

**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 13, 2006**

**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

Chair Jay Fisette called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2006 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the July 12 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fisette first congratulated members who won primary elections in their jurisdictions. He also welcomed the City of Alexandria Mayor William Euille to the Board and the newest addition to the COG membership the City of Frederick. First-term Mayor William Holtzinger will serve as the City's representative to the Board.

Green Building practices have picked up a lot of steam recently, so much so that the metropolitan Washington region is well on its way to being a national model for green building initiatives. COG has arranged for a one-day conference on September 29 at the University of Maryland Conference Center to discuss environmental building practices.

The Wise Water Use Program distributed its "Water Wise, Landscaping and Watering Guide" as a part of "Water, Use it Wisely" campaign to inform residents on the importance of water conservation in daily activities. The guide provides sensible approaches to help save water while having an attractive yard.

COG recently held a "Safe Routes to Schools Forum" which focused on pedestrian safety best practices around the region. Chair Fisetto stated that this is a very complex issue, one that requires both public safety and transportation planning, and presents a very good opportunity for COG Board to get more involved.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson stated that he met with the new President of the Greater Washington Board of Trade who committed to continuing the strong relationship of the two organizations.

Over the past few months there was much media attention surrounding air quality and the excessive heat as well as income and commuting data recently released for the region.

A poster was distributed to the members by the Washington Area Housing Partnership in its effort to get the message out on workforce housing.

In addition, a new copy of the "Region," which highlights annual transportation goals was provided to the Board as well as four "In Focus" reports for the Cities of Manassas, College Park, Greenbelt, and Rockville.

Mr. Robertson announced the recruitment and subsequent hiring of a new Assistant Executive Director (AED). The new AED Naomi Friedman will begin in October serving as the main staff person for the CAO's in addition to focusing on member services and government outreach.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R41-06 to R44-06 (electronic)

A. Resolution Authorizing COG to Contract for a National Capital Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan

The Board adopted Resolution R41-06, approving a proposal to obtain the services of an individual or an organization to develop a National Capital Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan. The purpose of the National Capital Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan is to provide a document that integrates the evacuation plans of all members of the NCR into a functional plan for the safe and timely evacuation of residents and guests of the NCR in a public emergency. COG is being provided \$1,500,000 through a Grant Adjustment Notice to its Urban Area Security Initiative Grant to provide Secretariat Support to execute the Proposal. No COG matching funds are required.

B. Resolution Authorizing COG to Contract for Items Included in the ETOP Training and Exercise Bundle

The Board adopted Resolution R42-06, approving proposals to obtain the services of individuals or organizations to develop and/or conduct training and exercises included in the Exercise and Training Operations Panel (ETOP) Training and Exercise Bundle as requested by various entities. The ETOP Training and Exercise Bundle will be used to meet training and/or exercise needs in the NCR to enhance preparedness within the region. COG is being provided \$1,500,000 through a Grant Adjustment Notice to execute the ETOP Training and Exercise Bundle. No COG matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Expend Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds from the Department of Homeland Security to Support the Enhancement of the Drinking Water Security Monitoring Network for the National Capital Region

The Board adopted Resolution R43-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee, to expend FY06 Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the purpose of purchasing and operation of additional monitors as part of the water security monitoring network in the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the Summit Fund of Washington for the Anacostia Watershed Restoration - Building Citizen-Based Capacity project.

The Board adopted R44-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to submit a proposal and execute a contract to assist the Anacostia Watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee (AWCAC) in establishing a new subwatershed group in the Little Paint Branch subwatershed, strengthen existing subwatershed groups, and holding a watershed environmental networking workshop. Funds will be requested in an amount not to exceed \$68,413. The project duration will be 12 months from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds are required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R41-06 through R44-06 were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF COG RETREAT

Supplemental Documents: Retreat Summary (electronic)

In addition to great attendance and a beautiful location, this year's Annual Board Retreat was a success in terms of providing members with an opportunity to network with each other and have open honest dialogue. Substantive discussions were held on Envision Greater Washington, the conduct of regular monthly Board meetings, and the handling of future COG legislative and regulatory proposals. Portions of the retreat were also dedicated to sharing best practices of member jurisdictions and the planning for COG's 50th Anniversary.

Chair Fisetto noted that from the discussions held on Envision Greater Washington, a six person panel (2-Md, 2-DC, 2-Va) has been put together to address the concerns and suggestions raised by the members. This panel will report its recommendations to the COG Board at its October meeting.

Mr. Robertson added that there were many take-aways from the retreat and that as they come to fruition would be brought before the Board. These items include: the development of a consolidated yearly events calendar and creation of a state/federal legislative program to ensure an effective and coordinated voice grounded in local government adopted policies.

A summary of the Retreat, its attendees, and the evaluation was included in the member's packets.

7. UPDATE ON IMPACTS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD) BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) AND SECURITY-RELATED ACTIONS IN THE WASHINGTON REGION

Supplemental Documents: BRAC Update and Proposed Next Steps Memo (Electronic)
Arlington County's Power Point (Electronic)

In 2005 COG and TPB staff analyzed the potential implications of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations for the Washington region. In addition to the base-specific recommendations, DoD also recommended not renewing leases for many buildings in the region that do not meet the Department's anti-terrorism standards for design and security. Cynthia Richmond from the Arlington County Department of Economic Development, along with Ellen McCarthy, D.C. Office of Planning, Fred Seldon, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning, and Paul Desjardin, Chief of Housing and Planning at COG, briefed the Board on significant BRAC activities to date and made suggestions for additional follow-up work by COG.

Ms. Richmond stated that upon announcement of DoD's recommendations, Arlington County created a BRAC Transition Task Force to look into the best way to approach the large amount of jobs moving out of the County and the approximately 4 million square feet of office space that would be vacant. The main issue with this round of recommendations is that there were many levels of government involved with virtually no single point of contact making it very hard to obtain accurate timely information. Arlington is viewing the BRAC impact as an opportunity for the growth and redevelopment of Crystal City and has developed a long list of steps to do so, including the creation of a BRAC transition center and the streamlining of the planning and permitting process.

Fairfax County, specifically Ft. Belvior, will be the recipient of these jobs and the influx of workers. While there is a large amount of vacant land much of it is environmentally constrained and therefore cannot be developed. In addition, existing transportation infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate such growth; there is very little expectation that the needed improvements will be completed by 2011 deadline. Because little is known about the types of jobs moving to the area, including any private sector relocation, associated land-use impacts will continue to be an unanswered question.

Mr. Seldon added that the Ft. Belvior master plan, created in the early 90's, estimated a working population of 20,000 by year 2015 however, the site reached that number early this decade. In addition, none of the significant transportation improvements necessary to support the existing population have been put in place—specifically the missing link of the Fairfax County Parkway.

Ms. McCarthy echoed comments made by Ms. Richmond on how hard it is to plan for Walter Reed's pending vacancy with such little information being divulged; neither jurisdiction where hospital personnel will be relocating knows when it will receive funding to build the necessary facilities. The key issue, especially for the NCR, is the jobs/housing

balance. The vacancy of Walter Reed presents an opportunity for the District to balance this growth by filling that space with predominantly residential development with some mixed use. Due to security issues however, the GSA and State Department have requested the land for their own use to house high security office space.

Ms. McCarthy requested that COG actively work with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in developing a plan or recommendations for the region on how to best ameliorate the negative impacts caused by the BRAC recommendations.

The Board agreed to stay engaged in this issue and work collectively with the NCPC to develop recommendations as well as convene a one-day event to help frame the discussion and common concerns of the BRAC recommendations.

8. INTERIM REPORT BY BROADBAND ACCESS TASK FORCE

Supplemental Documents: BATF Work Plan (Electronic)
BATF Report Outline (Electronic)
BATF Survey (Electronic)

Stemming from last year's Annual Retreat, and work completed by the Digital Divide Task Force in 2001, the COG Board established the Broadband Access Task Force (BATF) early this year in an effort to strengthen the region's economy and transform its communities by fostering the development of broadband internet access. Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters briefed the Board of the Task Force's progress to-date and plans for a regional broadband forum, best practices toolkit, and broader policy recommendations for consideration by area state and local governments.

Over the past year a series of meetings and conference calls have taken place to discuss issues and begin to develop a framework for understanding the relationship between government and broadband technologies. In addition, much research has been conducted on broadband availability and adoption, both in this region and throughout the nation, and on policy issues raised by broadband. A compilation of this data will be put into a report with the intention for it to serve as a blueprint for local governments to use when developing local broadband initiatives and policies.

Recognizing the need to understand how local governments are currently using broadband, the BATF created a survey of broadband attitudes and projects to be completed by COG members; to date five jurisdictions have completed the survey. The BATF has also planned to hold a regional Broadband Forum on October 26 at COG to highlight the work of the BATF and present a draft copy of its report. It will also allow for government and the private sector to engage in constructive dialog around key issues. A copy of both the report outline and survey were included in the packets.

Ms. Waters noted that just recently Virginia Governor Tim Kaine signed an Executive Order creating the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance recognizing that access to broadband technologies is key to maintaining the Commonwealth's economic vitality. The new staff person responsible for this department Karen West; Virginia Delegate Jim Scott suggested that she be included in the work of the task force.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TIME

The Chair invited Board members to share information of best practices and program issues of concern or in need of attention by COG. By request of the Chair, an update was given on the status of metro dedicated funding legislation at the federal and state levels.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

11. RECONVENE OF PUBLIC SESSION

Upon returning to public session the Board of Directors voted on the recommendations made by the ECBR.

ACTION: By a majority vote, the COG Board of Directors approved the new 3-year contract, including salary recommendations, of the Executive Director as contained in Resolution R40-06. John Lovell, of Frederick County, voted against the salary increase.

**ATTENDANCE: September 13, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	Y	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	Y	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	Y		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	N
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fiset	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	N		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	Y	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y	Mr. Bruce Tulloch	N
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Vacant	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants

Cynthia Richmond
Arlington County Dept. of
Economic Development

Ellen McCarthy
D.C. Office of Planning

Fred Seldon
Fairfax County Dept. of
Planning and Zoning

Paul Desjardin
Chief of Housing and
Planning, COG

Gregory Goodwin
Senior Regional Planner, COG