

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room**

**July 13, 2011**

**BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT**

**\*SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

**STAFF**

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director  
Sharon Pandak, General Counsel  
Diane Humke, Clerk to the Board**

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

Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The annual COG leadership retreat being held on July 22-24 is less than two weeks away. Suggestions from the Board and staff have created a very interesting and rewarding agenda and Chairman Harrison stated that she is looking forward to seeing all who attend.

The deadline for submitting the performance evaluation for the Executive Director is July 15 and must be submitted to Human Resources Management Director Imelda Roberts. The summary and results of the evaluation will be discussed during a Board retreat session on Saturday afternoon. The Employee Compensation & Benefits Review Committee is responsible for this, but all other Board members who wish to attend may also do so.

At this year's NARC Conference two of our members were elected to the NARC Board. Penny Gross was elected Senior Vice President of the NARC Board of Directors, which puts her in line to become the NARC Board President and Walter Tejada was elected to represent District III of NARC, which includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. He will be replacing Penny, who previously served as District III representative.

Their elections were covered in a recent *Arlington Connection* news story, which was passed out at the meeting.

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

The Executive Director briefed Prince George's Councilmember Mel Franklin on the Emergency Preparedness Council. He met with Maryland Department of Emergency Management on the EPC Senior Leaders seminar.

Met with Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer Tim Firestine, EPC Chair Phil Andrews and Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry to discuss the Steering Committee's work to date.

Participated in the launch of greenSPACE, a regional green building learning center, met with Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan to discuss program activities and attended the National Association of Regional Councils annual conference in San Diego, California.

In Loudoun County along with the DTP Director briefed the Board of Supervisors on the Street Smart Pedestrian safety program. DEP director and staff organized a meeting on COG's UASI-funded Hospital Power & Water Resiliency project in Fairfax County. DCPS staff participated on a panel in Montgomery County on the public television access TV show "In Transition with Libra" about regional trends in foster care.

In the District of Columbia, DCPS Director participated as a member of the PNC Bank Community Development Advisory Board and attended a meeting of the DC Environmental Network on the Anacostia Restoration Program. DEP Staff were honored for their work on a paper on emergency planning for water providers & healthcare facilities by the Journal of the American Water Works Association.

### **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Dan Drummond, City of Fairfax, requested time to speak and passed out materials relating to the DC Financial Planning Day that will be held in October.

Cathy Dryzgala, City of Gaithersburg asked if the event was only held in DC and Mr. Drummond said that the idea of having it in different jurisdictions could be entertained. Mr. Robertson suggested that we take the issue up during the September board meeting.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2011 MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting were approved and adopted.

### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R32-2011 thru R34-2011

#### **A. APPROVAL OF COG – LINEA DIRECTA PARTNERSHIP AND FY 2012 CONTINGENCY RESERVE INVESTMENT**

The COG Board adopted Resolution R32-2011, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to execute a partnership agreement with Linea Directa, a not-for-profit corporation, to produce and broadcast regional public affairs programming targeted to Spanish-speaking residents in the National Capital Region in an amount not to exceed \$7,500. The COG Board approved this pilot program at its June 2011 meeting. The partnership agreement will be funded from COG's FY 2012 unallocated contingency reserve. The COG Board will be asked to approve \$7,500 from the FY 2012 unallocated contingency reserve of \$275,000, leaving an unallocated balance of \$267,500. COG staff will report to

the COG Board concerning partnership outcomes and any recommendations for partnership continuation or modification by January 2012.

#### **B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEW WORLD APPS, INC. FOR NETWORK OPERATIONS SUPPORT**

The Board adopted Resolution R33-2011 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a new contract with New World Apps, Inc. In an effort to minimize costs, COG has been outsourcing some of its IT operations and issued RFQ 11-007 in order to continue operating in this manner. By having some IT services outsourced COG is able to utilize specialized skills and consultants for short term project engagements. In addition to on-site technical support and specialized project support, the contracted vendor will provide secure data center hosting for the RICCS text alert system. The contract for those services was recently re-bid through a competitive process. New World Apps, Inc. was the selected vendor for the new contract in an amount not to exceed \$213,600 for the first year. Four 1-year renewal options are included with the contract with an annual increase of 3.3% over the prior year. The funds for this contract are included in COG's approved FY 2012 work program and budget.

#### **C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM THE FREDDIE MAC FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE WEDNESDAY'S CHILD PROGRAM**

The Board adopted Resolution R34-2011 authorizing the Executive Director to receive funds from the Freddie Mac Foundation in the amount of \$79,000 to support the Wednesday's Child program, consistent with COG's approved FY2012 Work Program and Budget. No additional matching funds are required.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R32-2011 through R34-2011 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

#### **7. HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

Supplemental Documents: Presentation and Resolutions R35-2011 and R36-2011

Last year HUD issued a request for application for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. COG applied for the grant but was unsuccessful in being awarded the grant. HUD has issued an advanced notice and is anticipated to issue a request for applications in response to a second round of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program funded through FY 2011 federal appropriations.

John Mataya, COG planner and grant manager provided an overview of COG's proposal. COG, with the support of a new regional sustainability consortium, will produce a regional plan for sustainability that will prioritize needed regional infrastructure investment or actions in transportation, water, environment, housing and other critical elements. The regional plan will complement and help guide local, state, regional and federal investment, as well as investment and actions by business and civic interests. It will better integrate what have often been in the past stove-piped or disconnected regional goals and build on COG's successful Region Forward report, which outlined broad goals in accessibility, livability, prosperity and sustainability. The regional plan for sustainability and its clearer, regional priorities will make the region and local and state governments more competitive for new federal grants from HUD, DOT and EPA.

The regional plan for sustainability will define, embrace and promote the concept of Complete Communities. This is an evolution of COG's regional activity centers approach, which largely examined a limited number of land use and transportation characteristics. Complete Communities will be described using a more varied mix of attributes key to successful and sustainable communities,

including environmental protection and quality of life. Complete Community attributes will include a mix of housing and transportation choices, retail and job opportunities, and educational and recreational resources. Again, this work will build on the targets and performance measures described in Region Forward. Complete Communities will enable COG and the regional sustainability consortium to provide a more vivid and aspirational description of the centers and other places that local governments have chosen for scarce public and private sector investment. The sustainability plan will seek ways to leverage and maximize investments by positioning these centers and priority places for competitive funding opportunities.

COG staff received a debrief by HUD officials on their first round grant strengths, weaknesses and areas that needed improvement. COG also consulted with other organizations who were awarded the grants in the first round and are in a favorable position to be awarded the grant this time around.

Andrew Fellows, College Park, asked if any of the money would come from the current or future budget years, Mr. Mataya said no, the money has already been appropriated.

Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County asked if the Silver Line could be highlighted as an area to focus on and Mr. Mataya said that the issue could be looked into.

Judith Davis, Greenbelt, asked about underdeveloped areas and Mr. Mataya said that they were taken into consideration with regards to the grant and areas to focus on.

Karen Toles, Prince George's County asked about equality throughout the region but specifically within Prince George's County, Mr. Mataya said that those issues would be addressed.

Virginia Delegate James Scott asked about telework tax credits for the region; Mr. Robertson said that there would be follow-up to address the idea.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R35-2011 and R36-2011 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **8. FY 2012 PENSION, COMPENSATION AND CAPITAL BUDGET ACTIONS**

Supplemental Documents; Resolutions R37-2011 thru R40-2011

Mr. Robertson presented to the Board a recommendation by the Pension Plan Administrative Committee to increase the employee contribution to COG's defined benefit pension plan from 7.0 to 7.5 percent (the employer contribution was increased from 8.0 to 8.5 percent as part of the COG FY 2012 indirect cost allocation plan) and re-balance investment allocation;

Mr. Robertson also presented the recommendation by the Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee to approve a one-time 2.0 percent general salary increase for COG employees to offset additional employee pension and health care costs (COG management suspended its pay-for-performance merit salary compensation plan in FY 2010, FY 2011 and FY 2012 and discontinued an annual cost-of-living adjustment in 2000).

George Danilovics outlined COG management recommendations to approve the FY 2012 capital repair and replacement plan. The FY 2012 Work Program and Budget allocated \$244,000 of building and interest income for high-priority facility, technology or other capital expenses to ensure COG maintains its capital assets and is able to fully support its members, regional partners and staff.

Bruce Williams asked if COG would ever model their Pension after the Private sector; Mr. Robertson stated that COG would try to maintain funding as is.

Penelope Gross, Fairfax County, asked if some of the tripping hazards would be resolved with the Board room renovations; Mr. Danilovics stated they would be taken care of.

Chairman Harrison asked if the electrical outlets on the floor would still be elevated; Mr. Danilovics said they would be elevated but there are options as to making them not be a tripping hazard.

David Snyder stated that he would be abstaining from voting on resolution R39-2011 with regard to compensation, he feels there is a better way to address the issue. He also stated he would abstain from resolution R40-2011 renovations because he feels some of the renovations are not necessary.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R37-2011 and R38-2011 were unanimously approved and adopted. Resolution R39-2011 was approved and adopted, Snyder and Gray abstained. Resolution R40-2011 was approved and adopted, Snyder abstained.**

## **9. PRESENTATION OF FOSTER CARE ANNUAL REPORT**

Supplemental Documents: Foster Care Report

The overall number of area children in foster care has declined according to the COG 2010 Foster Care Annual Report. The report, which was presented at yesterday's COG Board meeting, found that in 2010 there were 4,043 children in foster care which is down from previous years.

"While fewer children are being served in foster care, the ones who remain in our region's system have more significant needs. These children are more likely to be teenagers, children with special medical needs, and large sibling groups," said Agnes Leshner, Director of Child Welfare Services for Montgomery County and the Chair of COG's regional Child Welfare Directors Committee.

While the majority of foster children are either reunited with family or adopted, a growing number of children are aging out of the region's foster care system without finding permanent homes. The report found that between 2008 and 2010 there has been a 27 percent increase in children who 'age out' of the system. Child welfare experts say these young people sometimes have trouble navigating through the next phase of their lives and can be at risk for unplanned pregnancies, homelessness, or incarceration. COG's Child Welfare Committee urges area governments and organizations to provide additional support for these children.

COG's Child Welfare program plans to focus on older children, who 'age out' of the system in the coming year.

Dan Drummond, City of Fairfax, commented that he could attest to the power of the Wednesday's Child program. He was featured as a Wednesday's Child in Hampton Roads and matched up with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

## **10. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE STEERING COMMITTEE – PROGRESS REPORT**

Supplemental Documents; PowerPoint presentation

In March 2011, the COG Board of Directors approved creating an ad hoc steering committee to identify and seek improvements to regional incident management arising from the January 26 snow/ice event and the implications for other events in the National Capital Area Region. The committee has met several times since March and has focused on four topics of interest.

The first is improving situational awareness and coordination making sure that government at all levels, and our private sector and other partners, share the same information at the same time.

The second focus area of the committee is getting information out to the public. Miscommunication has been a big issue when major incidents have occurred. As a result OPM is re-evaluating policies and procedures to better improve the system.

The second is to establish a virtual joint information center. When operational later this year, the information center will provide a central, web-based hub for sharing information.

Information delivery will be active, meaning if people sign-up and we hope they will, information will be pushed out on a real-time basis. We won't have to wait for people to connect when it is too late to have the information make a difference.

The third focus area is improving regional coordination. The committee is very pleased that increased funding is in the pipeline for MATOC as the Committee will look to this organization to strengthen performance and capacity this winter season. Special thanks go to TPB members Dave Snyder and Phil Mendelson who have pushed to lock down funding support.

The fourth focus area was the toughest and probably needs more discussion. The committee learned that there is no single individual or organization with decision-making authority for the entire National Capital Region, and that such authority, based on investigation so far, does not exist elsewhere in the U.S. Managed coordination within existing authority, especially in our tri-state region, is likely to be the best possible outcome.

The region was successful in implementing changes to regional mutual aid agreements, but it took action at the local, state and federal level to secure indemnification necessary for aid to cross jurisdictional lines. Getting a sovereign jurisdiction to cede or delegate authority to another jurisdiction or organization is even tougher. The committee believes there may be easier ways to accomplish the same goals.

In August, the committee will review a draft report that begins to organize information to date and outline the committee's ideas and recommendations. The committee will meet again in September and October to prepare a final draft report that will be presented to the COG Board in November.

Chairman Harrison asked if Verizon was going to be involved. Mr. Andrews stated yes, Verizon is involved.

Penelope Gross, Fairfax County, asked if the organizations who utilize volunteers to get emergency information out to the public were getting the information necessary for the volunteers to relay out. Mr. Andrews replied that the point is for everyone to have access to the information and the process of how to reach everyone is being researched.

Dan Drummond, City of Fairfax, asked about upgrading the communication system so there would not be a communication overload. Would there be a dedicated channel through social media similar to the broadcast system. Mr. Andrews said the issue will be addressed and there is a smart phone app that is being developed to help get information out to the public.

David Snyder, Falls Church, asked if there was a structure for determining what information is being communicated, what are we advising people to do and can we structure the system similar to the way London does. Mr. Andrews agreed that good information and advice is important and other jurisdictions ways of communicating information are being looked at.

Walter Tejada, Arlington County, asked if there was a comprehensive communications plan that included people who did not have advanced technology and if radio, and Spanish stations would be getting the information. Mr. Andrews stated that many different media options are being examined and those issues will be addressed.

Bruce Williams, Takoma Park asked if there was a way to encourage employers to have mandatory leave policies that was clear. Mr. Andrews stated that employers might have to have mandatory stay policies as well and OPM is working on finding the most effective way to address those issues.

Cathy Dryzgula, City of Gaithersburg, asked if a mobile phone based system would be implemented, Mr. Andrews stated that it is being considered.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**12. ADJOURN-THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2011  
ATTENDANCE: 7/13/2011**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<b><i>District of Columbia</i></b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Vincent Gray	N		
	Mr. Allen Lew	Y		
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	Hon. Michael Brown	N		
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson		Hon. Dennis Brady	N
City of Frederick	Hon. Randall McClement		Hon. Karen Young	N
College Park	Hon. Andrews Fellows	Y	Hon. Robert Catlin	
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	Y	Hon. Jan Gardner	
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz		Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Emmett Jordan	
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Valerie Ervin	N		
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Rushern Baker		Mr. P. Michael Errico	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Karen Toles	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Harrison (Chair)	Y		
Rockville	Hon. John Britton	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Galen Clagett	N		
<b><i>Virginia</i></b>				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	
Arlington County	Hon. Walter Tejada	Y	Hon. Jay Fisette	
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Michael Frey	
Falls Church	Hon. Nader Baroukh		Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	Y	Hon. Scott York (Alt)	
Manassas	Hon. Sheryl Bass	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Suhas Naddoni	N	Hon. Frank Jones	
Prince William County	Hon. Frank Principi	N		
	Hon. Wally Covington			
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		