

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

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

**May 14, 2008**

**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**

Vice Chairman Penny Gross called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9 MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the April meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In an effort to address the continued increase in housing foreclosures across the region, COG will convene "The Foreclosure Crisis: A Regional Perspective" on June 19.

The COG Annual Retreat is quickly approaching; Vice Chairman Gross reminded Board members to mark their calendars for the July 25-27 retreat in Cambridge Maryland.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Jacqueline Brown welcomed the Leadership Prince George's cohort and thanked them for their hard work and visioning.

Mr. Robertson stated that many of COG's member jurisdictions also participate in similar leadership programs and COG would be happy to host a regional day for those interested.

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

Mr. Robertson stated that he presented testimony to the District of Columbia City Council regarding COG's Work Program and Budget.

Last month's Pedestrian Safety Conference was very successful and well attended; outcomes and next steps will be presented to the Board at its June meeting.

Mr. Robertson spoke on regional collaboration as part of a panel at the Third Annual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Municipal Work Conference on April 20-22 in Qatar.

Recent municipal elections in Virginia and two special elections in Maryland may bring new faces to COG. Mr. Robertson will reach out to the newly elected officials and request that jurisdictions make necessary appointments to COG's various policy boards and committees as soon as possible.

COG has recently added the City of Gaithersburg to its Health Care Coalition.

Transportation funding is again at the forefront of debate in Virginia. The Governor has called a special session to address the state's transportation needs for June 23. In addition, the federal government has approved the first phase of development for extension of Metrorail to Dulles International Airport; while there is much work ahead to ensure full funding of the project, this is a very positive action for a program that was virtually killed in January.

Mayor of Greenbelt J Davis announced that she has been working with both the Cities of New Carrollton and Hyattsville on possible adjunct membership with COG. She also applauded COG for its greening practices and its press release on "Greening Your Stimulus Checks."

#### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental documents: Resolutions R28-08 through R31-08

**A. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protections to Provide Anacostia River Watershed Trash TMDL Monitoring Related Support Services**

The Board adopted R28-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$40,815 to provide technical trash TMDL monitoring-related assistance to Montgomery County for the development of an Anacostia watershed trash TMDL. The project duration will be one year from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds will be required.

**B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources to Provide Anacostia River Watershed Trash TMDL Monitoring Related Support Services**

The Board adopted R29-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in an amount not to exceed \$56,470 to provide technical trash TMDL monitoring-related assistance to Prince George's County for the development of an Anacostia watershed trash TMDL. The project duration will be one year from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds will be required.

**C. Resolution for UASI Grant Authorization**

The Board adopted Resolution R30-08, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee, to receive a grant in an amount not to exceed \$470,000 in federal Department of Homeland Security funding, administered by the Senior Policy Group to provide Secretariat support for the Emergency Preparedness Council, Chief Administrative Officers and RESF's. No COG matching funds are required. The project duration will be May 1 through October 31, 2008.

**D. Resolution Authorizing COG to Fund the Emergency Preparedness Council Senior Leader Seminar for 2008**

The Board adopted Resolution R31-08, approving a proposal authorizing COG to fund a contract with Beck Disaster Recovery, Inc to develop and conduct the Emergency Preparedness Council Senior Leader Seminar for 2008. The purpose of the initiative is to enhance emergency preparedness and inform EPC membership with emphasis on the role of the private sector, developing a common message for the region, and addressing items identified in the EPC SLS 2007. This will be done through a scenario developed by the planning team in partnership with the contractor. COG is being provided \$114,850 through a Subgrant from the SAA to fund the Emergency Preparedness Council Senior Leader Seminar 2008. No COG matching funds will be required.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R28-08 through R31-08 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

**7. DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN THE WASHINGTON REGION AND ADOPTION OF 2008 REGIONAL HOMELESS ENUMERATION REPORT**

Supplemental Documents: 2008 Homeless Enumeration Report (Electronic)  
Resolution R25-08 (Electronic)  
Homeless Enumeration Power Point (Electronic)

In January, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordination Committee conducted the eighth enumeration of the homeless in metropolitan Washington. This annual enumeration is part of an ongoing effort to monitor and report on the number of people found on the streets, in emergency shelters, in transitional and permanent supportive housing, or

otherwise homeless and in need of a safe shelter. William Macmillan of the Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services briefed the Board on the report's findings. District of Columbia Council Member Tommy Wells, and Chair of COG's Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC), briefed the Board on a range of local government programs aimed at reducing homelessness in the region, specifically a housing first approach.

The Report revealed that the number of homeless individuals in the Metropolitan Washington Region has remained consistent over the past three years. With 11,762 homeless people identified, this number is only 2.9% higher than 2005 numbers. The homeless population within specific jurisdictions is not consistent; the City of Alexandria experienced a 19% reduction while Loudoun County has almost doubled its homeless population since 2005.

Mr. Macmillan stated that this lack of a major increase is symbolic of the region's efforts to end homelessness, which includes the implementation of a Housing First approach. The approach is just one of the Homeless Enumeration Report's recommendations for ending homelessness, which include: more targeted resources to prevent homelessness, a housing first approach whereby individuals are placed in housing first instead of emergency shelter, adopting living wages, and creating affordable housing opportunities at all income levels.

Mr. Wells stated that the Housing First approach is built on the premise that housing is a basic human right, and so should not be denied to anyone. Housing First represents a shift from the traditional Continuum of Care model which moves the homeless through levels of housing. Through this new model, individuals and families would immediately be removed from the streets or shelters into their own apartments. To succeed, wraparound case management services are provided for those placed into housing to provide stability, accountability, and ultimately increase their chance for self-sufficiency and success.

The District of Columbia has allocated a total of \$19.2 million to create a Housing First Fund similar to those in other states. The City plans to provide housing and services for 80 families and 400 individuals and reduce its chronically homeless population by 23% and family homeless by 42%. Mr. Wells added that ultimately, the eradication of homelessness will not occur without the political will or local leaders and a serious commitment of resources.

Resolution R25-08 approving the report and its recommendations was presented to the Board for adoption.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R25-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **8. REVIEW OF REGIONAL RECYCLING TRENDS AND DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION IMPLICATIONS**

Supplemental Documents: Recycling Trends Fact Sheet (Electronic)  
DTV Transition Campaign (Electronic)  
DTV Transition Coalition Packet (Electronic)  
DTV Transition Power Points (Electronic)

Recycling services have continued to expand in the region in the last decade to include new materials and new technologies. John Snarr, Principal Environmental Planner at COG, briefed the Board on regional recycling trends and the implications of new technologies. Shermaze Ingram, Director of Media Relations for DTV Transition from the National Association of Broadcasters and Katherine Glass Chair of COG's Recycling Committee

presented an overview of DTV transition and how local governments are preparing.

Mr. Snarr stated that recycling in the region has increased 17% in the past 15 years as the list of accepted materials has expanded. The provision of residential and business recycling services is now the norm, with some localities moving to single stream recycling allowing residence to place a variety of recyclable goods in one container, making it easier for them to participate. Paper products are the most commonly recycled material with compostables coming in second and plastics being last.

Mr. Snarr added that in addition to COG's Go Recycle Campaign an informational website [gorecycle.com](http://gorecycle.com) launched early this year, a *Builder's Guide to Reuse and Recycle* ([buildersrecyclingguide.com](http://buildersrecyclingguide.com)) has been developed to provide information to builders on how to recycle construction material.

City of Rockville Councilmember John Britton asked what impact the change to single stream recycling will have on existing facilities; Mr. Snarr replied there should be few problems as older facilities will be updated to include the necessary equipment.

Of concern are the implications of new technologies on recycling. On February 17, 2009, as mandated by Congress, the way in which television is broadcast will be transitioned from analog to digital to allow for better quality and station availability. It is expected that approximately 34 million households will be affected, most significantly impacted will be seniors, minorities, rural residential and the economically disadvantaged. Televisions made after 1998, those operating without a wire antenna, and able to connect to cable television will not be affected. For those households with the older model sets, three options will be available: purchase of a converter box, purchase of newer television model with digital tuner, or subscribe to a paid cable television service. The federal government is offering \$40 coupons for the converter box on a first-come first-served basis.

To accommodate, the industry has implemented an expansive consumer outreach and media campaign to make consumers aware of the transition and the options available to them.

Meghan Pollock of the Consumer Electronics Association stated that market research is showing a relatively high responsiveness by consumers that they will recycle their old television sets. What is interesting note, is that most households that responded that they will purchase a new model before the transition date, were those that would not be affected by the transition, rather they just want a new tv. In addition, a majority of set removal has already occurred and the expectation is that approximately 19 million of the affected households will just get the converter box, which means the actual number of televisions in need of disposal will not be as high as imagined.

Ms. Glass presented an overview of how local governments are prepared to handle the increase in electronic recycling. She also highlighted several state laws pertaining to recycling, most specifically that there is no state-wide ban on trash disposal of television sets in the District, Maryland or Virginia. Retailers such as Office Depot and COSTCO offer electronics recycling either free or for a small fee. Local governments generally have single-day collection events or have permanent drop-off sites; sometimes fees are charges for computers and televisions and may be limited to residents only.

The digital television transition brings to light the disparities across the region in regulations for electronics recycling and funding issues.

Resolution R26-08 requests that COG join the Digital Television Transition Coalition to allow greater access to resources and information to assist in educating the region on the 2009 transition; and to explore the possibility of federal legislation to direct some of the proceeds from the sale of the analog television bandwidth towards the cost of recycling television costs borne by local governments.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Jay Davis stressed the need for local officials to educate their constituents that there is a 90 day deadline for the coupon, and that not all television sets will be able to use the converter box. In addition, it is important that the general public understand that this transition is not to help the economy rather is a mandate by Congress aimed at allowing first responders more bandwidth to transmit their messages in times of emergency.

## **9. BOARD INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COG ANNUAL RETREAT**

Each year, COG holds a summer retreat of regional leaders, including members of the COG Board, TPB, and MWACQ to help shape the organization's implementation of its strategic plan, improve its effectiveness, and promote greater collaboration of area elected officials. Vice Chairman Gross led a discussion of potential topics for the retreat agenda and desired outcomes.

Suggestions included a briefing on the Climate Change Steering Committee's recommendations; an update on initial work by the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition and the evolution of COG's planning roles; an exploration of the aging population; a briefing by state legislators on top legislative issues for 2009 and the development of a process for stronger policy leadership by COG; and a session on member best practices.

Several members recommended a less structured agenda with more time for networking and small group discussions.

## **10. OUTCOMES OF FIRST U.S. AND EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCILS**

COG, along with the Northern Virginia Regional Council, co-sponsored the first U.S. and European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils on April 9 – 12, 2008 in Alexandria, Virginia. More than 150 representatives from regions in Europe and the United States participated in the conference, which focused on developing joint actions to address climate change. Vice Chairman Gross briefed the Board on key conference outcomes and next steps to advance the declaration of cooperation.

The conference focused on global climate change, specifically: the analysis and exchange of innovative climate, energy and sustainable development policies and practices between U.S. and European metropolitan regions, the promotion of climate and sustainable development research; providing policy and exchange mechanisms between U.S. and European regions; and the initiation of the first transatlantic network of metropolitan regional councils.

At the conclusion of the event, Chairman Knapp, on behalf of COG, signed a joint Declaration of Cooperation which sets the stage for regional strategies, international sharing of best practices, cooperative activities and educational and technical exchanges.

A resolution was offered for Board approval supporting continued partnership and collaboration with COG's regional counterparts in Europe. The resolution also directs staff

to prioritize activities for integration into the FY 2009 Work Program and Budget in order to advance the agreed upon goals.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R27-08 was unanimously adopted as amended.**

**11. FY 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER REPORT**

City of Greenbelt Mayor J Davis, COG's Secretary Treasurer, stated that there is a cash balance of \$2.1 million; the reserve increased from \$7.84 million to \$7.75 million; and COG's total revenue of \$15.7 million exceeded costs by \$348,590.

Increased funding for Transportation Planning, Commuter Connections, and Environmental Programs has increased annual forecasted program revenues by 9%.

**12. MEMBER TIME**

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE: MAY 14, 2008  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<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. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
<b>Maryland</b>				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
<b>Virginia</b>				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fisette	N	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	Y		



Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		
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<b>Other Participants</b>
Hon. Tommy Wells Councilmember, District of Columbia
William Macmillan Fairfax County Dept. of Systems Management for Human Services
Shermaze Ingram Director of Media Relations, National Assoc. of Broadcasters
Katherine Glass Environmental Specialist, Loudoun County
John Snarr Principal Environmental Planner