

**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 9, 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**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mike Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 11 MINUTES

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Knapp announced that today is the last day to register for COG's annual retreat July 25-27th at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge Maryland.

Mr. Knapp also welcomed Maryland State Delegate Benjamin Barnes to the Board.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis announced COG's receipt of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac Champion award in appreciation of the organization's leadership and support for a trash-free Potomac Watershed by 2013.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson announced that he spoke at the Arlington Committee of 100 monthly dinner on COG's Greater Washington 2050 initiative. He hopes to give similar presentations to other stakeholders in an effort to increase civic involvement. Those interested should contact Mr. Robertson for presentation..

Mr. Robertson also attended and spoke on behalf of COG at a retirement reception for Gordon Aoyagi. Prior to Mr. Aoyagi's retirement from his senior homeland security position with Montgomery County, he was very actively involved in COG and provided tremendous leadership in the areas of homeland security and public safety.

COG received a fair amount of media attention this past month, largely on the Foreclosure Summit and Report. Additionally, the Transportation Planning Board's action to provide \$1 million in funding for the District of Columbia to provide wheelchair accessible taxi cabs also made headlines.

The Board was provided with several "information only" materials including a summary report of the METREX event, Commuter Connections' Employee Recognition Awards pamphlet, and a memo addressing the error that occurred during a June announcement of a Code Red day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental documents: Resolutions R38-08 through R45-08

A. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive Funds to Provide Executive, Professional, and Technical Secretariat Support That Will Contribute to Enhanced Emergency Preparedness in the Region

The Board adopted Resolution R38-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a grant agreement with the District of Columbia to provide planning, technical and administrative support for regional homeland security activities in the National Capital Region. COG support will assist the Emergency Preparedness Council, the Chief Administrative Officers, the Senior Policy Group, Regional Emergency Support Functions, Regional Program Working Groups, State Administrative Agent, Office of National Capital Region Coordination, and others in enhancing emergency preparedness in the National Capital Region. COG is being provided \$470,000 through a subgrant from the District of Columbia, which serves as the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for grant management. No COG matching funds are required.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with New World APPS, Inc. for Network Operations Support

The Board adopted Resolution R39-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to exercise a renewal option on the existing contract with New World Apps, Inc. for network operations support in an amount not to exceed \$225,000. Authorization also extends to the second and third year renewal options, if desired. The budget for this first renewal is included in COG's approved FY 2009 budget.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of the Environment for Anacostia River Watershed Restoration Partnership-Related Services

The Board adopted Resolution R40-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in an amount not to exceed \$41,500 for Anacostia Partnership-related technical and administrative support services. The project duration is one year. No COG matching funds are required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to File a Planning Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the Federal Aviation Administration for Phase 25 of the Continuous Airport System Planning Program

The Board adopted Resolution R41-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a planning grant application and execute a grant contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Phase 25 of the Continuous Airport System Planning (CASP) program for the National Capital Region. This application would be in an amount not to exceed \$630,000. The FAA will provide funds for 95 percent, \$598,500, of the project total. The five percent match, \$31,500, will be provided from budgeted local funds.

E. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive and Expend Funds from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority and to Execute Contracts with the University of Maryland and LimnoTech, Inc. for the Purpose of Conducting Water Quality Analyses and Water Quality Modeling in the Potomac River

The Board adopted Resolution R42-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend funding from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority in an amount not to exceed \$965,000. Requested funding will be used to conduct water quality analyses and associated water quality modeling needed to address nitrogen-related issues in the Potomac River that are critical to DC-WASA's ongoing planning efforts. This resolution will also authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts with the University of Maryland and LimnoTech, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 and \$515,000 respectively to provide COG with technical and scientific services in undertaking the implementation of water quality analyses and associated water quality modeling. No COG matching funds are required.

F. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive and Expend Funds from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority and to Execute a Contract with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory for the Purpose of Conducting Water Quality Monitoring in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers

The Board adopted Resolution R43-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend funding from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority in

an amount not to exceed \$400,000. Requested funding will be used to conduct water quality monitoring in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers to assess pollution abatement actions. This resolution will also authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Virginia Tech's Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory in an amount not to exceed \$360,000 to provide COG with technical and scientific services.

G. Resolution Authorizing an Application to the EPA Region 3 under National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance for "Reducing Emissions From Nonroad Equipment Used in Construction and Material Handling Operations in the Metropolitan Washington Region"

The Board adopted Resolution R44-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III for a National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance grant of \$598,516 for two years. The proposed project, "Reducing Emissions from Nonroad Equipment Used in Construction and Material Handling Operations in the Metropolitan Washington Region," will retrofit nonroad diesel engines used in highway construction operations around the region. The project will be done in partnership with the Maryland Highway Contractors Association, the Maryland Dept. of the Environment, and three owners/operators of highway construction equipment. No COG matching funds are required. Equipment owners and vendors will contribute a share of the cost of equipment.

H. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with Reingold for the Affordable Housing Educational Outreach Campaign

The Board adopted Resolution R45-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a contract, contingent upon the availability of funds, with Reingold, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000 for the Affordable Housing Educational Outreach Campaign including the development and production of the toolkit. The contract is based on a competitive solicitation utilizing the COG Cooperative Purchasing Program.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R38-08 to R45-08 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. REPORT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Supplemental Documents: Draft Climate Change Report

On April 11, 2007 the Board adopted Resolution R31-07, creating a Climate Change Initiative and establishing the Climate Change Steering Committee. The Committee was charged with, among other things, developing a report evaluating the regional impacts of climate change with specific recommendations as to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Climate Change Steering Committee Chair Nancy Floreen and Stuart Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs at COG, summarized the work of the Committee over the past year and presented the Committee's report.

Ms. Floreen stated that in the past year, the Committee developed a Best Practices and Policies Guide to Reduce Greenhouse Gases; has supported federal energy legislation which strengthens CAFÉ standards, creates "green collar jobs", and develops Energy Efficiency Block grants to local governments; has endorsed the Cool Capital Challenge; and has come out against the proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, VA.

The "National Capital Region Climate Change Report" presents recommendations for regional action by proposing broad goals, identifying actions that will begin to reduce

regional greenhouse gas emissions, and it sets in place a process to implement a regional framework.

The report based its recommendations on overwhelming scientific evidence which show a gradual warming of the earth due in large part to human activity. This evidence also signifies the need for quick action to avoid the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change forecast for the middle and latter parts of the century.

Due to the region's strong employment and population growth, COG calculates that man-made greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change, will increase 33 percent by 2030 and 43 percent by 2050 under a business-as-usual approach. To mitigate this occurrence the Climate Change Steering Committee has recommended the following policies that will: by 2012, hold regional greenhouse gas emissions at the 2005 level; by 2020, reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below the 2005 level; and by 2050, reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below the 2005 level.

The report also includes 78 recommendations relating to transportation, energy, land use and economic development actions to help local officials and citizens meet these targets.

Staff will reach out to each of COG's member jurisdictions to schedule a presentation of the report to their boards and councils.

The Steering Committee also recommended the creation of a standing climate change and energy committee that can further monitor these issues in the future.

Upon approval by the Board, the report will be transmitted for a 90-day comment period and return to the Board in November for final adoption.

Dan Tangherlini City Administrator for the District of Columbia stated that we need to set specific goals for each jurisdiction understanding that each jurisdiction has different capabilities and needs for reductions. He also asked if it is necessary that each of the 21 jurisdictions agree to these recommendations. Ms. Floreen stated that it will be very difficult to have sub goals for each of the jurisdictions and noted that these are recommendations and are not regulatory.

Vice Chairman Gross cautioned the creation of a new policy committee and urged staff to review the costs, staffing resources and if the areas of focus would supplant current committee work all need to be investigated before moving forward.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Lori Waters stated that localities in Virginia, a Dillon rule state, may have a more difficult time implementing some of the recommendations as authority requests will have to be made to the General Assembly in some cases.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette stated the necessity to coordinate this work with the Greater Washington 2050 Initiative particularly in the area of community outreach and education.

8. REGIONAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Supplemental Materials: Housing Foreclosure Report

COG commissioned a new regional study on mortgage foreclosure in the National Capital Region as part of its June 19 Regional Housing Foreclosure Summit. John McClain a Senior Fellow at George Mason's Center for Regional Analysis, and author of the study briefed the

Board on the study findings and additional work planned by COG to address the Summit and Human Services Policy Committee recommendations.

The study shows that over a one-year period concluding at the end of February 2008, 15,613 homes went into foreclosure in the metropolitan area, a significant increase from the prior year. The outer suburbs have been hit the hardest, particularly Prince William County though the inner suburb of Prince George's County has experience a significant increase in foreclosure as well. Most of the foreclosures have been driven by subprime mortgages and speculative activity.

The impact of foreclosure activity is widespread with localities witnessing a drop in property tax revenue, increased neighborhood crime, and an increase in social service requests. Home prices have fallen nearly 11% in the last year, most dramatically in the hardest hit suburban areas.

The report shows that foreclosures are concentrated in several "hotspots" across the region, primarily in Prince William County. It also identified "impending hotspots" where foreclosure rates are on the rise and "potential hotspots" where market conditions may result in foreclosure.

Ultimately it is believed that this region will emerge from this crisis, due to its resilient economy. Job growth remains constant and the region continues to add high-wage jobs in the business and professional sectors. It is expected that the rate of foreclosures will start to decline by the year's end and the region's rate of recovery will primarily depend on how quickly the housing market normalizes and availability of government and non-profit prevention programs.

Laurie Mittenthal Corporate Giving Manager, Community Relations Division at Freddie Mac congratulated COG on a very successful event. She stated that the organization will be working with COG to develop a fund to help address gaps in the safety net for families in the National Capital Region. Freddie Mac will provide an initial contribution of \$175,000 to what it hopes will become a larger pool of funds from the private sector and foundations to support nonprofit groups addressing the foreclosure crisis.

Paul DesJardin, COG's Director of Community Planning and Services discussed the next steps including the need for additional research that would identify what types of individuals and families are experiencing this burden as well as the impacts associated with the need for additional social services.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Lori Waters stated that it would be helpful to have additional information on foreclosures and the opportunities available for localities to add these units to their affordable housing stock.

Mr. Robertson stated that COG would work with its Housing Directors Committee to develop a clearinghouse of foreclosure information to be posted on the COG website.

City of Greenbelt Mayor J Davis commented on the importance of public outreach and education regarding the resources and supportive services available because many residents are not aware of their options.

City of Gaithersburg Council Member Henry Marraffa stated that there needs to be controls placed on mortgage writers that traditionally sell off loans as well as closing the loop hole on mortgages which have pre payment penalties.

9. PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRENDS AND COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION INDICATORS REPORTS

Supplemental Material: Economic Trends Report (Electronic)

Commercial Construction Indicators Report (Electronic)

COG's Senior Regional Planner Greg Goodwin briefed the Board on the findings of this year's "Economic Trends" and "Commercial Construction Indicators" reports which provide valuable information on population growth, federal spending, employment trends and construction activity.

Mr. Goodwin stated that the region's population and job growth is continuing to climb, albeit at a somewhat slower pace than in previous years.

"Economic Trends in Metropolitan Washington 2003-2007" finds that the metropolitan region grew by more than 275,700 people and added more than 182,714 jobs during this time period. This reflects a slower growth in population but a modest increase in jobs. The majority of this growth occurred in the region's outer suburbs.

The majority of the region's residents continue to live in the inner suburbs, like Montgomery, Prince George's and Fairfax counties. Despite rapid growth in the region's outer suburbs such as Loudoun County, which experienced a 28 percent population increase, COG's forecasts show the inner suburbs will contain 53 percent of the 6.6 million residents projected for 2030. Similarly, more than 48 percent of the region's 1.4 million existing jobs remain in the inner suburbs.

Home sales have dropped dramatically, from 106,714 in 2003 to 66,332 units in 2007.

The Commercial Construction Indicators 2007 Annual Summary reveals that the region added 473 new construction projects resulting in 32.8 million square feet of space valued at nearly \$5.7 billion. This year's total marks the seventh greatest increase in commercial construction since 1980. Office development represents 40 percent of this increase. The inner suburbs experienced much of this growth adding 208 projects, a 16% increase; in contrast, the central jurisdictions saw a 24% loss in construction. Also identified was a 10% decrease in new construction centered around Metrorail stations.

10. PENSION AMENDMENT

Supplemental material: Resolution R37-08 (Electronic)

COG employees are covered by a defined-benefit pension plan. COG conducts an annual analysis of projected plan contributions and payments. Following the most recent analysis, management recommended that employee contributions to the plan increase from five to six percent of employee salary. COG's FY 2009 budget and indirect cost allocation plan also increased employer contributions from five to six percent of employee salary. The Pension Plan Administrative Committee concurred with management's request and recommended that the Board adopt Resolution R37-08, amending the plan to increase employee contributions.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, R37-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.

11. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

ATTENDANCE: JULY 9, 2008
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	N	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	N
Maryland				
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	Y	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Henry Marraffa	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	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	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	N	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	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		

Other Participants
John McClain, George Mason
Councilmember Ludwig Gaines, City of Alexandria
Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County
Laurie Mittenthal, Freddie Mac