

**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 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, Director of Department of Environmental Programs
Edward Graham, Water Resources Program Manager
George Nichols, Principal Environmental Planner**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice 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 NOVEMBER 12, 2003

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the November 12 meeting, with an amendment. Supervisor Catherine Hudgins was incorrectly marked as absent at the November meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

a) New COG Member – Manassas Park

Vice Chair Mendelson welcomed Manassas Park into the COG membership, and recognize Mayor Treuling of Manassas Park, and new Board members Lori Waters of Loudoun County and Corey Stewart of Prince William County.

b) Recognition of Outgoing Policy Chairs

Vice Chair Mendelson recognized outgoing policy chairs. He presented Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Williams (outgoing Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee) and Council Member Robert Dorsey (outgoing COG President Pro Tem) with awards, and thanked them for their service.

c) Highlights and Outcomes of COG Annual Meeting

Vice Chair Mendelson reported that the Annual Meeting was a success. It was the biggest turnout in years, with five members of Congress and others in attendance.

Commissioner John Lovell noted that the minutes of the Annual Meeting should not reflect a unanimous approval of the amended Bylaws that were approved by the General Membership.

d) Board Meeting Dates in 2004

Vice Chair Mendelson brought to the Board's attention a handout in their packets, which lists dates for the 2004 Board meetings. He asked that Board members let him know of problems with the schedule.

e) NARC Board Vacancy

Vice Chair Mendelson announce that he would send a letter to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) to recommend Supervisor Penelope Gross to fill the vacancy left by Mary K. Hill.

f) Executive Director's Report

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

Mr. Robertson recognized a new partner, Mosaic Foundation. He introduced Executive Director Heidi Shoup, who spoke briefly. Ms. Shoup introduced the foundation's trustees, one of whom spoke briefly. Ms. Al-Dafa, of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, thanked the Board and Calvin Smith for inviting them to the Board meeting and for their work with the Wednesday's Child program. She said that her organization chose Wednesday's Child because of its benefits to so many. The Mosaic Foundation donated \$10,000 to the foster care program.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 13. A-H

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

A) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with the Oldani Group for Recruitment Services

Resolution R2-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to execute a contract with Oldani Group, an executive recruitment firm, to conduct a search for COG's Chief of Information Technology Systems and to assist in managing the selection process for the position.

B) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with the District Columbia Department of Mental Health

Resolution R3-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to execute a contract with the District of Columbia Department of Mental Health in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for COG to

develop and present a workshop on "Risk Communication: Partnering with the Media & the Public During Emergency Response."

C) Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources for Low Impact Development Monitoring in the Anacostia Watershed

Resolution R4-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to execute a supplemental MOU with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources to conduct Low Impact Development (LID) monitoring in the Anacostia Watershed.

D) Approval of Competitive Solicitation for Audit Services

Resolution R5-04 - Authorizes COG to issue a Request for Proposals to independent Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firms and to engage a firm to conduct the fiscal year end audits for fiscal years 2004 – 2008.

E) Additional COG Appointment to the Housing Trust Fund Board

The COG Board of Directors is asked to appoint Prince George's County Council Member Peter Shapiro to fill the 3rd appointment to the Trust Fund Board of Directors.

F) Resolution Authorizing Limited Waiver of Fiduciary Responsibility of Robert Bobb

Resolution R6-04 - Authorizes a limited waiver of fiduciary responsibility for Robert Bobb.

G) Resolution Authorizing Funding Requests to the Freddie Mac Foundation in Support of COG's Foster Care and Adoption Programs

Resolution R7-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to submit funding requests to the Freddie Mac Foundation to support COG's foster care and adoption programs. Specifically, funding will be requested for the 2004 foster parent appreciation gala (\$100,000) and a strategic foster parent recruitment data analysis (\$75,000).

H) Resolution in Support of the Potomac Regional Education Partnership Accepting Sub-Contract from Temple University

Resolution R8-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to accept a sub-contract in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the Potomac Regional Education Partnership (PREP) from Temple University to manage a community technology center/public schools partnership in Prince George's County. COG authorized the establishment of PREP in November 2001.

5. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presented its nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs of the COG Board for 2004: Phil Mendelson for Chair, Judith Davis for First Vice Chair and Jay Fiset for Second Vice Chair. Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the report of the nominating committee.

6. RECOGNITION OF IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Chair Mendelson recognized Immediate Past Chair Mary K. Hill, and expressed his appreciation for her services. He presented her with a token of COG's appreciation for her leadership in 2003. Ms. Hill reflected on her work at COG and the people she's worked with. She highlighted some of the projects she's been

involved in. While Ms. Hill was Chair, the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council was established, and she served as its first chair. Ms. Hill spoke about mutual aid legislation and COG's efforts to protect first responders to regional emergencies.

She added that the formation of the Truck Safety Task Force in 2003 resulted in the region's first Transportation Safety Workshop in November 2003. Ms. Hill spoke about many other COG programs and events, and thanked the Board for its work in the region.

7. RECOMMENDATION ON REGIONAL "POWER SUMMIT"

As part of the after-action assessment process for Hurricane Isabel, the COG Board asked the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) Committee to develop an agenda and timeline for hosting a "Power Summit" for the region. At its December meeting, the CAOs Committee discussed this request and concurred on a summit design. Based on the CAOs guidance, staff prepared a draft program for a half-day event in March, 2004, with a focus on electric power and water supply. Mr. Robertson presented the proposal to the Board.

The proposed summit will be modeled after the successful Fairfax County summit held in December 2003. Objectives include providing a clear understanding of events and lessons learned, and identifying ways to improve communication and services. The target audience will be elected officials, utilities, public information officers and state and local governments. Mr. Robertson said he's looking for a low or no-cost facility to hold the summit. He added that PEPCO released its after action report the day before the Board meeting.

Motion was made, seconded and discussion followed. Mr. Fisetto asked Mr. Robertson about the value of adding a 20-30 minute video as part of the summit. Mr. Robertson said he'd look into it.

Council Member Redella Pepper asked about the target date. Mr. Freudberg said that the target date will be the last week of March. Council Member Nancy Floreen expressed disappointment that the summit would not take place this month. She's concerned about bringing out the utility officials for another meeting, and asked that this summit be different from all the others. She suggested including the civic community, who'll benefit in understanding what's happening. Communication is important.

Ms. Hudgins added that the most important thing is the ability to impact the community and give them information about what they can do. We need to work with private sector utilities and use local governments to engage people to be involved. The video is a good idea and will help.

Ms. Gross asked if Metro and VDOT, etc., were included in the transportation piece. Mr. Freudberg said that anyone who uses electricity to run their systems is included. Ms. Gross suggested that gas companies be invited. Council Member Gerald Connolly reiterated Ms. Floreen's concerns about the time gap and added that each jurisdiction had different problems and are organized differently. For example, at his county's Hurricane Isabel Emergency Operation Center, utility companies were not in attendance. How do you keep summits from being generic, and therefore, not really useful? Mr. Freudberg said there's been some discussion about looking at the differences. He added that as far as the date is concerned, the CAOs wanted to schedule the summit later than March to be forward-looking and to look at lessons learned toward improving in the future. The March date was a compromise.

Mr. Dorsey said he wished to encourage promotion of the event and to prevent from it being another PEPCO "flogging."

Motion to move forward was approved unanimously.

8. UPDATE ON BAY POLICY COMMITTEE FUNDING INITIATIVES

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC) Chair Bruce Williams briefed the Board members on recent discussions with members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Congressman Thomas M. Davis III (R-VA.) and others regarding state and federal funding to support implementation of Chesapeake Bay restoration programs concerning municipal wastewater treatment plants and urban stormwater management.

Mr. Williams provided background on the Committee's effort to develop funding resources for local governments implementing Bay restoration efforts, and outlined the legislative proposal. He sought support for Maryland's plan to provide cost-share funds for its Enhanced Nutrient Removal program and find out whether the surcharge ("flush tax") that will fund the program is a good way to go. Another issue is whether the federal government will help fund the programs (\$19 billion over a 10 year-period to clean up the Chesapeake Bay).

Mr. Williams added that Ms. Gross is arranging a meeting of local and state leaders with Rep. Tom Davis to discuss support for legislation. The Committee also focused on support for stormwater funding. Mr. Williams reported on other initiatives, including the Committee's focus on the progress the region has made under a voluntary, cooperative funding approach. Additionally, the other funding initiative is a proposal for the creation of a "Blue Ribbon" panel for funding to meet the new Bay program goals.

He requested that the Board: 1) endorse the Committee's proposal to investigate Maryland's surcharge funding proposal and develop a draft position statement for presentation at the February Board meeting; 2) propose working with the Chesapeake Bay Commission to explore other funding opportunities; 3) support Senate Bill 1716, a Clean Water Act amendment that could provide more funds for stormwater problems; 4) endorse transmittal of a letter to the Executive Council seeking representation on the Blue Ribbon Panel from the COG region from local governments and wastewater utilities. The motion to endorse the Chesapeake Bay Committee's funding proposals was seconded, and discussion followed.

Ms. Davis asked about a flyer referred to in the presentation. Mr. Freudberg said the flyer—which was not received prior to the Board meeting—would be given to them before the end of the meeting.

Supervisor Lori Waters requested that in the future, please provide a bill number or copy of the bill for Board members. She asked whether the bill had been introduced or if it was still in draft form. In response, Mr. Williams said that it was released in draft form at a recent press conference. Ted Graham of COG added that at the time, there was no bill number, but COG would provide a number. The motion to endorse the Chesapeake Bay Committee's funding proposals was approved unanimously.

9. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Ruck briefed the Board on the history of amendment recommendations. The Bylaws Committee reviewed current COG Rules of Procedure in 2003 as part of the consideration of Bylaw amendments. Revised Rules, designed to implement the proposed Bylaw changes and to make Board and Committee processes more consistent, were furnished and reviewed by the COG Board sitting as a Committee of the Whole in November. In December, the COG general membership approved the Bylaws recommended by the Board. It is now appropriate for the Board to formally consider amending the Rules of Procedure.

Ms. Floreen's motion to adopt the amended Rules of Procedure was seconded and discussion followed. Mr. Connolly suggested that the word "chairship" is not grammatical; please change to "chairmanship." Motion to adopt with the changes was unanimously approved.

10. RECONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE IMPAIRED DRIVING IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

Mr. Robertson updated the Board on issues raised at last meeting. Ms. Gross briefed the Board on current developments concerning recommendations to reduce impaired driving in the region. On November 12, 2003 the Board received a report from the Public Safety Policy Committee, *Regional Activities to Reduce Impaired Driving in the Metropolitan Washington Area* and a resolution to support certain legislation. Kelvin Robinson, of the District of Columbia, requested additional clarification on certain items. Staff provided the Board members with additional background materials via mail and the Public Safety Policy Committee further discussed the issues of concern on December 5, 2003. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R1-04.

Motion was made, seconded and discussion followed. Commissioner John Lovell asked if the issue of age-related impairments were addressed in the report. Ms. Gross said that the focus was on impaired driving. Nancy Rea of COG added that the task force had found 17 recommended laws with scientific evidence behind them to reduce impaired driving; age-related issues already have laws. Chair Mendelson asked about the possibility of further studies on age and youth-related impairments. Ms. Gross said she'd present the issue to the Public Safety Policy Committee. Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R1-04.

11. APPOINTMENT OF 2004 POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chair Mendelson appointed the following elected officials to chair COG Board policy committees in 2004: Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee – Peter Shapiro; Committee on Noise Abatement - Barbara Favola; Human Services Policy Committee – Walter Tejada; Metropolitan Development Policy Committee – Joyce Woodson; Public Safety Policy Committee – Penny Gross; and Emergency Preparedness Council – Carol Schwartz.

Chair Mendelson said he will appoint Vice-Chairs next month after membership of the policy committees was finalized.

12. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WOULD BE FEBRUARY 11, 2004

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.