, anti-inflammatory medication and caffeine, are present in very small amounts in the region's water supply. Health experts said they had long suspected that the drugs were getting in the water, either by being flushed down the toilet or passing through area residents, but only with recent technological advancements were scientists able to measure their levels.

Mr. Guidotti stated that the amount of these chemicals in our water supply is like one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool or one blade of grass in a football field. He noted however, that this is still an issue that can't be dismissed. While levels of the drugs are very unlikely to produce any side effects to area residents, they do pose a threat to the Potomac ecosystem because lower levels of the chemicals can have an effect on animals. Recent studies by the U.S. Geological Survey have found that these chemicals have caused fish in the Potomac River, and river systems across the nation, to develop both male and female reproductive parts.

Mr. Guidotti added that this is a national issue that warrants a risk management, assessment and communications campaign to make citizens and businesses aware of the behaviors which can/should be changed to minimize the amounts of chemicals getting into our waters. He suggested that one way to reduce pharmaceutical waste would be for local pharmacies to allow "take backs" for outdated/unused medications, lessening the chances that these medicines are flushed, which is the worst method for disposal.

Mr. Jacobus stated that the region's three water suppliers (the Aqueduct, Fairfax Water and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission) would now begin scanning the water in ways they had not before. The Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership will provide an informal approach to cooperative actions to improve drinking water quality in the areas of runoff controls, communication and education. He noted that regional water officials will be conducting seminars to learn the potential impacts of elevated levels of these contaminants over time and what can be done to prevent such levels from increasing.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis asked what options are available to local governments for pharmaceutical disposal. Mr. Guidotti responded that drug store disposal is the best option, barring that individuals should only dispose of their medications in trash cans not by flushing.

Vice Chairman Gross asked if incineration is good alternative, which it is, but not all jurisdictions have this capability.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisetto asked if bottled or tap water is safer to drink. While both are safe, Mr. Jacobus stated that stringent water quality standards assure that tap water is safe, while the same cannot be said for each brand of bottled water. Mr. Fisetto requested staff to provide him with additional information.

COG's Director of Environmental Programs Stuart Freudberg requested that the Board adopt Resolution R18-08 directing COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee to work with area health directors and public information officers to prepare

recommendations for enhancing public awareness, securing federal funding for research and monitoring, and supporting information exchange workshops.

Vice Chairman Gross requested the following amendments to the resolution in the Resolved clause: include "public information officers" and add a new fourth bullet to read "Supporting collaborative efforts by regional water treatment plants to conduct additional monitoring, testing, and reporting."

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R18-08 was unanimously adopted as amended.**

**11. MEMBER TIME**

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008**



**ATTENDANCE: APRIL 9, 2008  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<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. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Vincent Gray	N	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
<b>Maryland</b>				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	N
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	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	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
<b>Virginia</b>				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	N		
	Hon. Frank Principi	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

**Other Participants**

Nat Bottigheimer  
Assistant General Manager of  
Planning and Development,  
WMATA

John Swanson  
Senior Transportation  
Planner, COG

Tee Guidotti, George  
Washington Medical Center

Thomas Jacobus  
Washington Aqueduct  
Division, US Army Corps of  
Engineers