

**2012 COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT**

**Evaluation Summary**

**Seven (7) evaluation forms were received from Board members and/or alternates.**

**What were your expectations for the retreat?**

- Networking; discussion of new ideas, strategies
- Future plans and emphasis
- I hoped for some very informative presentations and discussions about what's going on in the region
- Networking; collaboration
- Get strategy sessions forgetting global perspectives
- Leadership and policy discussion
- Meet and interact with other Board members; learn their opinions and approaches; identify a work program on economic development and competitiveness

**Were your expectations met?**

Five (5) of the respondents said yes.

Other comments:

- On the last comment above, one recipient said his expectations were met on the first item but not on the second item.
- Somewhat
- Retreat was very well done

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent**

***Friday Night Keynote Speaker: David Agnew, Economic Growth and Competitiveness: Fostering a Stronger Federal-Regional Partnership in Metropolitan Washington***

1- 0	4- 2
2- 1	5- 3
3- 0	1- Not applicable

Comments:

- Good relationship development
- Great catch!
- Terrific
- More a sales pitch for the Obama administration than a thoughtful commentary on the Region

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

***Opening Session: Regional Jeopardy***

1- 0	4- 1
2- 0	5- 3
3- 0	(3- No response)

Comments:

- Fun! (3)
- Fun experience.
- Excellent icebreaker but too long.
- Sorry I missed it but heard it was really fun.

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

***Work Session: Proposed COG Economic Growth and Competitiveness Call to Action***

1- 0	4- 1; 1 - 4.5
2- 0	5- 3
3- 1	(1 attendee rated this session an 8)

Comments:

- Missing was discussion on how to improve competitiveness. For example, booklet shows a good skilled workforce, but then cites the mismatch between skills available and skills needed.
- Improvement program was studied but stalled for lack of leadership (p. 15).
- This was one of the most thought-provoking, forward thinking sessions of the retreat.
- Needed more dots!
- I would have wanted better-defined directions for staff to take back.

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

***Work Session: COG Governance: Time to Take a Fresh Look at How We Move The Region Forward?***

1- 0	4- 4; 1 - 4.5
2- 0	5- 0
3- 1	(1 attendee rated this session an 8)

Comments:

- Not enough time to discuss; future meeting?
- This could have been slightly strengthened but I am not quite sure how (yet).
- Needed more time for discussion.

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

***Saturday Lunch Keynote Speaker: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown: Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Maryland and the National Capital Region***

1- 0	4- 3
2- 0	5- 1
3- 0	(1 attendee rated this session an 8)

Comments:

- Better than I expected.
- Not much said about Virginia.
- Excellent timing given the previous subject.
- Related well to regional issues in Question and Answer session but consistently with platitudes.

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

***Work Session: Proposed 2012 Region Forward Activity Centers Map: What It Shows and How It Will Be Used***

1- 0	4- 3; 1 – 4.5
2- 0	5- 0
3- 1	(1– No response); (1 attendee rated this session a 10)

Comments:

- Informative.
- Presentations needs two more slides. One on who will use it and for what, as shown in the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan. Second is why should a jurisdiction care if it is an activity center or not, also in the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan.

**Retreat activities: 1 being poor – 5 being excellent.**

Location and Facilities: 3 – 5; 1- 4.5; 1-2; (1 attendee rated this session a 10)

Overall Retreat Rating: 4 – 5; 2- 4; (1 attendee rated this session a 10)

**Location/Facilities/Overall Retreat comments:**

- Well-organized; got a lot accomplished in a short time.
- I appreciated the check-out time extension to 12:30 p.m. The resort is nice but 11:00 a.m. is too early a check-out time. People are really friendly. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge is a real challenge.
- These retreats continue to be the high point of the year.

- Five hour drive due to Bay Bridge 2-lane restriction; saw same delays eastbound when we were returning home westbound.
- Hotel itself is excellent; food was okay; better continental breakfast needed (bagels and watermelon aren't enough).

**Additional Comments:**

- **Organization was well done; staff presentations were informative; Kathy Bentz's facilitation was excellent; participants were generally active and interested.**
- **Paper not friendly with most pens!**
- **We discussed rebranding the region. Do we need to rebrand WASHCOG first?**
- **Please print evaluation form on a different kind of paper. This is very difficult to write on.**

**Chairman's notes:**

- **Several participants recommended an extension of the retreat to allow for additional discussion on implementation of strategies and the next steps. Adding a half or full day at the beginning or end of the retreat would also allow for more break times and the possibility of planned group activities.**
- **Recommendations included the need for a brief report out by department staff and/or committee chairs on other work ongoing at COG and potential best practices by jurisdictions related to the retreat focus.**