

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

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

April 8, 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**

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 MARCH 11 MINUTES

The minutes of the March 11 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On March 25 Chairman Gross joined other elected officials, and law enforcement leaders from Northern Virginia, Suburban Maryland, and the District of Columbia at 14th & U Streets, in NW Washington to help launch the 2009 Street Smart pedestrian safety campaign. New to the campaign this year is a heightened focus on cyclist safety, complementing the overall education and enforcement effort.

The date is quickly approaching for one of COG's most popular events; the annual foster parent gala will be held Saturday, May 30 on your calendar at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. Invitations will be mailed soon.

This year will mark COG's tenth annual leadership retreat. The retreat will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge Maryland, July 31-August 1. Mindful of the tough economic times, the COG Board leadership and COG management has restructured the event to begin Friday evening with a speaker and discussion dinner with Saturday being an all day work session. This schedule may make it easier for officials to participate in the Saturday program, sort of a "day pass" for those who may be unable to commit to a Friday night

This year, COG combined its Annual Report and 2009 regional directory to reduce printing costs, save some trees, and provide its most valuable information in one place. A copy will be mailed to all COG members.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson stated that he met with several of the member jurisdiction's boards and councils on COG's FY 2010 Work Program and Budget.

Additionally, as part of the Board's focus on increasing COG's relationship with state and federal legislators, Mr. Robertson met with U.S. Representative Donna Edwards to discuss regional policies and programs, including transportation funding. He also met with senior staff of U.S. Senator Jim Webb to discuss corrections and veteran's health issues, along with Virginia Delegate Jim Scott and staff from the Northern Virginia Brain Injury Services.

Mr. Robertson hosted a table of COG guests at the Leadership Greater Washington Annual Awards dinner. He also attended a special workshop hosted by the Brookings Institution on regional funding opportunities in the new federal stimulus legislation.

COG received a fair amount of media attention in the last month including the Transportation Planning Board's I-66 vote, the Pedestrian Safety Campaign, and DC voting rights.

As the Census approaches, COG is helping organize a team to build regional awareness and encourage participation throughout the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia. A Census 2010 Complete Count Kick-Off is scheduled for April 30 and will include Census officials, elected officials and representatives from area governments, census users.

The State of Maryland has amended its Metro Compact Amendment legislation to conform to the legislation adopted in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to meet the federal government's requirements, all three 'states' (including the District of Columbia) must adopt identical legislation for the federal dollars for metro dedicated funding to be appropriated. The District of Columbia's legislation differs from this version and must therefore be amended to meet the requirement.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R20-09

A. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REVISING COG'S PRINCIPLES FOR REGIONAL WATER QUALITY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The Board adopted Resolution R20-09 adopting revised policy principles for the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC). On March 20, 2009, the CBPC considered revisions to COG's principles for regional water quality policies and programs. These policies, originally adopted by the COG Board in 1997, are designed to guide COG's policy development for the Chesapeake Bay and other regional water quality issues. Their adoption is particularly timely given the numerous actions EPA and its state partners are now taking to achieve water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. These actions are expected to have substantial program implications for local governments. The proposed principles are intended to ensure that water quality requirements reflect: holistic analysis, equity in application, the use of sound science, and effective communication with localities.

B. APPROVAL OF LETTER REAFFIRMING COG POLICY ON SLOT AND PERIMETER RULE FOR REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

The United States House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has reported out H.R. 915, the "FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009," which contains modifications to the slot and perimeter rules for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Similar action is anticipated by the Senate Commerce Committee later this spring. The proposed changes would increase the number of permitted slots (allowable takeoffs and landings per hour) and increase the number of exemptions to the non-stop flight limit of 1250 miles ("perimeter rule"). The slot and perimeter rules were established as part of the creation of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority via regional compact in 1987. These limits are very important for limiting aircraft noise as well as insuring the appropriate balance in flights among the region's airports. Investments in facilities at Reagan National and Dulles International, as well as Thurgood Marshall International have been based on the assumption of maintenance of the slot and perimeter limits at Reagan National. COG has a long-standing policy supporting the slot and perimeter limits. Most recently the COG Board reaffirmed its position in June, 2008, through adoption of R33-08. The Board authorized the Chair to transmit a letter reaffirming COG's long-standing opposition to any changes in the slot or perimeter rules to the appropriate House and Senate Committees, as well as the regional congressional delegation.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF COG POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITY-REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDING

Supplemental Documents: ARRA Regional Action Plan Memo (electronic)
ARRA Initiatives (electronic)

As part of COG's focus on economic sustainability and recovery, the Board requested that staff prepare a work plan for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – National Capital Region Initiative. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 directs \$787 billion to local and state governments nationwide to create and retain jobs and make critical infrastructure investments. Mr. Robertson highlighted the proposed ARRA National Capital Region Initiative which includes: 1) assisting area governments in identifying ARRA information, deadlines and funding opportunities; 2) convening government officials and other stakeholders to identify and share best practices for ARRA investments and programs; and 3) identifying and seek opportunities to leverage ARRA funding for regional and/or COG-led projects.

To assist members and other stakeholders obtain information on ARRA including deadlines, specific project funding and links to other resources, COG staff has created the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Regional Information Center webpage www.mwcog.org/recovery. The site will be updated frequently and gives viewers an opportunity to sign-up for automatic updates.

Staff will also be reaching out to area ARRA coordinators to identify potential funding opportunities that might benefit from a regional approach. Several potential initiatives have already been identified and include: a Pilot Rapid Bus Transit program funded through discretionary transportation grants; a regional Home Energy Conservation Program funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants; and possibly discretionary housing grants through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

COG will also participate in a Brookings-led program to partner with several regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in major metropolitan areas to support regional approaches to ARRA investment and implementation.

Staff will continue to brief the Board, the Chief Administrative Officers Committee, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and other key committees periodically concerning ARRA implementation and experiences.

8. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF 2009 REGIONAL HOMELESS ENUMERATION

At the request of the Board at its last meeting, staff prepared a preliminary report of the results from the 9th annual Regional Homeless Enumeration Report. A final version of the report will be handed out next month. Michael Ferrell, Executive Director of the D.C. Coalition for the Homeless and Chair of COG's Homeless Services Committee briefed the Board on the initial results. The data show a slight increase from last year's total of 11,752 homeless in the region; the count this year was 12,012.

The number of single persons counted as homeless decreased by 428, among persons in families, the number increased by 697.

Across the region, the figures varied among jurisdictions. The District of Columbia, for example, saw a three percent increase, whereas Prince George's County saw a 9.5 percent decrease. Additionally, Loudoun County saw a 10.6 percent decrease in its homeless population, the largest decrease in the region, while Arlington County, at 24.6 percent, saw the region's largest increase.

District of Columbia Council Chair Vincent Gray asked about the impact of the current economic crisis on the number of homeless in the region. In response, Michael Ferrell, stated that although the full report and official analysis have not yet been released, "anecdotally, we are aware of an increase in the number of families requesting assistance." The preliminary results, which do indicate an increase in the number of homeless families, do not take into account people who are living with relatives as a result of being displaced by foreclosure. Mr. Gray added that it would be helpful to conduct this survey with more frequency and suggested that staff also track how the region's jurisdictions are using ARRA funding to address the needs of the homeless.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis questioned whether the numbers might actually be higher given the parameters by which the data is collected. Mr. Farrell stated that it is extremely hard to count the non-sheltered homeless though there are efforts to do so and the full report will reflect that.

Vice Chairman Andrea Harrison asked if the inclement weather that day could have impacted the results. Mr. Farrell indicated that he did not think so as inclement weather typically results in increased numbers of homeless beds in shelters.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond commented on the transient nature of the homeless population and the fact that in the last few years the number has never dipped below 11,000. Mr. Farrell responded that tracking a transient population is not easy but added that the report does address the chronically homeless.

Loudoun County Supervisor Andrea McGimsey stated that the results of the report do not reflect the increase of foreclosures in her jurisdiction, as well as Prince William County, and suggested a method be developed to better reflect different realities. Mr. Farrell stated that many displaced persons or families are moving in with relatives and neighbors.

Fairfax County Board Member John Foust suggested that at a minimum the name of the report should be changed to better reflect the specific homeless population that is being counted, stating that the current title is very misleading.

Chairman Gross requested that staff take into account the various comments and concerns with this year's enumeration as they begin planning for the 2010 count.

9. UPDATE ON REGIONAL OBESITY TRENDS

Supplemental Documents: Obesity Report (electronic)

Prince George's County Council Member and Chairman of the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee Ingrid Turner provided background on the impetus for the Obesity Trend report. She stated that for several years, members of the Human Services Policy Committee, and now the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee, have taken various actions to address obesity, especially childhood obesity.

Following a summit on childhood obesity COG conducted a survey of programs and policies and found that the region had some gaps in information and the Board subsequently adopted a resolution promoting various nutritional and physical education principles. Last fall the Committee conducted a follow-up survey to measure where the region is on implementing the recommendations.

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of Fairfax County Health Department and Chairman of the Obesity Workgroup that conducted the survey presented the findings. Dr. Addo-Ayensu stated that progress has been made in the region but there is a ways to go. Currently all of the region's schools meet or exceed USDA nutritional standards and have included an educational component in their programs. None of the jurisdictions, however, meet the national standards for minutes per week of physical education in the elementary schools. Several jurisdictions do meet the same standard in their middle schools.

Two additional areas in need of attention are the collection of student Body Mass Index and the need for jurisdictions to include a health impact assessment in their land use decisions; currently on two jurisdictions in each category or doing so.

Dr. Addo-Ayensu presented the Committee's recommendations for the localities: take steps to encourage retail access to fresh foods in low-income areas; engage school board members on the subject of obesity; and participate in health fairs and summits to increase community support for policies that will prevent obesity. She also suggested that COG host a regional meeting among elected officials and school board members to address obesity and its impact on success in school.

It was acknowledged that financial constraints and federal mandates may cause the attainment of the recommendations and the national standards to be more challenging.

Mr. Drummond asked what could be done immediately to begin the road towards meeting the minimum standards. Dr. Addo-Ayensu stated that awareness, outreach and education are key for the necessary policies to be implemented.

Ms. McGimsey questioned the findings related to services available without a car noting that the fact Loudoun met the requirement and Arlington did not is a bit peculiar and asked for the names of the individuals responding to the survey.

Prince George's County Council Chairman Marilyn Bland requested that staff research reasons jurisdictions are not meeting the PE standards and stating that funding is not the only factor.

City of Bowie Council Member Geraldine Valentino-Smith stated that the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital has done a lot of work on this very issue and would be a great partner for a regional forum. She added that true changes will require legislative action at the federal level.

Chairman Gross suggested that the forum should also address how localities deal with the dignity and discrimination issues related to obesity.

Prince William County Board Member Wally Covington suggested that the availability of parks and recreation space also be included in next survey.

10. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COG CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R18-09 (electronic)

In November, 2008, under R60-08, the Board adopted the *Climate Change Report* prepared by the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC). It directed the CCSC to prepare a climate and energy work program and develop a recommendation for a policy committee structure to oversee implementation of the report recommendations. On March 27, 2009, the CCSC endorsed the proposed work program for the balance of FY 2009 and FY 2010, as well as a recommendation for establishment of a "Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee" to lead the Board effort on climate and energy issues. Montgomery County Council Member and CCSC Chair Nancy Floreen and Stuart Freudberg COG's Director of Environmental Programs summarized the work program and recommended committee mission and membership.

It was recommended that the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee be a standing policy advisory committee of the COG Board of Directors. Its mission would be to guide implementation of COG's Climate Change Report, advise the Board on climate change, energy, green building, alternative fuels, solid waste and recycling policy issues, and other environmental issues the Board may so assign, and oversee annual work programs and budgets for these program areas.

Membership would include local and state elected officials as well as other stakeholders.

Mr. Covington stressed the need for balance on the committee specifically among the outer jurisdictions.

Bylaws for this Committee, including the proposed membership, will be brought before the Board for approval in May.

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, Resolution R18-09 creating the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee was unanimously approved and adopted.

11. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REGIONAL PLASTIC BAG ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

Supplemental Document: Resolution R19-09

Between 2005 and 2007, the Board adopted resolutions R40-05, R15-06, and R77-07 in support of the vision of a "Trash-Free Potomac River by 2013," as set forth in the "Trash Treaty" sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Extensive data collected by COG staff and others indicates that much of the trash that accumulates in the region's rivers and streams is made up of plastic bags, causing adverse environmental and aesthetic impacts. City of Gaithersburg Council Member and Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) Cathy Drzyzgula summarized the CBPC findings to date and its recommendations.

On March 20, the CBPC received a briefing on the impact of plastic bags on the region's rivers and streams. There is currently no consensus as to the best way to address the issue and therefore the Committee recommended that a report be prepared within three months to assist in defining regional actions for addressing this chronic problem. The report would include a survey of actions adopted elsewhere in the U.S. and internationally, compilation and analysis of data collected in the COG region, and options for regional action.

City of Falls Church Council Member David Snyder asked that the report also include a survey of regional recycling trends. He also suggested an amendment to proposed Resolution R19-09 approving the study which would reflect his point by adding the following phrase to the third therefore clause "and include information on recycling programs in member jurisdictions."

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, Resolution R19-09 commissioning a report on the environmental impact of plastic bags was unanimously approved and adopted as amended.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009.

ATTENDANCE: APRIL 8, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2009

<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	Y		
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	Y
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	N
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	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	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Marilyn Bland	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	N
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
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	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N	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	N	Hon. Dan Maller	Y
			Hon. David Snyder	Y
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	N		

Other Participants
Michael Ferrell Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
Ingrid Turner Council Member, Prince George's County
Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu Director, Fairfax Health Department
Nancy Floreen Council Member, Montgomery County
Cathy Drzyzgula Council Member, City of Gaithersburg