

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

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

March 9, 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
Nicole Hange, Clerk to the Board**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

COG hosted a Helicopter Community Forum on February 23; a follow-up to a similar event held last September, and a special invitation-only meeting held with federal officials in late November.

The Forum was moderated by Arlington Board Member Mary Hynes, who is serving as COG's Aviation Policy Liaison and was attended by 25 citizens, helicopter pilots, and FAA officials.

Helicopters are an essential part of our community, flying vital military, public safety, emergency healthcare, and other missions. Their flight paths are heavily regulated by the FAA to maintain separation from commercial aircraft, and as much as feasible, designed to avoid disturbing neighborhoods. However, certain individuals and communities' quality of life is periodically disrupted. The Forums were part of an ongoing effort to educate citizens as well as identify problem areas and possible enhancements to procedures to minimize community impacts.

A summary of the forum, as well as a video of the event, will be posted on the COG web site in the coming days. If you have questions please contact Stuart Freudberg of COG staff.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson continued outreach to various stakeholders regarding WMATA governance reform including meetings with Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker and Acting County Administrator Michael Errico.

Mr. Robertson also met with representatives from George Washington University's Sustainable Urban Planning Program to discuss a potential sustainability partnership, building on Region Forward.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9 MINUTES

The minutes of the February 9 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Appointment of Additional 2011 Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chairs

Chairman Harrison recommended the appointment of the chair and vice chairs of the new Region Forward Coalition and the Virginia vice chair of the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee. With this action, only one COG 2011 policy board and committee leadership post remains vacant, the District of Columbia Vice Chair slot for the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council. Appointments to COG's administrative committees were also recommended.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding from the Summit Fund of Washington in Support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership

The Board adopted Resolution R16-2011 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$130,000 in grant funding from the Summit Fund of Washington to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$130,000. No COG matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Issue a Contract to Revise the DC Disaster Response Plan and to Complete all Hazards Planning Tasks

The Board adopted Resolution R17-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$250,000 to revise the DC Disaster Response Plan and to complete all hazard planning tasks. Funding for this effort will be provided through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA). No COG matching funds are required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the District of Columbia Department of the Environment, Watershed Protection Division for the Watts Branch Post-Construction Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Project

The Board adopted R18-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a proposal and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to: perform macroinvertebrate sampling for evaluating stream restoration project success in the Watts Branch watershed, perform limited water quality and physical aquatic habitat assessment and prepare a technical memorandum summarizing results from the monitoring effort. The project duration will be 3-years from contract execution. A

\$15,000 cash match (\$5,000 per year for the FY12-14 period) from COG's budgeted Non Point Source Program area will be provided.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R16-2011 through R18-2011 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. FEDERAL ACTIVITY

A. Overview of Proposed FY 2012 Federal Budget and Update on FY 2011 Appropriations

Congress is considering sweeping budget and appropriations actions to reduce Federal spending which are expected to impact programs that affect regions and local governments. Shannon Baxevanis, Deputy Director at the National Association of Regional Councils provided the Board with an overview of the pending budget and appropriations actions of greatest interest to regional councils and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

The President's FY2012 budget blueprint of \$3.73 billion dollars was released in February, but has been overshadowed by Congressional appropriation bills for FY2011, currently operating under a continuing resolution. The President's proposed FY 2012 budget will not be considered until the FY2011 funding levels are agreed upon by the Congress. There are significant differences between the House and Senate proposals as well as with the President's original FY 2011 request.

In February the House approved a long-term Continuing Resolution (HR 1) that makes \$61.5 billion in cuts, eliminations and funding rescissions; this is \$99.6 billion below the President's FY 2011 request. The House CR includes no earmarks and would eliminate all unobligated stimulus funding; local governments are strongly encouraged to finalize contract awards. The Senate's bill, Amendment 149, proposes \$6.5 billion in proposed cuts, eliminations and rescissions, (\$61.5B below the President's FY 2011 request) and restores many of the cuts made in HR. It restores funding for the HUD Sustainable Communities program, increases funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative grants and excludes controversial EPA amendments related to Chesapeake Bay restoration included in the House Bill. The Senate bill is unlikely to pass and has been crafted as a negotiation starting point.

B. 2011 Federal Legislative Priorities

Nicole Hange, COG's Policy and Government Relations Coordinator, highlighted COG's proposed 2011 federal legislative priorities. The ten priority statements are based on concepts or specific language that have been endorsed by the COG Board, the TPB and MWAQC in recent years and advance COG's strategic plan.

The priorities are meant to inform the first session of the 112th Congress, the Administration and others as they consider and implement policy now and in the coming months. It will also serve as a guide for COG to take more specific action as necessary.

In an effort to provide the greatest clarity and functionality priorities were categorized into the four areas of Economic and Community Development, Environment, Transportation and Homeland Security. Mindful of the significant budgetary challenge, the call for funding, or increased funding, has been reserved only for programs that are of utmost importance to this region. Such priorities include: continued funding for the HUD-DOT-EPA Livable Communities initiative, level funding for the Urban Area Security initiative grants which provides critical emergency response funding for metro areas and sustained funding for the federal-state Metro funding agreement.

Additional priorities include: reform and authorization of surface transportation legislation, implementation of a national climate adaptation program, and the provision of greater flexibility for local implementation of TMDL requirements for the Chesapeake Bay.

Ms. Hange stated that staff will continue to monitor the current federal legislative activity and respond as necessary. One issue of immediate concern is the elimination of federal funding for Metro. The 2008 federal-state agreement authorized \$150 million annually over ten years in federal funding for the capital and preventative maintenance needs of Metro to be matched by DC-MD-VA. The House's proposed Continuing Resolution would eliminate the federal share, jeopardizing this agreement and the \$300 million a year that the Metro system depends on to maintain the integrity and safety of the system. Fairfax County Board Supervisor Sharon Bulova stated that the COG Board should send a letter to Congress urging reinstatement of the funding; she noted that the Fairfax County Board has already sent a similar letter and urged other localities to do the same.

Mr. Robertson stated that staff will prepare a draft letter for the Board leadership's review and transmittal by the end of the week. In response to several requests, staff will also send members a template for adoption by local boards and councils.

8. REGIONAL INCIDENT RESPONSE ACTION PLAN

Supplemental Documents: Draft Response Action Plan

Many voiced concern with preparedness and response to the January 26 snow storm that left thousands without electric power and triggered hours-long commutes for many drivers. If public officials charged with emergency management, transportation and other critical government functions knew what we all know now they would have modified their response. Commuters might have chosen to "shelter-in-place" by remaining at the office until the storm ended, or decided to take Metro rail, which performed well on January 26. Montgomery County Council Member and Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Council Phil Andrews and COG's Executive Director David Robertson briefed the Board on findings to date and a staff recommendation that the COG Board appoint an ad hoc committee to oversee completion of a six-month January 26 snow/power action plan.

Mr. Andrews stated that the snow event has provided an opportunity to improve our readiness and response for events or incidents we can anticipate, and those that we cannot. Like so much of our region's work on emergency preparedness and response, we need to strengthen our "all hazards" capacity.

COG invited area city and county managers to make some initial observations on local and regional response. Their assessment was followed by a very extensive discussion by the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council. The EPC spent almost two hours on this subject and heard from a wide-range of local, state and federal officials, as well as school and business stakeholders and representatives of the area Red Cross. The COG Transportation Planning Board also specifically addressed concerns about transportation system performance, demand-management, and how transportation operations could be better coordinated and improved at its February meeting.

This input resulted in four focus areas and suggested action plan tasks: improving real-time information sharing among government agencies, improving information sharing with the media and public, improving regional coordination and decision-making, and examining best practices from across the U.S. and world. The COG Board will receive an implementation report in October 2011, in advance of the 2011-2012 winter season.

Chairman Andrews and Mr. Robertson were joined by representatives from transportation and emergency management agencies and the CAOs and Public Information Officers (PIOs) Committees, who responded to Board members questions and comments.

Vice Chairman Phil Mendelson stated that this should not be a discussion focused only on snow rather incident response generally. The region's response capabilities since the attacks of September 11, 2001 do not seem to have improved, we are still vulnerable. He added that other major metro areas have not, even with higher snow accumulations, had the issues Metropolitan Washington has experienced with mobility. We must think outside of the box and consider alternatives that may not be easy and may not be currently possible given existing protocol, but those which will drastically improve our response capabilities. We cannot continue doing the same things and expect different results.

Marc Penn, Chair of COG's Emergency Manager's Committee responded that the region has made marked improvement since September 11 and the issue with this particular event was lack of communication. Emergency managers were not provided the information necessary for their jurisdictions to make the best decisions.

Vice Chairman Frank Principi stated that PEPCO and other service providers should be added to the Task Force roster. Mr. Andrews agreed and also suggested the addition of representatives of other utilities.

Fairfax County Board Vice Chair Penny Gross stated that a communication plan needs to be developed to get information out to residents regarding individual jurisdictions; people must be told what they need to do. Residents should also be encouraged to "make a plan;" there must be some individual accountability.

Fairfax County Board Chair Sharon Bulova urged greater dialogue and partnership with the media to manage expectations; often we have a "crying wolf" syndrome where the worst case scenario is portrayed and never comes to fruition leaving people to often ignore "real" warnings.

Arlington County Board Member Walter Tejada suggested the implementation of regional "evacuation" drills, similar to fire and tornado drills exercised in the schools.

City of Falls Church Vice Mayor David Snyder echoed that the two issues of major concern are communication and decision making. He added that traffic demand management, and specifically capacity needs, must be evaluated.

District of Columbia City Administrator Allen Lew stated that while Metro was operating at full capacity there were many buses that struggled to pass on the roads. If buses are going to be in operation, they must be well equipped; he noted that none had tire chains.

Mr. Robertson stated that given the feedback received he will revise the Action Plan and provide a final copy to the Board at its next meeting.

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, the Incident Response Plan was unanimously approved and adopted.

9. NARC CONFERENCE OUTCOMES AND CALL FOR NARC BOARD NOMINATIONS

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) held its "national conference of regions" February 13-15 in Washington, DC. Over 250 elected and appointed officials and executive directors from dozens of regional councils across the country were in attendance.

The recent conference demonstrated NARC's continued benefit to its members and its relevance in tracking and shaping federal policy that supports our diverse regions.

In addition to her attendance, Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams participated in the conference. Staff was active as well. Dave Robertson serves on the NARC executive directors committee and co-chairs the homeland security committee.

The NARC annual conference will be held this year in San Diego, CA, June 13 - 15. COG staff will work with the COG Board officers to solicit and appoint a small delegation of members to attend this conference. Members can expect to receive additional information in the coming weeks.

Supervisor Gross stated that her tenure as the Region III (VA-MD-DC-WV) representative ends June 2011. She encouraged members to consider running for the Region III seat; noting the importance of continued strong leadership by COG on our national association. The Board will be asked to approve a nominee for election by the NARC membership at the April 13 Board meeting.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13. ADJOURN-THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 13, 2011.

**ATTENDANCE: MARCH 9, 2011
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2011**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Vincent Gray	N		
	Mr. Allen Lew	Y		
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	Hon. Michael Brown	N		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Hon. Dennis Brady	Y
City of Frederick	Hon. Randall McClement	N	Hon. Karen Young	N
College Park	Hon. Andrews Fellows	Y	Hon. Robert Catlin	N
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	Y	Hon. Blaine Young	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	Y		
	Hon. Valerie Ervin	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Rushern Baker	N	Mr. Michael Errico	Y
Council	Hon. Karen Toles	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Harrison (Chair)	Y		
Rockville	Hon. John Britton	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Galen Clagett	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Eulle	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Walter Tejada	Y	Hon. Jay Fissette	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	N	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Michael Frey	N
Falls Church	Hon. Nader Baroukh	N	Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	N	Hon. Scott York	N
Manassas	Hon. Sheryl Bass	Y		
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		