

**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 13, 2009**

**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 Penny Gross called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 10 MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 10 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Gross announced an Executive Order by the President for federal oversight of Chesapeake Bay clean up. COG's Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee will be discussing this order and what it will mean for the region.

Chairman Gross reminded the Board that the annual Foster Parent Appreciation Gala will be held May 30 at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. She added that COG has officially invited First Lady Michelle Obama to participate in the event.

COG will host a kick-off meeting for the Workforce Development Task Force May 19. One of the Board's top two new priorities this year is a special focus on workforce, education and training. Heading up the Workforce Task Force is Mayor Bill Euille from the City of Alexandria who brings a great combination of energy and insight on this subject. Supporting Mayor Euille is an impressive roster of area leaders who have agreed to serve on the Task Force.

Last month the COG Board endorsed creating a new policy advisory committee, the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee. This action was the culmination of almost two years of work by COG's Climate Change Steering Committee. The Chairman announced her appointment of Arlington County Board Vice Chairman Jay Fisette to chair the new policy committee. Vice chairs will be selected from the District of Columbia and Maryland jurisdictions, consistent with COG's practice and the new committee bylaws. Chairman Gross also thanked Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen for her leadership on the Climate Change Steering Committee in the last few years.

Chairman Gross announced that Carol Belamey, a national fellow for Headstart, was shadowing her today as part of a requirement that she observe elected officials.

She also requested that the Board fill out an informal survey regarding how well the Board meetings are run and what might be improved upon.

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

Mr. Robertson stated that he, and several members of the Emergency Preparedness Council, met with General Rowe concerning homeland security issues in the National Capital Region. General Rowe will soon be stepping down as Commander of the Joint Forces Taskforce. COG will reach out to his successor to ensure ongoing engagement.

COG is collaborating with National Capital Region Planning Committee to discuss regional outreach to federal officials and the possibility of a joint meeting.

Mr. Robertson, along with many of the region's officials, attended a meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Chief Administrative Officers Committee to acknowledge the retirement of Loudoun County Administrator Kirby Bowers.

Mr. Robertson stated that he also met with transportation officials from the District of Columbia and Arlington County to discuss better integration of regional bike sharing programs.

COG received positive media attention from the release of the Greater Washington 2050 survey results; staff will be hosting "road shows" for each of the jurisdictions to ensure optimal buy-in of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact. Reports on obesity and homelessness also received media coverage.

On April 30 area leaders joined representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau at COG for Census 2010 "Complete Count" Kick-off; the campaign encourages all residents of the region to participate in the count.

Mr. Robertson also provided a brief overview of the work COG staff has been doing to track, coordinate, and potentially leverage ARRA funding.

The City of Alexandria recently held elections and resulted in the election of three new officials: Kerry Donley, Alicia Hughes, and Frank Fannon. Mr. Robertson congratulated them on their elections and thanked the outgoing members for their service at COG: Tim Lovain, Justin Wilson, and Ludwig Gaines.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents: R20-09 through R29-09

### **A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF AN AUDITOR TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES TO IMPROVE AND DOCUMENT COG ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES**

The Board adopted Resolution R20-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to issue a contract to Bert Smith & Associates to conduct a review of COG's accounting policies and procedures, review recommended changes to those policies and procedures with COG management and prepare a revised COG accounting manual. The contract is not to exceed \$35,000 and is included in the current Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

### **B. ADOPTION OF BYLAWS FOR CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

At its April 8, 2009 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution R18-09 establishing a new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee to guide COG's climate change, energy, green building, alternative fuels, solid waste and recycling policies and work programs. The resolution directed staff to prepare bylaws for the new committee, and consult with a small subgroup of elected officials identified by the Board Chair concerning stakeholder membership and voting procedures. The recommended bylaws provide for a range of stakeholder members and include voting procedures that require elected official concurrence with any major policy recommendation or work program and budget adoption to advance to the COG Board. The Board adopted R21-09 approving the recommended bylaws and committee chair.

### **C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO FUND AN EVALUATION, UPDATE AND IMPROVEMENT OF SELECTED EMERGENCY PLANS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Board adopted Resolution R22-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to issue a contract for the evaluation, update and improvement of emergency plans in the District of Columbia. The contractor will support the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency in coordinating with other District of Columbia agencies to develop, maintain, update and improve effective emergency preparedness and response plans. COG has been provided \$61,500 through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) to fund this contract. No COG matching funds are required.

### **D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The Board adopted Resolution R23-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to fund a contract with ICF Incorporated, LLC for the development and presentation of the Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop. The purpose of the initiative is to provide a follow-on companion document to the National Capital Region's Homeland Security Strategic Plan. The Training and Exercise Plan is a living document and it is anticipated that it will be updated and refined annually. COG has been provided \$35,220 through a Subgrant from the SAA to fund the development and presentation of the Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop. No COG Matching funds are required.

**E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO CONDUCT THE YEAR 2009 WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE REGIONAL AIR PASSENGER SURVEY**

The Board adopted Resolution R24-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into contracts with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the Maryland Aviation Administration and qualified firms to conduct the 2009 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey under COG's Continuous Airport System Planning program. Contracted amounts will not exceed \$300,000. No COG matching funds are required.

**F. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM EPA'S NATIONAL CLEAN DIESEL FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM HEAVY DUTY DIESEL EQUIPMENT IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION**

The Board adopted Resolution R25-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$3,774,336 in grant funding from EPA Region III to provide diesel emissions technology to reduce emissions from heavy duty diesel fleets in the metropolitan Washington region. The total cost of the services shall not exceed \$3,774,336. No COG matching funds will be required.

**G. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION SEEKING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE WEDNESDAY'S CHILD PROGRAM**

The Board adopted Resolution R26-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to seek an \$82,000 grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation for the Wednesday's Child program. Wednesday's Child represents a long partnership between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Freddie Mac Foundation, NBC4 and local child welfare agencies. Begun in 1992, this televised adoption program finds loving adoptive homes for children in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. It also continues as the flagship for a nationwide network of Wednesday's Child programs sponsored by the Freddie Mac Foundation. This \$82,000 grant request will be used to support the Wednesday's Child program in FY 2010.

**H. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO REQUEST FUNDS TO PROVIDE EXECUTIVE, PROFESSIONAL, AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SUPPORT THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE REGION**

The Board adopted Resolution R27-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to request \$960,000 in FY 2009 UASI funds from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) to provide Executive, Professional, and Technical Secretariat Support. The purpose of the Secretariat Support will be to 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. No COG Matching funds are required.

## **I. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDING FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN SUPPORT OF THE DRINKING WATER QUALITY STUDY**

The Board adopted Resolution R28-09 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$25,000 from the District of Columbia to provide contract and consultant services to prepare a Request for Proposals for the District's Drinking Water Quality Study. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$25,000. No COG matching funds are required.

## **J. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSING FORECLOSURE CONSULTING CONTRACT**

The Board adopted Resolution R29-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to seek consulting services for housing foreclosure mitigation technical assistance in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Contract services are fully funded in FY2009 and FY2010 work program and budget. No COG matching funds are required.

**ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R20-09 through R29-09 were unanimously approved and adopted.**

## **7. BRIEFING ON STATUS OF H1N1 VIRUS**

Supplemental Documents: H1N1 update from WHO

The appearance of the H1N1 flu in our region, the United States and around the globe in these last few weeks has been a reminder of the importance of preparedness, communication, and a coordinated response to pandemics. Due to the public's increased desire to know more about this flu, COG created a special page on its web site that linked to the latest updates on the virus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and area governments. COG staff also facilitated frequent communication and coordination among area health officials, and provided the COG Board with periodic email updates.

Originally, the Board planned to invite area health officials to discuss the Community Health Status Indicators Report prepared by COG and the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers. However, in light of the H1N1 flu, the Executive Committee decided to use this time slot to focus on the local, state, and federal response, discuss public health recommendations as they stand today, and plans for the future.

Dr. Reuben Varghese, Health Director of Arlington County and Chair of COG's Health Officials Committee briefed the Board on the status to date of the H1N1 flu. Dr. Varghese was joined by several colleagues to assist in making the presentation and responding to questions.

Mr. Varghese stated that there are confirmed cases of H1N1 in the National Capital Region and three confirmed deaths nationally, according to CDC. Symptoms of the H1N1 are very similar to traditional flu and may include fever, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion. Like seasonal flu, the effects of H1N1, can be quite severe, with complications like pneumonia, respiratory failure and death. Persons with H1N1 are contagious one day before symptom onset, 7 days after onset and possibly longer.

Regional collaboration on the messaging, testing and identification of H1N1 has been extensive. The response is shifting from one of containment to protecting those at greatest risk. The best thing individuals can do to avoid catching the virus is to wash hands frequently, avoid close contact with sick persons, avoid touching eyes and mouth, covering your nose with a sleeve or tissue. Those who have been infected should remain at home.

Mr. Varghese noted that each year the seasonal flu kills 36,000 Americans, the H1N1 flu may well have additional casualties from the three reported, but the important message (and reminder) is the need to be vigilant in personal hygiene.

Chairman Gross asked if this was just the first wave of sickness and if circumstances will get worse. Mr. Varghese stated that it is not possible to predict what the virus will do, but officials are preparing and planning for the possibility of a virus mutation.

City of Greenbelt Mayor J Davis asked about the experience of the southern hemisphere and how the virus might react in a warmer climate; the CDC continues to monitor the situation there, but again there is no way to predict what will happen.

Kelly Woodward, Medical Director for the Alexandria Health Department presented the initial findings from the Community Health Indicators Report; the full results will be released next month. The underlying premise of the report is that health, whether it is good or poor, is not simply a matter of genetics, personal behaviors, lifestyle choices or quality of healthcare. Broader demographic and socioeconomic factors more directly impact one's health. Differences in population health can be traced to unequal economic and social conditions, many of which are avoidable. The challenge is to better understand these factors and then take the necessary steps to improve the health of the region's residents.

Chairman Gross requested that the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee further analyze the final results of the report and return to the Board in the fall with recommendations.

Arlington County Board member Jay Fisetta asked if the final report includes a jurisdictional drill down and it does.

District of Columbia Council Chairman Vince Gray suggested that the common vehicle in community health seems to be education and that perhaps the HSPSPC should make recommendations on the role of public education **in quality health**.

## **8. PROPOSED FY 2010 FEDERAL BUDGET**

Supplemental Documents: NARC Federal Budget Presentation (Electronic)

President Obama's FY 2010 federal budget focuses on renewed and new investment in healthcare, clean energy and education, and we can expect it to have a major impact in the National Capital Region.

Shannon Menard, the Policy Manager for the National Association of Regional Councils provided the Board with an overview of the key provisions in the proposal and how it will affect regional programs and policies in areas such as transportation, energy and workforce development.

Ms. Menard began by stating that this new administration seems to be placing greater value in planning and acting regionally. She also provided an overview of the sequence of events, and actions taken by Congress, leading up to the President's release of the proposed budget.

Climate change, healthcare, transportation, housing, education and training, sustainable communities and renewable energy have emerged as the Administration's priorities. The Department of Energy would receive \$26.4 billion, up almost half a billion from last year, with \$2.3B specifically for energy efficiency, alternatives and renewables. The Department of Housing and Urban Development would also receive a significant increase of almost \$4B at \$43.7B. There are many new initiatives included within the HUD budget including money for sustainable community initiatives that integrate housing and land use and affordable housing trust fund. The

Department of Labor would have new funding for green jobs, workforce data initiatives and a career pathways fund. The Department of Transportation also receives increases though it will be hard to speculate the final allowances until the Transportation Reauthorization legislation is finalized later this year. All of this money is in addition to the supplemental funding authorized earlier this year in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

An additional bright spot is the inclusion of \$35.1 million for Chesapeake Bay restoration, up \$4 million from last year.

Ms. Menard stated that to ensure the funding that is important to this region is kept in the President's proposed budget; each member should contact their Congressional delegation. She added that the budget, in its current form, seems to allow for greater MPO authority.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova questioned if COG's Greater Washington 2050 initiative might be eligible for the new grant opportunities at HUD for regional planning initiatives. Mr. Robertson stated that staff will look into the requirements and potential opportunity.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION OF COG POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITIES-STATE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

The Maryland and Virginia state legislatures recently concluded their 2009 sessions, which included many bills on regional issues that are part of COG's Policy Focus and Priorities—issues such as transportation, climate change and Chesapeake Bay protection, sustainable development, workforce housing and foreclosure, and public safety.

Maryland Delegate Benjamin Barnes and Virginia Delegate Jim Scott briefed the Board on the achievements and key takeaways from the 2009 sessions.

Both delegates stated that the budget was a significant issue during the session as both are facing significant declines in revenue; more cuts may be on the way. Delegate Barnes highlighted adopted legislation that included the WMATA compact amendment, septic nitrogen removal for the Chesapeake Bay, weapon removal in cases of domestic abuse, a ban on text messaging, and a requirement of foreclosure reporting.

Delegate Scott stated that the Virginia General Assembly has passed similar legislation to ban texting; legislation banning smoking in restaurants also passed. The Virginia legislature controversially declined \$125 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment funding earmarked for unemployment assistance. Mr. Scott stated that funding for autism will likely be a big issue in 2010 specifically in terms of mandating insurance coverage. He added that there is a need for regional review of traumatic brain injuries specifically as it affects youth recidivism.

Mr. Robertson announced that while the region has worked very hard to coordinate its efforts to meet the requirements for federal dedicated matching funds for Metro, the President's proposed budget does not include its share.

Many members expressed their frustration with the omission and urged a coordinated effort to "lobby" the Congressional delegation to ensure the necessary funding is added. District of Columbia City Administrator Dan Tangherlini cautioned that the Board ought not come out too harsh as the Congress has been an ally for COG on this issue and there is still time for the legislation to be enacted. In order for the funding to be appropriated, all parties must amend their WMATA compact legislation; while the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia have each done so, Congress has not. Mr. Tangherlini stated that Metro

Matters expires on 2011 and there is enough money, thanks to the ARRA funding, to sustain Metro until then.

**10. ANACOSTIA RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP**

Due to a lack of time, this item was rescheduled for the June Board meeting to allow Board members ample time for questions and answers.

**11. FY 2009 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER REPORT**

Supplemental Documents: FY 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report

Mayor of the City of Greenbelt and COG's Secretary Treasurer J Davis stated that there is a cash balance of \$5.12 million; the reserve increased from \$8.55 million to \$9.01 million; and COG's total revenue of \$19.04 million exceeded costs by \$2.51 million.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009.**



**ATTENDANCE: MAY 13, 2009  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2009**

<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. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
<b>Maryland</b>				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	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				
<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	N
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Marilyn Bland	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
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		
<b>Virginia</b>				
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	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y	Hon. Dan Maller	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	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	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

**Other Participants**

Shannon Menard  
Policy Manager, NARC

Fred Abouseiman  
Executive Director, NARC

Reuben Varghese, M.D., MPH  
Health Director, Arlington County

Dr. Kelly Woodward  
Medical Director  
Alexandria Health Department

Beverly Pritchett  
Senior Deputy Director  
District of Columbia Department of  
Health

Dr. Pierre Vigilance, Director  
District of Columbia Department of  
Health