

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

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room  
January, 11 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**

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

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Davis stated that the annual meeting held in December had a great turnout. Dr. Robert Lang, the keynote speaker, held a thought provoking discussion on the expansion of metropolitan areas. During the meeting the FY 2007 budget and work program was adopted and the 2006 corporate officers were elected. Chair Davis congratulated the following members for their appointments: District of Columbia

Council Member Carol Schwartz as President, Frederick County Commissioner John Lovell and Alexandria Council Member Redella Pepper as Vice-Presidents, and Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Jacqueline Brown as Secretary-Treasurer.

Chair Davis announced that the National Association of Regional Councils will hold its Washington Policy Conference February 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be held at the Omni Shorehan Hotel and will have breakout sessions that will focus on homeland security, community development, transportation finance, and environmental concerns. Those interested in attending should contact Executive Director David Robertson.

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

Executive Director David Robertson stated that letters were sent out to the member jurisdictions requesting appointments to the various policy committees and encouraged those that have not made such appointments, do so at their earliest convenience.

An update on the status of the Mutual Aid agreement was provided in the Board's information packet; significant progress has been made to adopt the Agreement with all but three jurisdiction's signatures and the intent is to begin formulating operational plans by the end of the month.

## **6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R6-06 to R11-06 (Electronic)

### **(A.) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for Anacostia Forestry-Related Services**

The Board adopted Resolution R6-06, authorizing the Executive Director to execute an 11- month memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for Anacostia forestry-related services. No COG matching funds are required.

### **(B.) Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive Grant Funds from the Maryland Agro-Ecology Center for a Market Survey of Alternative Land Application Sites for Bio-solids and Other Organic Nutrient Sources in the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA)**

The Board adopted Resolution R7-05, authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract agreement, not to exceed a total of \$40,000, with the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology to assist COG in conducting a survey of local public landowners and private industry groups for the application and/or use of bio-solids and other organic nutrients. This grant requires a \$14,373 local match, which has been included in the adopted FY 2006 Work Program and Budget.

### **(C.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Anacostia Watershed Marine Debris - Anacostia Trash Strategy and Cleanup Commitment.**

The Board adopted R8-06, authorizing the Executive Director to submit a grant proposal in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to finalize the "Comprehensive Strategic Action Plan For Trash Reduction In The Anacostia River" draft document (which will be used as the model for the Potomac River's Trash Reduction Initiative); and assist NOAA reconvening public officials, senior NOAA leadership, and other key congressional representatives and senators at a Re-Commitment For A Clean Anacostia ceremonial event through the period of 12 months from the receipt of funding. No additional COG matching funds are required.

**(D.) Resolution to Continue Respite Services to the District of Columbia's Foster Families**

The Board adopted Resolution R9-06, authorizing the Executive Director to accept grants from the federal government and the Freddie Mac Foundation to continue to provide respite services to District foster families through the Work of Heart Foster Care Respite Program. Now entering its third year, the Work of Heart Respite Program has offered DC foster parents needed support in their efforts to care for the District's most vulnerable children. Grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$346,000 will be accepted (\$250,000 in federal funds, \$96,000 from the Freddie Mac Foundation). No additional COG matching funds are required.

**(E.) Resolution in Support of a Grant to Administer the Safe Cribs Program for the District of Columbia**

The Board adopted Resolution R10-06, authorizing the Executive Director to accept grant funds from the District of Columbia's Health Department to provide crib vouchers to new mothers in need of a crib. COG has been administering the Safe Cribs Program for the last three years through a partnership with the DC Maternal and Child Health Administration. This program provides a free crib to any resident of the District of Columbia. Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 5,000 crib vouchers have been issued to the new mothers in the District of Columbia. Grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 will be accepted. No COG matching funds are required.

**(F.) Amendment to the FY 2006 Work Program and Budget to Support Expanded Transportation, Land Use, and Environmental Planning Activities**

The COG Board adopted Resolution R11-06, amending the FY 2006 Work Program and Budget to support expanded transportation, land use, and environmental planning activities. Enactment of new federal transportation planning reauthorization legislation in 2005 resulted in COG receiving an additional \$2,700,000 in federal and state planning funds in FY 2006, requiring an additional \$300,000 in local matching funds not anticipated in December 2004 when the Work Program and Budget was adopted. COG will accommodate the matching fund requirement by reprogramming local funds currently budgeted in FY 2006 for transportation-related land use and environmental planning activities and using a portion of approved FY 2006 contingency reserve funds (interest and building income), resulting in increased total funding for these program activities, enhanced leveraging of federal and state transportation funds, and no need for additional local matching funds. The approved FY 2007 Work Program and Budget provided a similar accommodation for expanded transportation, land use, and environmental planning activities.

**ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, consent agenda items A through D were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.**

## **7. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO**

Supplemental Document: Metro Dedicated Funding Joint Committee Proposal (Electronic)  
District of Columbia Proposed Legislation (Electronic)

Last year, the Board of Directors adopted a policy statement that called for dedicated funding for Metro following a study and recommendations presented by the Blue Ribbon Metro Funding Panel. Mr. Robertson, on behalf of Fairfax County Supervisor Gerald Connolly who was absent due to illness, briefed the Board on legislation currently before Congress which would provide a dedicated source of revenue for Metro. HR 3496, sponsored by Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), would provide additional federal funding contributions for capital and preventative maintenance needs for WMATA, contingent on the three "States" doing the same; it has been reported out of committee with amendments that provide for four federal directors (two voting) and a reduction in the limitations impacting local land use, but has not been scheduled for action on the floor.

Both the District of Columbia and Virginia have introduced legislation in an effort to meet Congressman Davis' requirement; it is anticipated that the State of Maryland will do the same.

Montgomery County Council Member and current Chair of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), Michael Knapp stated that dedicated funding for Metro has always been a priority for Maryland and while legislation has yet to be filed it is in the works. He also stated that the TPB has passed a measure similar to COG's and the Davis bill and that dedicated funding for Metro will continue to be a focus of the TPB.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette added that while a lot has been done to secure funding, the legislative sessions in Virginia and Maryland are approaching and there is an inherent need for the ability to coordinate efforts. He suggested the establishment of a short term Metro Dedicated Funding Joint Committee to review, evaluate, and advocate for thorough and swift consideration of Metro dedicated funding legislation. Mr. Fissette and Mr. Knapp will be co-conveners.

In response to Chair Davis' suggestion that the District have a representative, Mr. Fissette stated that the committee is a joint effort by the COG Board and TPB and as such the District was not included; however, the District may elect a representative to participate as a co-convener if they so choose.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, the creation of Metro Dedicated Funding Joint Committee was approved and adopted.\***

\*Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters abstained from the vote do to the County's past opposition to tax increases for dedicated funding source for Metro.

## **8. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROADBAND TASK FORCE**

Supplemental Documents: BBTF Workplan (electronic)  
Resolution R1-06 (electronic)

In November, the COG Board adopted a resolution directing COG staff to appoint a Broadband Task Force that would advise the Board on regional and local broadband policy initiatives and best practices. Executive Director David Robertson briefed the Board on the on the purpose of the task force, its proposed goals, and initial participants.

The Task Force will build on the findings and recommendations made by the 2000-2001 Digital Divide Task Force and the work being conducted in Loudoun County to promote video and teleconferencing. Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters has agreed to serve as Chair of the Task Force. She stated that this is a regional issue and should be acted on accordingly noting that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is in the process of developing policy on the issue and should be completed by March.

Chair Davis agreed, as did others, noting that it is often very expensive to provide such services to smaller jurisdictions and that a regional approach may enable affordability in providing these services.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R1-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **9. RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG AS AN ADJUNCT MEMBER AND ESTABLISH AN ASSESSMENT FEE SCHEDULE**

Supplemental Documents: Letter from the Mayor of Bladensburg (hard-copy)  
Resolution (Electronic)

Executive Director David Robertson briefed the Board on a request by the Town of Bladensburg for adjunct membership in the organization. Although full membership status with COG requires jurisdictions to have populations of at least 25,000, the bylaws adopted by the Board in 2003 allow a government with a population between 5,000 and 25,000 to join COG as an adjunct member.

Adjunct members would be included in the General Membership and are entitled to appoint elected officials and staff to policy advisory committees and technical committees, respectively, but are not represented on the COG Board of Directors. Staff recommendation is that dues be charged pro rata at one half the adopted fee for regular membership (currently \$0.60482), or \$0.30241.

The Town of Bladensburg is the first to request such membership. Upon amendment to the bylaws, COG began looking into ways of reaching out to smaller jurisdictions and providing information as to the value and resources associated with being a member of COG. Two other localities, the Towns of Hyattsville and Seat Pleasant, have also expressed some interest.

Many members expressed their pleasure with incorporating smaller jurisdictions into the COG footprint and the value that they could bring.

Fairfax County Board Member Penelope Gross requested that COG staff review all policy and technical committee bylaws to ensure they conform to the COG bylaws in respect to adjunct membership.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R2-06 to endorse the Town of Bladensburg as an adjunct member was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **10. ACTION TO APPROVE COMMENTS ON CHESAPEAKE BAY LEGISLATION AND UPDATE ON CHESAPEAKE BAY ISSUES**

Supplemental Documents: Memo from John Lovell, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (Electronic)  
EPA Response to Congress (Electronic)  
Letter to Senator Sarbanes and Rep Gilchrest (Electronic)  
State of the Bay Report (Electronic)  
S. 1490 (Electronic)  
H.R. 4126 (Electronic)  
The Butterfly Effect: How Land Development Impacts Water Quality  
(website: [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net))  
Resolution R3-06 (Electronic)

John Lovell, Frederick County Commissioner and Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, briefed the Board and presented the recommended comments by the Committee on legislation recently introduced that would authorize greater spending on restoration activities by the federal government and potentially award more money to implementation efforts at the local government level.

Recently there has been some speculation that the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have overstated progress by relying on over optimistic computer models, and as a result, the Government Accountability Office along with the EPA's Inspector General have been commissioned to investigate how the Bay Program measures progress and reports on the Bay's health.

The GAO recommended a complete restructuring of the Bay Program's reporting and assessment system as well as an overall, coordinated strategy and better targeting of limited resources. An agricultural review conducted by the Inspector General was completed in 2005 but has not yet been issued.

In response to concerns about the Bay Program, Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes and Maryland Representative Wayne Gilchrest have introduced bills to reauthorize the federal role in the program. The bills address funding issues by increasing the federal authorization from \$40 million to \$50 million a year.

Mr. Lovell stated that the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee supports efforts to make the Bay Program partners more accountable for making progress. The committee also offered two comments on the local government section of the Gilchrest bill, which includes a mechanism-the small watershed grants program-to fund stormwater measures at the local level: 1.) Increase the overall amount allocated to this program to about one-third of the overall Bay allocation, or \$16 million per year, because local governments are responsible for implementing most stormwater measures; and 2.) Increase the amount that successful grant applicants can receive from this program to up to \$1 million because the current cap of \$50,000 is far too small to be used for most stormwater projects in urban areas. The proposed resolution and the draft letter reflect these recommendations.

Though this legislation will not begin to close the restoration funding gap even with the recommended amendments, it will be an incremental step in the right direction and lead to greater recognition of the role of local governments.

Before Board approval on the proposed resolution and draft letter, Mr. Lovell noted that our region has been a leader in nutrient reductions. Despite continuing growth, nitrogen loads from point sources in the Potomac watershed have declined by more than 45% in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia since 1985 and he expects further improvements as the impact of Maryland's Restoration Fund is felt and possible funding enhancements are approved in Virginia.

The Bay Policy Committee will continue to explore other funding options that COG may wish to support. It will also monitor the budget initiative in Virginia as well as the possible impact the Federal Farm Bill may have on the water quality of the Bay.

Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg asked how localities would be able to receive the additional dollars. Ted Graham, Water Resources Program Director for COG, responded that the Bay Program sets aside a portion of money called the "Small Watersheds Grant" which allows local governments as well as non-profits to apply for small grass roots projects.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisetette requested an update and review of legislation proposed by Virginia Governor Mark Warner which would provide \$200 million dollars for Bay restoration. Because the Bay Policy Committee has not fully analyzed the legislation, Fairfax County Board Member Penny Gross asked that it be placed on the agenda of the next Committee meeting. At that meeting the Committee will also address the request made by Ms. Barg that a letter of support be sent to the General Assembly on behalf of COG.

In response to several comments that lobbying be made to the General Assembly in support of this funding, Ms. Gross stated that letters of support had been sent out to the areas Congressional delegation by the Potomac Watershed Roundtable. Ms. Gross also asked the copies of the federal Farm Bill brochure be distributed to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee as well as the Board.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R3-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **11. UPDATE ON THE DAY LABOR SUMMIT**

Supplemental Documents: Day Labor Binder (Hard-copy)  
Summit Evaluation (Electronic)

As the number of men and women in search of day work has increased in recent years the Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) determined a need to address the issue in a regional manner. On November 17<sup>th</sup> COG hosted the first regional Day Labor Summit, where local officials from throughout metropolitan Washington joined day labor center administrators, human services providers, and local business representatives to discuss the issue and come up with constructive solutions. The Committee believes it was the first time nationally that the day labor issue has been discussed at the regional level.

Walter Tejada, Chair of the Human Services Policy Committee along with Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Judith Brown, discussed the outcomes of the summit and what follow up steps COG will be taking.

Mr. Tejada stated that the summit was well attended and facilitated much needed discussion surrounding the issues. One of the themes that came out of the summit was that day labor is an economic issue. People come to this region to work because of its significant economic growth and the manual labor that is associated with it. COG forecasts that by 2030, the region will gain 2.1 million new residents and 1.4 million new jobs.

Ms. Brown thanked Mr. Tejada for the work that he had done and added that the issue going forward is how the region can be made a livable community because people in search of a better way of life will come. She noted that one of the presenters at the summit was a former day laborer who is now an accomplished businessman and owns a chain of grocery stores and his comment on the issue of day workers is that the focus should not surround the individual worker but the family as well. He stated that day labor centers were not going to alleviate the problem rather "family centers" should be built and should offer resources to men and women in search of work and housing and a better way of life for their families.

A follow-up summit has been scheduled for Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters stressed the need for communities to work together on this issue and suggested that the town of Herndon's site may be an example of what does not work.

## **12. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Supplemental Document: Resolution R4-06 (Electronic)

The Nominating Committee presented its nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs of the COG Board for 2006: Chair- Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisette; Vice Chair- District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams; and Vice Chair- Montgomery County Council Member Michael Knapp.

**Action: 2006 COG Board leadership nominations were approved and Resolution R4-06 adopted.**

## **13. FORMAL TRANSFER OF GAVEL TO THE NEW CHAIR**

Chair Davis officially transferred the gavel to Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisette, who became the new Board Chair. He congratulated Vice Chairs Anthony Williams and Michael Knapp and talked about some of Ms. Davis' accomplishments as Chair. He and Mr. Robertson presented a gift of appreciation to Ms. Davis, who said that she'd enjoyed serving as Chair of the Board and stressed the importance of working together on regional issues.

**Action: Chairmanship was formally transferred from Judith Davis to Jay Fisette.**

## **14. APPOINTMENT OF 2006 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

Supplemental Document: Resolution R5-06 (Electronic)



Chair Fissette appointed or reappointed the chairs of the following COG Board policy committees for 2006: Metropolitan Development Policy Committee- Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County; Human Services Policy Committee- Vincent Gray, District of Columbia; Public Safety Policy Committee- Ed Reiskin, District of Columbia; and the reappointments of Rob Krupicka, City of Alexandria, to the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at National and Dulles Airports and John Lovell, Frederick County to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee. Gerald Connolly, Fairfax County, is appointed as Chair of the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**Action: 2006 Policy Committee Chairs were appointed and Resolution R5-06 was adopted.**

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2006.**

**ATTENDANCE: January 11, 2006  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<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. Anthony A. Williams	N	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	N	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N		
<b>Maryland</b>				
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				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Nancy Floreen	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	Y		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	N		
<b>Virginia</b>				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. Pepper	Y		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Daniel Gardner	N	Ms. Marti Meserve	Y
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. Maureen Caddigan	N	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

**Other Participants**

Walter Tejada, Arlington County  
Board Member, Chair, Human  
Services Policy Committee