

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

MINUTES

**Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
July 14, 2004**

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Stuart Freudberg, Environmental Programs Director
Paul DesJardin, Director of Planning
Leah Boggs-Cooper, Environmental Planner**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2004

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the June 9 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

a) COG Board of Directors' Retreat – July 23-25, 2004

Chair Mendelson reminded the Board of the July retreat at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia.

b) Commuter Connections Awards

Five local businesses and agencies were honored at the Commuter Connections Employer Recognition awards breakfast for voluntarily initiating and promoting alternative commuter programs: U.S. Census Bureau, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, QRC Division of

Macro International Inc., Prince George's County and the City of Alexandria.

c) Hydrogen Forum Outcomes

The Hydrogen Forum was held on June 24 in the COG Board Room. Speakers presented information on the current development of hydrogen and fuel cells as alternative energy sources, as well as other energy policies and programs.

d) NARC/MML Conference Outcomes

Mayor Judith Davis was elected to the Maryland Municipal League's Board of Directors during its annual convention in Ocean City. Supervisor Penelope Gross was elected to NARC's Board of Directors.

Chair Mendelson announced that Vincent Orange will replace Peter Shapiro as Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Chair.

e) Appoint Budget/Finance Committee

Members of this year's committee are: Phil Mendelson, Board Chair; Judith F. Davis, Vice Chair; G.N. Jay Fiset, Vice Chair; Robert Dorsey, President; Penelope Gross, Vice President; Michael Knapp, Secretary-Treasurer; Christopher Zimmerman, Transportation Planning Board Chair; Thomas Dernoga, MWAQC Chair; Joyce Woodson, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee Chair; Walter Tejada, Human Services Policy Committee Chair; Barbara Favola, CONAANDA Chair; and Vincent Orange, Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Chair.

f) PPA Committee

New members on the Pension Plan Administrative Committee are: Michael Knapp, Montgomery County; Penelope Gross, Fairfax County; and Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia

g) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director highlighted activities as of July 2004 by other COG policy bodies, officials and staff.

Chair Mendelson reminded the Board to turn in their evaluation forms. Kelvin Robinson, who is leaving the D.C. government, introduced his replacement, Alfreda Davis.

4. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the consent agenda:

(A) Resolution Authorizing Application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Funding under the HUD Work Study Program

Resolution R35-04 – Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to submit an application and execute a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a grant covering October 2004 through August 2006.

(B) Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Fannie Mae Foundation

Resolution R36-04 – Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to submit a consolidated funding application to the Fannie Mae Foundation on behalf of the COG's WAHP and PREP programs.

(C) Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Accept A Sub-Contract From Howard University for PREP

Resolution R37-04 – Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to accept a sub-contract for \$56,000 for PREP from Howard University to manage the recruitment of mid-career professionals from the region to become teachers.

5. METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Dave Robertson briefed the Board on the MDPC's activities and their multi-year policy focus on growth and development. He introduced National Capital Planning Commission's Executive Director Patricia Gallagher, who reported on NCPC's recent activities.

Fifty years ago, the NCPC took over comprehensive planning for the region. Its key functions are comprehensive planning, review and approval of federal projects, special initiatives and preparing Federal Capital Improvement projects.

There is a perception that the federal presence in the region is diminishing. Ms. Gallagher discussed the impact of the federal presence in the areas of security, employment, procurement, land ownership, redevelopment and other areas. Makeshift security measures in the region mar beauty of federal facilities memorials and monuments. The NCPC has convened a task force to discuss how to integrate these measures. Access and freedom should be protected in the physical environment, and the NCPC is leading the way in identifying solutions to new security needs.

Ms. Gallagher concluded by mentioning several events that the NCPC will be doing jointly with COG, including the upcoming planning workshop focusing on smart growth, transportation and security design for the Fall, the reality check exercise next February and a green infrastructure symposium in March 2005.

Council Member Redella Pepper asked about the perception of a diminishing federal presence. In response, Ms. Gallagher said the perception exists because federal employment is down. There are fewer federal employees but more outsourced employees. Ms. Davis mentioned NCPC's quarterly report and thanked the NCPC for working with the City of Greenbelt.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerald Connolly asked about statistics on leased and owned space in the region. Ms. Gallagher said she'd provide copies of her presentation to the Board. He also expressed concern about base closings. If a decision is made to move these bases from leased space, the economic impact would be great. He encouraged COG to follow this issue.

Board Member Jay Fisetite noted that the Department of Defense's security standards are different from the area and asked if NCPC was involved in this. Ms. Gallagher said yes but explained the difference between NCPC's role as final reviewer and advisory reviewer.

Various Board members discussed other issues of importance, and Chair Mendelson asked if the MDPC was involved in some of the issues. Mr. Robertson said yes, and added that COG is starting to improve dialogue at the policy level. Ms. Gross asked about Ft. Belvoir and security issues, which have impacted the community. Ms. Gallagher said that as the NCPC reviews the master plans, it refers them out to the localities. Chair Mendelson suggested that COG's elected officials work more closely with their local planning directors.

Ms. Davis said the federal government worked closely with her jurisdiction with the Goddard/NASA. Greenbelt was part of the planning process from the beginning. Ms. Floreen asked the NCPC to be more aggressive in these matters.

Kelvin Robinson added that the District deals with these issues every day. Just because an agency is federal doesn't mean it has authority, so be sure to check on that. Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R33-04.

B. Economic Trends and Construction

Paul DesJardin briefly discussed the latest regional economic trends. The area's economy is healthy relative to other areas of the country. The job growth pattern over the last five years is robust. Loudoun County is among the fastest growing counties in the country, the housing market is very robust and unemployment is down.

Commercial construction in the region is growing as well. There is a slight decline in construction from the previous year. This area is considered the best market for commercial real estate in the country. Nearly a third of the space is for office use, and three-quarters of the space is privately owned. Mr. DesJardin reported on additional information about individual jurisdictions, metrorail and commuter stations and activity centers.

Ms. Floreen asked for a copy of jurisdictional information. Mr. Robertson noted that the requested information was in the form of reports available in their Board packets, but added that staff would provide more detailed information if necessary.

6. Strategic Plan

Mayor Pro Tem and Strategic Committee Chair Bruce Williams briefly discussed the Strategic Plan. First adopted in November 2001, the Strategic Plan defines COG's vision, mission and goal strategies. The plan has been effective in guiding COG and is reviewed annually. It will be discussed at this summer's retreat. Last year the By-laws and Rules of Procedure were updated, and this year the plan is scheduled for an update. The annual work program and budget is where the Board defines specific projects.

Next steps include preparing the plan, committee review and adoption by the COG Board. Mr. Williams asked the Board to review the proposed plan and goals, fill out the enclosed form and return by fax.

7. ENERGY PLAN/POWER SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

A. Electric Power Summit

Stuart Freudberg reported on the March 31 Power Summit. The purpose of the summit was to share lessons learned from Hurricane Isabel and how these lessons are being applied. There were 100 participants and three panels: electric and gas utilities, water utilities and regulatory and advocacy organizations. There is an unedited transcript and video available upon request.

Issues discussed were scenario development and testing, vegetation and tree management, public education and outreach and other items. The report proposes that COG offer its services as facilitator and convener at a minimum to share information.

The Board was asked to offer guidance and feedback and to endorse the report, authorizing the Director to implement recommendations. Council Member Carol Schwartz moved to endorse the

report with a modification to add moderators. The motion was seconded. Ms. Gross requested that the attendees list be sorted by last name rather than first name. The report was adopted unanimously.

B. Regional Comprehensive Energy Plan

Leah Boggs-Cooper reported on the Regional Comprehensive Energy Plan. The plan addresses the region's consumption, current regional comprehensive energy plan, regional planners' common concerns and reduced dependency on imported energy. The scope of work includes several tasks, including studying design, process, implementing strategies and program management. Ms. Boggs-Cooper discussed COG's history of involvement in energy conservation issues. A summary of plan elements includes renewable energy, green buildings, public education and outreach, etc.

COG staff will manage the project, EPAC will provide management oversight and the CAOs and COG Board will provide guidance. The timeline for the plan is 12 months and the budget is \$175,000. Funding sources are the FY 2005 budget, and possibly grants or COG contingency funds.

Mr. Connolly moved to adopt Resolution R34-04, and the motion was seconded. He asked if certain jurisdictions would be called upon to come up with measures for the energy plan. In response, Ms. Boggs-Cooper said they will. The plan would be a best practices guide.

Several Board members asked about the contingency fund and how the money is used. Mr. Robertson said that if additional funds are necessary to expand a project, those funds can be taken from contingency fund, which contains approximately \$180,000. Ms. Gross expressed concerns about using funds for projects not currently in the budget.

Mr. Robertson explained that there was a sense of urgency with the energy plan; however, COG will pursue grants to fund the plan but wanted the option to draw from the fund. Ms. Gross said if the resolution is approved, the reporting of spending should be made to the Board in advance, if possible, so that everyone is aware of it.

Supervisor Lori Waters offered a friendly amendment to Resolution R34-04 to allow COG to use \$100,000 from the budget. If unable to secure grants, COG would return to the Board and request additional funds from the contingency account. Mr. Connolly accepted Ms. Water's amendment, but withdrew his motion after Chair Mendelson suggested taking the matter up in September.

8. STATUS REPORT ON LOCAL-STATE DIALOGUE ON MWAQC PLANNING PROCESS

The status of MWAQC will be discussed at the Board retreat. The two governors and the mayor have set October as the deadline to resolve MWAQC's structure.

9. INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL EXCELLENCE TEAM PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Williams provided background on the Institute for Regional Excellence. The first presentation was "Extending Transit Oriented Development Across the Region: the Case of Southern Prince George's County", given by Tom Miller. He discussed the "region divided" in Prince George's County, and said the issues can't all be solved locally. The regional disparities are connected to housing and transit. His team found that a divide exists within Prince George's County itself. His team recommended that WMATA back off from its requirement that businesses doing joint development with WMATA provide one-for-one parking, which may act as a deterrent to joint development.

"Regional Transportation Authority: A Comparative Assessment" was presented by John White. His team focused on traffic congestion as related to evacuation plans and rush hour traffic during long commutes. The goals were to review models for enhanced regional coordination, feasibility of ideal models, and assess and determine alternatives for a regional authority. Mr. White said the problem is complex and listed several alternatives to problem solving. The team concluded that although congestion is a big problem, there is not much support for a centralized regional authority.

"Targeted Foster Parent Recruitment: A Response to a Regional Crisis" was presented by Lorraine Peck. She discussed the need for more foster families to care for children, particularly difficult to place children. Many parents are not ready/able to take care of such children and added that recruitment strategies have to be specifically targeted rather than general. Ms. Peck listed several methods used to reach specific people.

Dr. Jacqueline Brown asked about the focus of the first panel's research. In response, Mr. Miller said the team looked at the Brookings Institute report on the "region divided" and added that there are very few activity centers in Prince George's County. The team focused on the southern portion of the Green Line, why there are very few activity centers and what can be done to improve that.

**10. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WOULD BE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2004**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.