

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

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room  
March 14, 2007**

**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**

Chairman Vincent Gray called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The National Association of Regional Councils held its three-day Washington Policy Conference in late February; representatives of COG were Chairman Gray, Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chairman Penny Gross, who also represents Region III (DC-MD-VA-WV) on the NARC Board, and College Park Councilmember Bob Catlin.

COG's Executive Director David Robertson served as part of the NARC keynote luncheon presentation, along with former Mayor and COG Board Vice Chair Anthony Williams.

Chairman Gray announced that the Board would be meeting in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation; noting that the item has been placed earlier on the agenda to ensure a high level of attendance. The Chairman added that over the next year he will do what he can to manage the Board's time and end meetings on or before the 2 pm adjournment and requested that each member do their best to remain through the end.

The Washington Area Housing Partnership, a public-private group established within COG to help advance our regional goals for workforce and affordable housing, completed its widely-regarded Affordable Housing Toolkit in 2006 and spent much of 2006 taking the message "on the road" with presentations to several local governments and community organizations. Building on the energy from Secretary Cisneros' remarks at the December 2006 annual luncheon, the Partnership is poised to kickoff a regional public awareness campaign centered on workforce and affordable housing. Media advertisements, public service announcements and enhanced web content will be launched later this spring.

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

Executive Director David Robertson announced several COG-sponsored events coming up in the next few weeks: Local/State Partnership Dinner in April, the Foster Parent Gala on May 12<sup>th</sup>, COG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Annual Retreat in July; all members are encouraged to attend.

The 2006 COG Annual Report and 2007 Regional Directory have been finalized and will be distributed to members within the next week. The directory is a valuable resource for information on area elected and appointed officials and key regional stakeholders. Both documents are available for download in the COG website.

Mr. Robertson stated that he made many outreach efforts to local elected officials and member jurisdictions over the past few months; including newly appointed Board members.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R18-07 through R30-07.

### **(A.) Appointment of 2007 Policy Committee Vice Chairs**

Chairman Gray recommended, and the Board approved, the appointment or reappointment the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2007: Human Services Policy Committee, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, and Public Safety Policy Committee. Vice Chairs for the Aviation and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committees are chosen through a separate appointment process.

### **(B.) Approval of 2007 Bylaws Committee**

COG officials identified several organizational changes during the July 2006 retreat that may require bylaws amendments, for example, including policy committee chairs as ex officio members of the Board of Directors. In addition, staff wishes the Board to consider a recommendation to reorganize and consolidate several administrative committees, such as the budget and finance committee and the employee compensation and benefits review committee. The chairman is authorized to appoint a 2007 bylaws committee to examine

these and related issues and to advance its recommendation(s) to the Board of Directors for further review and action.

**(C.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Support of Contract Services for the Anacostia Restoration Partnership**

The Board approved Resolution R20-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$100,000 in grant funding from EPA to provide contract services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$100,000. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(D.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding from the Summit Fund of Washington in Support of Contract Services for the Anacostia Restoration Partnership**

The Board adopted Resolution R21-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$90,000 in grant funding from the Summit Fund of Washington to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$90,000. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(E.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Supplemental Funding Agreement with the District of Columbia and a Contract with a Contractor to Complete a Continuity of Operations Plan for the Metropolitan Washington Police Department**

The Board adopted Resolution R22-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive supplemental funding from the District of Columbia and to execute a contract with a competitively bid contractor to complete a Continuity of Operations Plan for the Metropolitan Washington Police Department in the District of Columbia. Funds have been provided to COG by the District of Columbia in the amount of \$150K to complete this project. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(F.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the Prince Charitable Trusts for a Regional Agricultural Web Site Marketing Program**

The Board adopted R23-07, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a proposal and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the purposes of developing a Regional Agricultural Web Site Marketing Program for COG and its member jurisdictions. The project duration will be 12 months from the receipt of funding. A \$10,000 COG match from budgeted FY 07 funds is requested.

**(G.) Resolution Authorizing COG to Contract for Green Building Services**

The Board adopted Resolution R24-07, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contractual agreement with Stella Tarnay to provide green building strategic and program support to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on green building. Contractual services will not exceed \$25,500 and will be provided from existing program funding. No COG matching funds are required.

**(H.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Supplemental Funding Agreement with the District of Columbia and a Contract with SRA International to Complete a Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, Impact Analysis and Critical Infrastructure Strategy Benchmarking for the National Capital Region**

The Board adopted Resolution R25-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive supplemental Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding in the amount of \$1.2M from the District of Columbia to complete a Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment (HIRA), Impact Analysis and Critical Infrastructure Strategy Benchmarking for the National Capital Area. Further the Executive Director is authorized to amend the contract with SRA International, COG's contractor for this project. Funding for the contractor includes \$200K for HIRA tasks dedicated to the District plus \$265K to complete additional tasks authorized by the District. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(I.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the USDA Forest Service for an Urban Waste Wood Recovery and Utilization Demonstration Project**

The Board adopted R26-07, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a proposal and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purposes of developing an Urban Waste Wood Recovery and Utilization Demonstration Project for COG and its member jurisdictions. The grant would be in the amount of \$100,000 with a \$20,000 COG match from budgeted FY07 funds, and \$80,000 provided through in-kind services from COG partners. The project duration is one year.

**(J.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with the Stewards of Change for Training for COG's Thought Leadership Series**

The Board adopted Resolution R27-07, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contractual agreement with "Stewards of Change," a for profit educational group, to provide training for COG's Thought Leadership Series. Contractual services will not exceed \$55,350. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(K.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into an Agreement to Provide Administrative Support for the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program**

The Board adopted Resolution R28-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with member agencies of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program Steering Committee, in an amount not to exceed \$2 million, for the purpose of providing administrative support services for the MATOC Program. The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) comprise the MATOC Program Steering Committee; the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board shall be an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee. The Executive Director is further authorized to retain the services of a consultant team to provide technical support services for the program. The project duration will be from receipt of funding through no later than June 30, 2010. The source of funding is a federal transportation grant matched by funding provided by DDOT, MDOT, and VDOT. No COG matching funds will be required.

**(L.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Funding for the 2007 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Campaign**

The Board adopted Resolution R29-07 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into agreements with, and accept funds from, the organizations that have agreed to participate in the Street Smart campaign, for the purpose of implementing the 2007 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign. The Executive Director is further authorized to enter into an agreement with the project consultant, Design House, to implement the 2007 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign. No COG matching funds are required.

**(M.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Host Critical Homeland Security-Related Equipment on Behalf of the Region**

Recently, through funding from the UASI grant program, COG has managed a project to identify hazards and risks to the NCR, and provide priorities for managing and/or alleviating those risks. The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, or HIRA, project has released a draft report which is being reviewed by emergency managers and other subject matter experts. Part of the project includes a secure online Geographic Information Systems (GIS) base map of the region showing the identified hazards and other critical infrastructure. This GIS system is currently being hosted by COG on equipment that is designated for another project. The Board adopted R30-07 allowing COG to receive funds in the amount of \$41,000 from UASI to pay for new hardware. No COG matching funds are required.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chairman Penny Gross made a motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to rule 4.08 of the COG Rules of Procedure, to discuss pending litigation with legal counsel. Motion was seconded and carried.

Upon the completion of Executive Session, Vice Chairman Gross made a motion to return to Public Session and act on the recommendations provided in Resolution R15-07. Vice Chairman Gross then emphasized, for the record, that no action was taken during Executive Session. Motion was seconded and carried.

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution R15-07; the motion was entertained by a count of hands. There were five abstentions: Prince George's County Councilmember Camille Exum, Prince George's County Councilmember Tony Knotts, City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis, City of College Park Councilmember Robert Catlin, and City of Takoma Park Councilmember Bruce Williams.**

**8. PROPOSED COG BOARD POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2007**

Supplemental Documents: Proposed COG Board Policy Focus and Priorities for 2007 (electronic)

In continuation with COG's focus on growth and development, Chairman Gray outlined the proposed COG Board Policy Focus for 2007. He stated that it is important for COG to maintain this focus as well as target several new priorities including workforce housing and climate change.

Executive Director David Robertson presented a summary of the proposal. New initiatives in 2007 will include a Regional Housing Continuum focusing on affordable housing across the region, the development of policy goals and strategies using Secretary Cisneros' 7-point continuum, and committee review of COG's 2001 affordable housing policy action; regional

focus on climate change which will build upon efforts of several member governments and the integration of work being done by several of COG's policy and technical committees; Census 2010 preparation; and Envision Greater Washington.

Continuing areas of focus include Metro Dedicated Funding, Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia Restoration, BRAC implications, and Green Building Initiatives.

Mr. Robertson added that COG staff will be focusing on increasing its visibility and enhancing relationships with state and local officials as well as providing better member services through the development of a Board of Directors information guidebook and the streamlining/consolidation of COG's policy and technical committees.

Fairfax County Board Supervisor and COG Vice Chairman Penny Gross noted the importance of defining what climate change is and what it means for local governments. She added that she would like the issue of committee revision to be a discussion piece during the Annual Retreat.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stated that at the National League of Cities' recently convened conference, one of the topics was climate change and the issue of sustainability and that this a very timely and important issue for COG to be focusing on. She added that Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has stated his support of metro dedicated funding but that the State is facing a deficit and it is unlikely that the funding would be available.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters expressed caution about COG's work on climate change due the controversial nature of the subject. In addition, she stated that the benefits of green building need to be weighed against the implementation cost and the feasibility of localities to administer such projects.

Several members noted the work planned, or currently in progress, within their jurisdictions to promote a cleaner healthier environment.

## **9. FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

### **A. Proposed FY 2008 Federal Budget**

Supplemental Document: Staff Analysis of the Federal FY 2008 Budget

The President's Proposed FY 2008 Budget contains many direct and indirect financial implications for the National Capital Region, for the state and local governments comprising the region, for those governments which are participating jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and for COG, itself. At the request of the Board of Directors, staff prepared a preliminary analysis of the President's budget, with particular attention to those proposals – both increases and cuts – which have particular relevance to the National Capital Region.

COG General Counsel Lee Ruck presented an overview of the analysis. The President's proposed budget of \$2.9 trillion dollars increases overall spending by 1% but cuts non-security discretionary spending by 3%. These reductions essentially shift the burden to states and localities, requiring the need for many essential programs to be abandoned, scaled back, or further burden the property tax.

He highlighted a series of program cuts, including certain energy and environmental programs, health and human services, and Community Development Block Grants. Homeland Security funds going to first responders are being cut, as are UASI grants. The

proposed budget would fully fund transportation under SAFETEA-LU yet reduces transit funding; the budget does set aside \$175 million for an urban congestion initiative to fund local pilot programs.

Several programs areas were looked upon favorably by the Administration including affordable housing, homeless assistance, and pandemic flu preparedness.

## **B. District of Columbia Voting Rights**

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R16-07 (Electronic)  
District Voting Rights FAQ (Electronic)

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) have introduced H.R. 1433, the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act of 2007, a bipartisan attempt to secure voting representation for District residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Chairman Gray spoke to the bill noting that this is an issue of equity and fairness stating that the United States is the only democratic country in the world that denies voting representation to the citizens of the nation's capital. Several Board members offered their support of the bill. A resolution was offered expressing COG's support of voting representation in Congress for the District of Columbia.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R16-07 was adopted. Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters abstained.**

## **10. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND ISSUES**

Since September 11, 2001, COG member governments have been engaged in efforts to improve the security of the metropolitan Washington region. Recently, these efforts have included the establishment of interoperable communications systems that function on a regional level. The primary mechanism for creating these systems has been grant dollars from the Department of Homeland Security. As funding priorities change and the regional technology infrastructure grows, it is increasingly important that the region prepare to absorb the responsibility of maintaining these systems over time.

Fairfax County's Chief Technology Officer Wanda Gibson briefed the Board on a proposal by the Chief Administrative Officer's Committee for the Board to: conceptually approve development of a National Capital Region interoperability services program, designation of the CAOs as an interim governing body of the program on behalf of COG and its members, and to authorize COG, on behalf of the CAOs, to assume the responsibility of interim contracting and administrative agent. This initiative was previously presented to the CAOs which recommended a briefing to the Board and the approval of a resolution adopting this plan.

Montgomery County Council Member and COG Vice Chair Michael Knapp urged that this group focus on ensuring interoperability that not only are jurisdictions able to communicate with each other but those efforts are coordinated with what is going on at the state level as well as with bordering states.

City of Takoma Park Council Member Bruce Williams asked the Executive Director what the budget implications of this initiative would be. Mr. Robertson responded that the ongoing costs for the next few quarters will be funded through UASI grants; staff will be looking into the long-term sustained funding needs of the program.

Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Vice Chairman Gross requested that this item be included in next year's budget.

**Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R17-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.**

**11. FY 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Supplemental Documents: 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Prince William County Supervisor and COG's Secretary Treasurer Hilda Barg stated that there is a cash balance of \$2,712,842; the reserve increased from \$6,926,512 to \$7,128,886; and COG's total revenue of \$15,849,739 exceeded costs by \$3,688,884.

**12. MEMBER TIME**

Chairman Gray invited members to discuss topics of interest for possible referral to one of COG's policy or technical committees.

Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chair Penny Gross brought up the issue of pedestrian safety and the recent increase in pedestrian fatalities across the region; acknowledging that the accidents are not always pedestrian/driver error and are often due to a lack of adequate pedestrian walkways.

Chairman Gray referred the issue to the Transportation Planning Board, which currently conducts research on the issue, as well as the Public Safety Planning Committee.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007.**



**ATTENDANCE: MARCH 14, 2007  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2007**

<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	N		
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y		
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	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	Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	N		
<b>Virginia</b>				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	Y	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

**Other Participants**

Wanda Gibson  
Chief Technology Officer,  
Fairfax County

Lee Ruck  
General Counsel, COG