

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
October 13, 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
Calvin Smith, Director, HSPPS
Nicholas Ramfos, Chief, Alternate Commute Programs, TPB**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Judith Davis welcomed Prince George's County Council Chair Tony Knotts and called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the September 8th meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda. Item #10 was moved ahead of Item #6.

a) Appoint 2005 Nominating Committee

Vice-Chair Davis announced that Chair Mendelson has selected the 2005 Nominating Committee: Robert Bobb, Carol Schwartz, Camille Exum, John Lovell, Gerald Connolly and Corey Stewart. The committee will nominate COG corporate and Board officers and issue a report at the November meeting.

b) Committee on Finance – Next Steps

Vice-Chair Davis briefly summarized the Committee on Finance meeting held earlier that morning. The committee voted to move forward and present the FY 2006 Work Program and Budget at the November Board meeting. The report will be sent to the General Membership in December.

c) December 4th Holiday Dinner

The COG Holiday Dinner will be held at the Dumbarton Hotel.

d) December 8th Annual Meeting and Call for Award Nominations

Invitations to the Annual Meeting will be mailed out next week. The event will be held at the National Press Club from 11:00-2:00p.m.

e) Appointment of Panel on Dedicated Funding for WMATA

Last month the Board approved a resolution to create a WMATA dedicated funding panel. The first meeting was on October 7th. Four additional meetings will be held before the final report is released in December.

f) Executive Director's Report

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

4. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

(A) Resolution Authorizing Continuation of the Potomac Aquatic Plant Control Program to Maintain Public Navigational Channels in the Potomac River from the City of Alexandria to the Mouth of the Potomac

Resolution R46-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract agreement, not to exceed a total of \$100,000, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Commonwealth of Virginia that would continue the aquatic plant harvesting program through the 2004 season.

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

Resolution R47-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director to execute an 11-month memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR), in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for Anacostia forestry-related services.

(C) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Cooperative Efforts for Monitoring and Assessing Water Quality in the Streams and Rivers of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Resolution R48-04 -Authorizes the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the State of New York, the State of West Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and COG, to promote cooperative monitoring and assessment of streams and rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(D) Goals for the Executive Director

Resolution R48-04 - Consistent with the COG Board of Directors' approved procedure, the Executive Director has submitted his performance evaluation goals for 2004-2005. Goals have been reviewed by the Employee Compensation and Benefit Committee and the COG Board.

5. PRESENTATION OF FREDDIE MAC'S FOSTER PARENT AND ADOPTIVE PROGRAMS

Calvin Smith of COG introduced Maxine Baker, President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation and Vice President of Freddie Mac Community Relations. Ms. Baker briefed the Board on the history of Freddie Mac, its programs and how members of COG and constituents benefit.

Freddie Mac, the leader in the secondary mortgage market, makes it possible for people to get mortgages through primary lenders by creating a constant flow of funds so that lenders can finance loans. Chartered in 1970, Freddie Mac has helped 41 million homebuyers. The company is committed to fulfilling its mission by working to strengthen affordable housing. The goal is to be the lead market for housing opportunities for underserved groups. In the 1990s, Freddie Mac started philanthropy programs.

The Freddie Mac Foundation gives in three areas: Strengthening Families, Foster Care and Adoption and Youth Development. The foundation has made a \$25.7 million investment in the communities, 70 percent of which is in the Washington area.

Ms. Baker highlighted the Wednesday's Child program, which joined with NBC4 in 1992. Wednesday's Child has been expanded to New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. Freddie Mac and COG co-sponsor the annual the Foster Parent Appreciation Gala. Next month Freddie Mac will give a \$100,000 grant to support the "Work of Heart" campaign, which will provide foster homes and respite care for children. Ms. Baker requested the Board to ask their non-profit community leaders to visit Freddie Mac's web site to determine how the organization can help deliver some of their services to the community. She also asked the Board to attend "Hoops for the Homeless."

Delegate James Scott thanked Ms. Baker and encouraged her to consider giving a grant to the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund.

6. PRESENTATION ON KEY PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED PROJECT INITIATIVES

Supervisor Penelope Gross briefed the Board on the status of the mutual aid legislation. Both Houses of Congress have passed different versions of the legislation. The Senate bill addresses the specific needs of the National Capital Region (NCR) and contains language similar to COG's. The House bill attempts to address mutual aid concerns on a national level and doesn't address the needs of the region. The Senate bill is in conference committee.

Ms. Gross made a motion that COG reaffirm its endorsement of mutual aid and support attempts to craft legislation addressing national concerns, and authorize COG staff and the Attorneys Committee to assist congressional staff on draft legislation that does not significantly

modify or endanger the solution proposed by the NCR. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Ms. Gross asked Lee Ruck of COG to keep the Board informed on the bills' status. Council Member Carol Schwartz noted that as Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, she sent a letter with similar language to the congressional delegation leadership.

Ms. Gross briefed the Board on the recent gang summit. It was an overwhelming success with over 500 people in attendance. The purpose of the summit was to provide an overview of the clinical, social and legal implications of gang activity in the region and promote policies to reduce activity. The attendees discussed taking steps toward development and implementation of a regional plan to reduce and eliminate local gangs.

COG secured a partnership with the Department of Justice, which sponsored a follow-up Executive Session the day after the summit. The session was attended by local officials, police chiefs and USAO representatives. Questions asked included what can or should be done to reduce or prevent gangs and what could be done procedurally to promote regional communication, collaboration and coordination. The suggestions will be converted into action steps. Suggestions include aggressive enforcement of firearms, healthy alternatives for youth, coordinated assessment, reaching out to parents and better cross-jurisdictional information sharing. On the procedural side, the group discussed a regional media campaign, data sharing and COG as facilitator of follow-up meetings.

Ms. Gross thanked Board members and staff who attended the summit and asked members to attend the January follow-up meeting at COG. Vice-Chair Davis congratulated Supervisor Catherine Hutchens for receiving a regional leadership award.

7. ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO COG'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Williams briefed the Board on the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations for updates to the Strategic Plan. He asked the Board to adopt R45-04. The plan updates will provide the framework for guiding COG's FY 2006 Work Program and Budget, which the Board will consider at its November meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R45-04.

8. REGIONAL TELECOMMUTING STATUS REPORT

Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, presented the recent survey findings on telecommuting from the COG/TPB Commuter Connection's 2004 State of the Commute Survey and reviewed a "Call to Action" challenge that has been given to area employers to offer telecommuting as an option to more of their employees.

Mr. Connolly indicated that the region will not meet its goal of 20 percent of the workforce telecommuting by 2005, but if teleworking could be institutionalized, it would make a difference. He reported on a telework conference sponsored by COG and attended by Congressman Frank Wolf, who briefed the attendees on what he's doing at the federal level.

Mr. Connolly discussed teleworking in the context of 911 and continuity of operations. It is vital to keep operations going during an emergency, but without a formal telecommuting plan, a jurisdiction would have to build one from scratch.

Currently there are 320,000 people teleworking, but the goal is 500,000. Mr. Connolly stressed the need for local governments to come up with formal plans. So far, only Fairfax County and Rockville have formal plans. He moved that COG reaffirm its commitment of a 20 percent goal and called upon members to adopt rigorous telecommuting plans. The motion was seconded.

Ms. Floreen said that Montgomery County has adopted the 20 percent goal and will have a formal plan in December with the expectation of implementation in 2005. Ms. Hudgins asked if employers would provide resources for lower income workers who work at home, and Mr. Connolly said that in most cases, the answer is no in the public sector; private sector companies usually provide resources.

Board Member Jay Fisette suggested that the issue be framed in terms of continuity of operations. In response, Mr. Robertson said he'd send letters to the chief electeds restating the goal as a continuity of operations plan and will place the issue on the CAOs agenda for November. Mr. Scott suggested a letter to the governors also be included in the motion. Mr. Connolly accepted the suggestion as a friendly amendment. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION UPDATE

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC) Vice-Chair Penny Gross presented information on the the substantial pollution reductions in the region and an update on Blue Ribbon funding panel. She made reference to newspaper articles calling into question the progress made in the Bay clean-up, and indicated that local governments have made significant progress. A "Chesapeake Bay Fact Sheet" will be released by the CBPC later this month.

Ms. Gross said that wastewater flows will increase as the population grows, which will result in other problems. Further treatment plant upgrades will be most cost effective way to reduce nutrients in the Bay. The COG region is the leader in restoration efforts and a pioneer in solutions and reductions. To accommodate growth and development and achieve more reduction, additional upgrades are needed.

Ms. Gross briefly discussed the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Task Force, which met with the Office of Management and Budget and requested \$130 million for the FY 2006 budget. She provided the status of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Funding Panel, which held its last meeting on September 15th, and will issue its recommendations later this month. The panel made a preliminary recommendation of \$15 billion, with 80 percent to be paid by the federal government and 20 percent by the states. Additionally, CBPC will host a "Play at Trading" day workshop on November 15th to demonstrate tools that reduce nutrient trading and market-based approaches to maintain the nutrient cap.

Ms. Floreen stressed the need to publicize good news about the Bay clean-up and how much the committee has accomplished. She indicated that people like Ms. Gross don't get the recognition they deserve and asked COG to publicize the CBPC's work. In response, Mr. Robertson said the Chesapeake Bay is a harder sell, but COG will look at generating more positive coverage.

10. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 10, 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.