

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

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

September 10, 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 JULY 9 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

As part of COG's 2008-2009 Policy Focus and Priorities, the Board agreed to convene a small number of locally-hosted regional thought leader dialogue meetings that would allow broader engagement with multi-sector stakeholders. This October, COG will be convening the first of such events at Montgomery College. A dynamic and eclectic group of 15-20 area leaders have been invited for an open discussion on topics that will affect the future of the National Capital Region. This occasion will be a trial run and—if it is successful—we would like to plan more of them throughout the region.

Chairman Knapp announced that Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters gave birth to a 7 pound, 4 ounce baby boy named Tyler Hunter on August 20.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson stated that he met with two newly appointed members to the COG Board, City of Manassas Mayor Harry Parrish and City of Fairfax Councilmember Daniel Drummond.

He also participated in a WAMU Kojo Nnamdi radio interview in August concerning smart growth policies and programs in the National Capital Region.

Mr. Robertson stated that as gas prices have increased so to has interest in COG's Commuter Connections Program.

Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were recently placed under federal conservatorship to restructure the organizations and stabilize the housing finance markets. As part of the restructuring process, federal regulators are reviewing the charitable giving activities of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. While not good news, COG's programs will remain unaffected in this fiscal year as all funding has already been received from both organizations. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as appropriate.

The Climate Change Steering Committee's report is out for comment period and both Mr. Robertson and COG's Director of Environmental Programs Stuart Freudberg have begun presentations on the findings to member jurisdictions' governing bodies.

As the national elections draw closer, COG's Elections Committee will be working to get out the vote and will be including a link to voter registration and polling information on the COG website.

COG's Planning Directors Committee will be monitoring and reviewing the implications of legislation just passed in California which integrates climate change goals and control mechanisms with local land use decisions.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly requested that COG begin to work more closely with the media, particularly in their understanding and depiction of the region. The District of Columbia should not be the media's only focus.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental documents: Resolutions R49-08 through R56-08

A. Appointment of 2008 Nominating Committee

The Board adopted Resolution R49-08, appointing several COG members to the 2008 Nominating Committee. The Committee shall recommend: 1) a slate of corporate officers for action by the General Membership meeting, at its Annual Meeting December 10, 2008; and 2) a slate of Board of Directors officers for action by the Board at its January 14, 2009 meeting.

B. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to submit an Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Department of Justice (DOJ) Grant Application, Execute a Contract with Business Watch International, and Receive and Expend Funds for the Enhancement of the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS)

The Board adopted Resolution R50-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a grant application to the Department of Justice, COPS Office for enhancements to the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS). The resolution will further authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Business Watch International, the current RPDSS contractor, as well as receive and expend the funds to provide the enhancements. Funding will be requested in an amount not to exceed \$93,530. No COG matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Seek Funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Support of Cost Effective Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Board adopted Resolution R51-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to seek funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a program to support expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy in the National Capital Region. This program will be a unique partnership between MWCOG, Arlington County, and Virginia Tech to investigate the energy use characteristics of commercial buildings; developing county-sponsored commercial energy education incentive program; and investigate the feasibility of a regional carbon offset program. The total cost of the three year project is \$257,384. EPA is requested to provide a \$229,611 grant. COG and Arlington County will provide in-kind contributions of \$15,000 and \$12,773 respectively.

D. Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Enter Into a Grant Agreement to Support a Regional Public Information Campaign for Energy Emergencies

The Board adopted Resolution R52-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive a grant from the District of Columbia Department of the Environment Energy Office to review and compile energy emergency information dissemination protocols and messages. The purpose of the project is to raise the level of energy emergency preparedness of NCR residents through a public awareness and education campaign, using typical media outlets such as radio, TV and email. COG is being provided \$25,000 through the Urban Area Securities Initiative for this project. No COG matching funds are required.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the District of Columbia to establish a District Government component to COG's current "Urban Timber Recovery and Utilization" grant with the U.S. Forest Service, Wood Education Research Center

The Board adopted R53-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a Grant Agreement with the District Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Administration

(DDOT-UFA) in the amount of \$40,000 for the purposes of utilizing felled urban timber and conducting a biosolids composting research project. The project duration will be two years from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds are required.

F. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive Funds to Contract for a Financial Consulting Firm to Provide Financial Support Personnel to the SAA in the National Capital Region

The Board adopted Resolution R54-08, authorizing the Executive Director, to accept funding from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region and enter into a contract with a financial consulting firm to provide financial support personnel to work in the SAA office. The SAA will provide COG with \$100,000 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to execute the contract with the financial consulting firm. No COG funds are required.

G. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Funding for the 2008-2009 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Campaigns

The Board adopted Resolution R55-08 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 campaigns, for the purpose of implementing the 2008-2009 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaigns. The Executive Director is further authorized to enter into an agreement with a project consultant to implement the 2008-2009 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaigns. No COG matching funds are required.

H. 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

The Board adopted Resolution R56-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, 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 2008 season. Under this contract, the Executive Director may enter into three separate subcontracts in order to harvest submerged aquatic vegetation from navigational channels, conduct shoreline surveys and conduct aerial photography of the Potomac River from Alexandria down river to the Mouth of the Potomac. No COG funds are required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. COG RETREAT OUTCOMES

Supplemental Documents: Retreat Summary Report

In addition to great attendance and a beautiful location, this year's Annual Retreat successfully provided members with an opportunity to network and have open honest dialogue with each other.

Generally, policy officials stressed the importance of COG's continued focus on issues that directly affect the National Capital Region. There was agreement that all work going forward should be through the lenses of transportation, energy and sustainability.

There was particular interest in addressing cross-cutting issues, fostering stronger partnerships, and promoting more effective advocacy and outreach strategies. It was concluded that COG must develop a federal legislative platform to better advance its priorities, including leveraging available resources and maintaining or creating funding streams.

Participants were clear that COG must balance its long term goals with short term needs. Several projects and initiatives were identified that would allow us to begin to see tangible results in the coming months and which would also support our long term goals and vision. These include the enhancement of multi-jurisdictional bus connections, implementing a "Wise Energy Use" campaign, and conducting a survey comparing this region to those across the country.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly requested that COG review its rainfall reporting and perhaps increase the capture spots; recent storms which brought tremendous rainfall were widely inaccurate.

8. PRESENTATION ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Supplemental Documents: Emergency Preparedness Activities and Achievements Power Point (electronic)

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and local and state governments across the country and in the National Capital Region will be marking the occasion with a wide-range of initiatives to promote greater preparedness by area residents and businesses. Fairfax County Board Chairman, and Chair of the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Committee, Gerry Connolly briefed the COG Board on the region's progress on emergency planning, preparedness and response since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and presented areas in need of future improvement.

Since September 11, 2001 the region has taken significant steps towards improving security and better preparing the region for the continuing threats it faces. Today, the region is equipped with better resources for local needs, improved coordination, and an unparalleled commitment from all levels of officials.

The Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) which is staffed by and housed at COG provides a broad forum for engagement of all partners and a platform to speak out on important homeland security issues. Early on, COG was asked to take on the role of the Urban Area Work Group, the regional panel charged with providing community input on homeland security decision-making and priorities.

Two years ago the EPC marked an important milestone, adopting a strategic plan to guide homeland security preparedness and response investments funded by the federal Urban Areas Security Initiative program. It has also adopted a Regional Emergency Coordination Plan and established the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System, or RICCS, which allows area emergency managers and other officials to alert each other to emerging hazards, emergencies or incidents and triggers on many occasion, all-important regional conference calls when local decisions are made in a regional context.

Beginning in FY 2003, many regions across the country began receiving federal funds from the Urban Areas Security Initiative or UASI program. From FY 2003 through FY 2007, the National Capital Region received a total of \$275 million in UASI funds. The EPC has been a strong voice to ensure that funds are spent quickly and properly and all funds from FY 2003 to FY 2005 have now been spent. Some of the earliest investments went directly to support our region's first responders including an extra set of fire gear for every fire fighter, personal protective equipment for police and medical personnel, interoperable radios and text alert systems. Additional investments have been made to strengthen our capacity to work together as a region, particularly identification and protection of critical infrastructure. The region has identified and ranked potential hazards to our safety and documented steps to prevent, detect, respond and recover.

The National Capital Region was just awarded almost \$60 million in federal UASI funds for FY 2008. FY 2008 priorities will include hospital surge capacity, the medical response system, as well as on purchasing radiation detectors, license plate readers and bomb squad upgrades.

Public education continues to be a necessary component to ensuring the public has a plan of action in the event of an emergency. A recent poll shows that large majorities of residents have basic emergency supplies, such as a three-day supply of food and a battery-operated radio, but 57 percent of residents still haven't created their own emergency plan.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette stressed the need for a repetitious public outreach campaign where the message is not only to be prepared and make a plan but to stay in place.

Several members noted the importance of having special evacuation policies for pets as we have seen in disasters like Katrina that owners will not leave their pets behind.

Fairfax City Council Member Daniel Drummond asked what smaller municipalities can do to better coordinate with their counterparts in the counties. Mr. Connolly suggested the specification of clear points of contact, cross jurisdictional training exercises, and memorandums of understanding.

9. PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL IN THE COG REGION – 2007

Supplemental Documents: Crime and Crime Control in the Region-2007 Report (Electronic)
Crime and Crime Control in the Region Power Point (Electronic)

The Police Chiefs Committee, in conjunction with its Police Planners Subcommittee, annually collects and analyzes selected crime statistics for the Washington metropolitan area; this information has aided in development of local/regional crime-fighting strategies.

Fairfax County Police Chief and Chair of COG's Police Chiefs Committee Colonel David Rohrer highlighted the results of the 2007 Report on Crime and Crime Control.

The report found an overall decrease in Part 1 crimes which include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. This compares favorably with national statistics which saw an increase in violent crimes. A decline in the number of violent crimes and property thefts has contributed to this decrease. Chief Rohrer also attributed the overall decline in the region's crime to inter-agency cooperation and data sharing among area police departments. He noted however, that the recent economic downturn, including a rise in housing foreclosures, will present law enforcement challenges, perhaps resulting in increases in property crimes and robberies as individuals commit criminal acts to obtain financial gain.

Although crime has decreased, Chief Rohrer said a certain type of robbery is a growing problem across the region; group robberies – involving four or more suspects preying on a lone victim – are on the rise.

The Report on Crime and Crime Control also details the crime statistics of each local jurisdiction as well as crimes reported by state and federal officers. Local police departments, sheriff's offices, and state and federal police services supply COG with the data for this report.

Chairman Knapp, on behalf of Vice Chair Penny Gross, asked in her absence what elected officials could do in terms of public outreach and messaging to help police mitigate and solve crimes. Chief Rohrer stated that public cooperation and input is key to solving most crimes and that localities should stress citizen-police coordination and relationship building.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R47-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.

10. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

On June 14, 2006, the Board adopted Resolution R28-06, creating the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership to “provide a cooperative framework for the oversight of the ongoing restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries.” The resolution established an executive-level Leadership Council, a policy-level Steering Committee and a technical-level Management Committee. The partnership is housed at COG and includes representation from federal agencies, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, the City of Hyattsville, and several key stakeholder organizations. Dana Minerva, Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, and Steve Pattison, Chair of the Partnership’s Steering Committee, briefed the Board on the restoration progress made by the partnership in the two years since its inception.

The Anacostia Watershed stretches through Maryland and into the District of Columbia and is 176 square miles. It is currently the most developed watershed in the entire Chesapeake Bay and is generally considered to be one of the most polluted rivers in the nation.

The goals of the Partnership are to dramatically reduce pollutant loads, protect and restore the ecological integrity of the river, improve fish passage, increase wetland acreage, expand forest cover, and increase public and private participation.

In the last two years the Partnership has made significant progress: DC-WASA has reduced CSO discharges by 30% and expects that volumes will be reduced by 40% by the end of the year, trash is declining but still a very big problem; partners have retrofitted stormwater systems for over 2 square miles of the watershed and over 10 miles of streams have been restored, though sediment still greatly exceed standards; fourteen additional miles have been opened to fish passage; 27 tidal acres have been created; 3.5 miles of riparian land have been reforested; and excellent progress has been made towards creating “friends of” groups for every major subwatershed.

Additionally, the Partnership has strengthened its governance by hiring an executive director, expanding its steering committee membership, applying for a Chesapeake 2010 grant, and has developed an action agenda.

Gaithersburg City Council Member Henry Marraffa stated that his jurisdiction has implemented environmentally friendly stormwater management practices and encourage others to do so. He added that the region must address the issue of plastic bags more aggressively.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The Board convened in Executive Session to discuss the results of the performance evaluation process conducted by the Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee (ECBR) and other Board members.

12. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Upon returning to public session the Board of Directors voted on the recommendations made by the ECBR.

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, Resolution R48-08 was unanimously adopted and approved as amended.

13. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

**ATTENDANCE: SEPTEMBER 10, 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	N		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
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	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	Y		
	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	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	Y
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	N	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	N		
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
Dana Minerva, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership
Steve Pattison, Maryland Department of Environment
Chief David Rohrer, Fairfax County Police Department
Council Member Terry Seamens, City of Takoma Park