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Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: May 12, 2010

TIME: 12:00 Noon

PLACE: COG Board Room

**PLEASE NOTE: Chairman Brown will begin the meeting promptly at Noon.
Lunch for members and alternates will be available at 11:30 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
(12:00 Noon)**
**Chairman Kwame Brown
Councilmember, District of Columbia**
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS
(12:00 – 12:05 p.m.)**
Chairman Brown
 - a) Workforce Conference – June 3
 - b) Leadership Retreat – July 23-24
 - c) Election Outcomes
3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
(12:05 – 12:10 p.m.)**
 - a) Outreach
 - b) Legislative/Regulatory Update
 - c) Information and Follow-up
 - d) Letters Sent/Received
4. **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA
(12:10 – 12:15 p.m.)**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2010
(12:15 – 12:20 p.m.)**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

(12:20 – 12:25 p.m.)

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOR A LAWN MOWER EXCHANGE EVENT

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution R26-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$185,000 from the Maryland Department of Environment, through Clean Air Partners, to administer a Lawn Mower Exchange Program to improve air quality and raise awareness of ozone, particle pollution and climate change. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R26-10.

B. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MODIFICATION OF FEMA 48 HOUR RULE

On November 2, 2009 the Federal Emergency Management Agency revised its Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.1 Snow Assistance Policy significantly reducing the assistance available to eligible applicants. FEMA will only reimburse local governments for snow removal during the designated 48-hour period when a record or new-record snowfall impacts a state and the President issues a disaster declaration. As one of several outcomes from COG's After-Action Leadership Forum on Snow, held April 5, emergency managers, city and county officials and others noted that it took many more hours than the FEMA standard to clear snow during the February 2010 snowstorm. The COG Board will be asked to approve correspondence to federal officials to request a review and modification of the FEMA rule to provide greater flexibility on snow reimbursement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve letter.

C. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CLEAN AIR PARTNERS CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution R27-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$400,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), through Clean Air Partners, to administer a Climate Change Education Initiative which will improve teaching of climate science in schools, expand its existing air quality and climate change curriculum, and inspire students to pursue educational and employment opportunities in the "green" industry. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R27-10.

**7. PROPOSAL FOR COG TO PARTICIPATE IN WMATA GOVERNANCE REVIEW
(12:25 – 12:55 PM)**

**James Dyke, Jr.
McGuireWoods, LLP
Chairman, Board of Directors
Greater Washington Board of Trade**

**David Robertson
COG Executive Director**

COG has been invited to participate with the Greater Washington Board of Trade in a review of the WMATA governance structure. Governance issues have been identified by some public officials and business and civic leaders as an area of concern and may be more difficult for WMATA to address in the short-term. A public-private examination of governance structures successfully employed by other transit agencies could provide WMATA with useful options and recommendations. COG partnered with the GWBOT in 2004-2005 to lead and support a special Metro dedicated funding panel that successfully reviewed and recommended new federal-regional funding for WMATA. The COG Board will be briefed on the proposed public-private governance review and next steps.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve COG participation in governance review.

**8. REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS
(12:55 – 1:15 PM)**

Data Analysis

**John McClain
Senior Fellow, Center for Regional Analysis, School of Public Policy
George Mason University**

Response Panel

**David Hunn
President and CEO
SkillSource Group**

**Joseph P. Walsh, Jr.
Director, D.C. Department of Employment Services**

**Dan Mosser
Vice President, Workforce Development & Continuing Education
Prince George's Community College**

In adopting the 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities, the COG Board made jobs and economic resiliency a top priority for 2010. Recent economic reports suggest that the economy is beginning to recover and unemployment rates are stabilizing. Mr. McClain will provide the Board with an analysis of regional labor market trends, specifically how this region compares with others across the country, which sectors have been impacted the most and the implications. The panel will provide reaction from a grassroots perspective as to whether employment rates are in fact stabilizing within individual communities, which will guide action by COG and others to strengthen and enhance economic recovery.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive presentation and recommend COG partnerships to support additional research and recommendations.

**9. BRIEFING ON ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN
(1:15 – 1:30 PM)**

**Dana Minerva
Executive Director
Anacostia Restoration Partnership**

**Eric Siegel
Anacostia Waterfront Business Improvement District**

Since its creation by the COG Board in June 2006, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership has overseen the development of a comprehensive "Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan and Report." The plan, which was prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers together with its local partners including COG, was formally released on April 19, 2010 in Bladensburg, MD at a ceremony presided over by Congressman Steny Hoyer. Ms. Minerva and Mr. Siegel will present the results of the Plan and discuss its environmental and economic implications for the watershed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive briefing.

**10. APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE COG EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN
(1:30 – 1:45 PM)**

**David Robertson
COG Executive Director**

The COG Board will be asked to approve a modification to the COG employee defined benefit pension plan. The amendment will revise a provision first approved in 2000 to allow retirees to apply the value of accrued sick leave to their final year of salary for pension benefit calculation purposes. This provision is not regularly found in similar public sector plans, boosts the cost of COG's plan at a time of financial market instability, and if not changed, would require significant additional contribution by COG or employees or both. The proposed amendment eliminates this provision for new employees and caps the accrued sick leave that may be applied to benefit calculation for current employees. The COG Board will also be asked to approve a second recommendation which has no impact on pension benefit or costs, to allow for a split benefit distribution. The Pension Plan Administrative Committee approved the Executive Director's proposed amendments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution R28-10 and R29-10.

**11. FY 2010 THIRD QUARTER REPORT
(1:45 – 1:50 p.m.)**

**Dan Drummond
Councilmember, City of Fairfax
Secretary-Treasurer, COG**

Secretary-Treasurer Drummond will provide the COG Board with the FY 2010 third quarter (January–March) report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive briefing.

13. OTHER BUSINESS
(1:50-1:55 P.M.)

14. ADJOURN- NEXT MEETING JUNE 9, 2010
(2:00 P.M.)



Reasonable accommodations are provided for persons with disabilities. Please allow 7 business days to process requests. Phone: 202.962.3300 or 202-962.3213 (TDD). Email: accommodations@mwkog.org. For details: www.mwkog.org