

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
February, 8 2006**

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 11TH MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the January 11, 2006 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was amended to allow Mayor Anthony Williams, District of Columbia, to brief the Board on Anacostia revitalization efforts in conjunction with the presentation on the COG Board's 2006 policy focus.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fisette welcomed new COG Board members: City of Fairfax Councilmember Gary Rasmussen and Prince William County Chairman Sean Connaughton. He also acknowledged Mayor Walter James, Town of Bladensburg; representing COG's first

adjunct member jurisdiction. Mr. James thanked the Board for giving smaller jurisdictions the opportunity to actively participate in COG.

Chairman Fissette and Executive Director David Robertson presented certificates of appreciation to the following outgoing policy committee chairs: Elizabeth Hewlett, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee; Penelope Gross, Fairfax County Supervisor, Public Safety Policy Committee; Walter Tejada, Arlington County Board Member, Human Services Policy Committee (not present); and Bruce Williams, Takoma Park Mayor Pro Tem, National Capital Emergency Preparedness Council.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) just completed its four-day Washington Policy Conference. District of Columbia Councilmember Carol Schwartz welcomed delegates on behalf of COG and the District of Columbia and noted COG's long-standing support for NARC.

Ms. Gross commended COG and its staff, specifically COG Human Resources Director, Imelda Roberts, on its participation and support during the hiring of a new executive director for NARC.

Ms. Gross also stated that the EPA has allotted \$53 million in new money for a contaminant warning system for water quality and suggested that COG may want to involve itself in some way.

Chairman Fissette announced that the first Trash Free Potomac Initiative Advisory Council Meeting was held at COG on January 18. At that meeting, the Chairman, Maryland Rep. Christopher Van Hollen, signed the Alice Ferguson Foundation's treaty to clean the watershed by 2013. Since this issue was brought to the Board last year, COG has been very successful in broadening the reach of this program. To date, the District of Columbia, Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County have signed the treaty. Prince William and Frederick Counties should sign later this month. March 16 has been set as the date for the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson stated that he has been participating in the planning process for the Board of Trade's Potomac Conference; the goal is to showcase the work COG has done in the areas of growth and development. He will also be monitoring participation by elected officials to ensure adequate representation at the next conference.

The Metro Dedicated Funding Joint Coordinating Committee, which was created at last month's meeting to facilitate information sharing among jurisdictions on WMATA funding legislation, has convened four very successful conference calls thus far. Participation has been great and includes locally elected officials, various members of the COG Board, WMATA staff, and the business community.

An analysis of the recently released Federal Budget for FY 2007, and its potential impact on the National Capital Region, will be presented at the next Board meeting.

The first meeting of the Broadband Task Force will be held on January 28th and will be chaired by Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters.

Mr. Robertson clarified that the date of the Day Labor Summit had been changed from March 16 to March 30 to avoid conflict with the Trash Summit previously scheduled for that date.

Prince William County Supervisor Hilda Barg encouraged fellow members of the Board to attend the upcoming Day Labor Summit, suggesting that if they could not make it to send a representative because this issue is too important to be ignored.

Chairman Fisetto briefed the Board on a number of legislative initiatives which address the need for dedicated funding for capital maintenance for WMATA. Bills have been introduced in each of the 'states' in response to Rep. Tom Davis' bill which would authorize \$1.5 billion in federal funding for capital and preventative maintenance projects. HR 3496 specifies that this federal contribution is contingent upon the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland and Virginia also creating dedicated sources of revenue. The bills in Virginia would create a new source of money for WMATA while the bills in Maryland and the District of Columbia would carve out dedicated sources from existing monies.

Fairfax County Chairman Gerald Connolly noted that Virginia's bills would be taken up this morning; the expectation is that the bills in the House will probably fail and the Senate bill should pass although it would have problems when sent over to the House.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R13-06 to R16-06 (Electronic)

(A.) Appointment of 2006 Policy Committee Vice Chairs

Chairman Fisetto recommended the appointment or reappointment the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2006: Human Services Policy Committee, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, and Public Safety Policy Committee. Vice chairs for the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation and National and Dulles Airports, Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, and the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council are chosen through a separate appointment process.

(B.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Expend Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds for the Development of Drinking Water Distribution System Models in the National Capital Region

The Board approved Resolution R14-06 authorizing the Executive Director to expend Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds in an amount of \$85,000 for the purpose of contracting with Science Applications International Corporation for the development and implementation of a drinking water distribution system model for the City of Falls Church. No additional COG matching funds are required.

(C.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Modify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources to Conduct a Low Impact Development (LID) and Trash Reduction Demonstration Project for the Takoma Branch Portion of the Anacostia Watershed

The Board approved Resolution R15-06 authorizing the Executive Director to sign a supplemental MOU with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources. This MOU will be in an amount not to exceed \$285,000. The supplemental MOU includes the following tasks: conduct an LID implementation opportunities assessment and pilot trash reduction project in the Prince George's County portion of the Takoma Branch tributary. The US EPA will provide pass through funds to Prince George's County to cover the Takoma Branch project cost of \$285,000. No COG matching funds are required.

(D.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Funding for the 2006 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Campaign From the Organizations That Have Agreed to Participate, and to Employ a Consultant in Order to Implement That Campaign.

The Board approved Resolution R16-06 authorizing the Executive Director 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 2006 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 2006 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign. No COG matching funds are required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, consent agenda items A through D were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

7. PROPOSED COG BOARD POLICY FOCUS FOR 2006

Supplemental Document: 2006 Policy Focus Memo (Electronic)

In continuation with COG's three year focus on growth and development, Chairman Fisetta outlined the proposed COG Board Policy Focus for 2006.

Regionalism is fundamentally important to each of our jurisdictions and is increasingly becoming an important organizing principle. The greatest challenge to our region's quality of life is posed by its growth. This region will see 1.2 million more jobs and 1.6 million more people by 2030 and it is how the region deals with this growth that will determine its future.

Chairman Fisetta stated that now is the time for the COG Board to advocate more strongly for difficult decisions and concrete change.

The policy focus for 2006 is organized into three segments. The first, policy focus initiatives, identifies issues that will require the full attention of the COG Board, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), and other Board Policy Committees. In order to help the region coordinate its plans, COG must first coordinate its plans internally; the COG Board, TPB, and MWAQC will look for opportunities to link their work on growth and development.

The second category of focus involves already existing Program Initiatives that have the capacity to sharpen COG's regional focus and help achieve measurable outcomes related to growth and development. These efforts include the continuation of Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia restoration initiatives as well as continuing to work closely with local governments on regional growth issues.

The final section of the work program highlights administrative initiatives including: considering an advanced role in legislative affairs; hosting a special meeting or event with the congressional delegation; and developing a legislative agenda in advance of future sessions of the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies and the Council of the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams briefed the Board on efforts underway to strengthen COG's Anacostia restoration program and governance structure. Mayor Williams stated that the Anacostia is vastly neglected and the regional participation is necessary in order to make any significant differences. The program's governance structure is being analyzed as a way to raise the profile to federal level in an effort to obtain greater funding. Mayor Williams asked that the issue be referred to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee and that the Committee report back to the Board in May; he also asked the Board be briefed on current Anacostia restoration efforts at its next meeting.

Frederick County Supervisor and Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, John Lovell, stated that the Bay Committee will be able to come back to the Board in June, instead of May.

8. AFFORDABLE HOUSING REPORTS

A.) Presentation on the Washington Area Housing Partnership's (WAHP) "Toolkit for Affordable Housing Development" and Local Workshops

Supplemental Documents: Affordable Housing Toolkit (Hard Copy)
Calendar of Affordable Housing Workshops (Electronic)

The Washington Area Housing Partnership (WAHP) is a regional public/private non-profit that seeks to preserve and provide affordable housing within the region. It acts to convene regional leaders and stakeholders, research and report on local housing policies, provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations and local governments, advocate for the expansion of affordable housing opportunities across the region, and recognize successful local government policies and programs through the Partnership's Best Practice Awards.

Elizabeth Davison, Director of Housing and Community Affairs for Montgomery County briefed the Board on WAHP's Affordable Housing Toolkit and discussed the partnership's need for COG's assistance in planning local workshops.

The Toolkit outlines affordable housing best practices and provides examples where they have been successfully implemented and managed by local governments. Ms. Davison stated that the Toolkit has been distributed to each of COG's member jurisdictions and that the next step is to schedule training workshops within those jurisdictions. The content of the workshops will be jurisdiction specific in order to ensure that the jurisdictions are gaining as much as possible from the Toolkit; one or two tools will be presented with a question and answer period following.

Ms. Davison asked that members contact John Mataya to schedule a workshop in their jurisdiction; two jurisdictions, Prince William County and the City of Bowie have already scheduled theirs.

Chairman Fisette added that this type of hands-on help should not be passed by and encouraged each jurisdiction to sign on as quickly as possible.

B.) Washington Area Housing Trust Fund (WAHTF) Status Report

Supplemental Documents: WAHTF Letter (electronic)

Councilmember Carol Schwartz, Co-chair of the WAHTF, reported that the Fund has recently met two significant milestones: 1.) WAHTF has approved its 10th loan assisting in the preservation or creation of 850 affordable homes; and 2.) WAHTF has more than doubled the amount of lending capital it has available to borrowers through the Bank of America and other investments. These achievements have helped pave the way for a number of sub-regional housing initiatives in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Complementing the initiatives pending in Maryland and the District is an effort to secure \$500,000 in funding over the next two years from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Schwartz asked the Board to authorize the Chairman to send a letter supporting the request as well as ask each Northern Virginia jurisdiction to send letters of their own to the Appropriations Committee on the House and Senate side.

Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board approved the letter for the Chairman's signature.

Before turning the presentation over to Brian Tracey from the Bank of America, Ms. Schwartz thanked the members for their past contributions to the fund, noting that these accomplishments would not have been possible without them, and asked that more jurisdictions contribute if possible.

Mr. Tracey applauded COG for its collective and concerted voice in the preservation and creation of affordable housing. He announced, on behalf of the Bank of America, a \$50 million investment in WAHTF. Adding that housing is no longer a moral issue but a business one, he requested continued support and help from COG in securing additional contributors in the business community.

9. BRIEFING ON RESULTS TO DATE OF THE TPB REGIONAL MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY STUDY

Supplemental Documents: Accessibility and Mobility Study (electronic)

Technical Services Director Robert Griffiths briefed the Board on the results of the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.

TPB has released preliminary findings of a new study illustrating what metropolitan Washington would look like if area officials embraced different land use and transportation plans.

The Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, which was conducted by COG staff, state and local planners, transportation officials, and citizens, includes several scenarios that would reduce driving, increase transit use, and locate housing closer to job activity centers. The study shows what would happen if alternative plans could be implemented, but did not seek to address funding or the necessary changes in current land use policies.

Based on COG's latest forecast for 2030, the region will add 1.5 million people and 1.2 million new jobs. To meet this demand, COG predicts that 72% of the housing has already been built and 13% has been planned or is currently being built. The remaining 15% needed to house the region's population by 2030 is what the scenarios in today's study seek to influence.

Key findings include: Increasing housing growth in regional activity clusters, where jobs are concentrated and transit is accessible, will decrease driving and congestion and increase transit use, walking, and biking; Encouraging more development on the eastern side of the region, such as Prince George's County, would benefit the entire region's mobility and increase transit trips. For example, transit commute trips to the Largo area would more than double in this scenario.

The TPB is currently investigating a scenario focused on variably-priced lanes, such as High Occupancy/Toll Lanes, which is expected to be completed later this year and compared with results from the transit-focused scenarios.

Several members questioned the boundaries of activity centers and the "east/west divided" and suggested that these issues be revisited and possibility updated. Paul Desjardin, Chief of Housing and Planning, stated that the Planning Directors were already working to improve upon the map.

Prince George's County Councilmember Tony Knotts, questioned the outreach strategy on the study due to lack of inclusion of his jurisdiction and requested a briefing to his County Council. Chairman Fisetete asked COG staff to create a clearer and more active outreach strategy.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Jacqueline Brown asked that during the process of revisiting the study and updating various aspects, that the affect of immigration be addressed not only on the amount of necessary housing and jobs but the makeup of the residents in the homes and the types of jobs that they will need.

10. ADOPT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS IN VIRGINIA

Supplemental Documents: CBPC Memo (Electronic)
Chesapeake Bay Funding Letter (Electronic)
Resolution R12-06 (Electronic)

At its January meeting the Board asked that Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Chairman John Lovell report back to the Board in February regarding proposed Chesapeake funding initiatives in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 2004, the COG Board expressed it support for Maryland and Virginia to establish "a reliable and permanent state funding source" to fund the latest round of wastewater plant upgrades. Maryland met this goal with its establishment of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration fund in 2004, which created what is popularly known as the "flush tax." Virginia had not done so until now.

In Virginia, the outgoing Warner administration and incoming Kaine administration have proposed spending \$200 million from the state's projected FY 2007 budget surplus to pay for the same sort of treatment plant upgrades now underway in Maryland.

In addition, various members of the Virginia General Assembly have submitted bills that would provide a more reliable funding source for the state's Water Quality Improvement Fund, which has fluctuated with the amount of the state's surplus and, in some years, has gone completely unfunded.

These proposals include the establishment of new taxes on such things as publications or hotel lodgings -- or dedication of a set percentage of receipts from existing revenue sources, such as the recordation tax.

Mr. Lovell stated that the Bay Policy Committee, at its meeting of Jan. 20, 2006, received a briefing on these legislative proposals and it is the recommendation of the Committee that COG endorse the Warner-Kaine proposal and that COG express its support to the Virginia General Assembly for a dedicated long-term funding source for the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

Before action on the proposed letter and resolution, Mr. Lovell requested that COG staff track the President's FY2007 budget proposal which would reduce funding for the Bay restoration effort.

Fairfax County Chairman Gerald Connolly stated that he supports what the letter and resolution are trying to do so long as the unidentified revenue source is not a flush tax. The flush tax is a very controversial topic in Virginia and, as Fairfax County Supervisor Penelope Gross noted, is not feasible in Virginia because the legal structure is much different than it is in Maryland and as such would not be able to generate the same level of funding.

Prince William County Supervisor Lori Waters added that Loudoun could not support any legislation which would raise taxes and proposed amending the language such that a "dedicated" source of revenue would be removed.

Prince William County Chairman Sean Connaughton, in response to Mr. Lovell's comment that Virginia needs to increase its efforts of funding for the Bay, stated that Northern Virginia has invested a lot of money for the protection of the Bay and that the Region as a whole should be commended on its good work. He added that for this reason it is sometimes very difficult for leaders in Northern Virginia to ask the lawmakers in Richmond to further raise their taxes.

District of Columbia Councilmember Phil Mendelson remarked that dedicated revenue does not have to mean an increase in taxes, referencing the way the District has allocated monies for METRO through existing sources.

Mr. Connolly suggested that "fair and reliable" replace "dedicated," Ms. Waters agreed.

On a separate matter, City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis alerted Board members and COG staff to legislation currently in the Maryland General Assembly that would raid the flush tax and asked that the issue be placed on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee's calendar and that COG staff track the legislation as it is moving quickly.

Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R12-06 was unanimously approve and adopted as amended.

12. UPDATE ON THE REGION'S EMERGENCY PLANS

Supplemental Documents: Emergency Work Plan (Electronic)

Rescheduled for the March meeting.

11. FY 2006 2ND QUARTER REPORT

Supplemental Documents: 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Dr. Jacqueline Brown, COG's Secretary Treasurer, stated that there is a cash balance of \$3,258,097; the reserve remains at \$5,957,914; and COG's total revenue of \$11,078,615 exceeded costs by \$867,641.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2006.

**ATTENDANCE: February 8, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	Y	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	Y	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	Y		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	N
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	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		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. 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. Daniel Gardner	N	Ms. Marti Meserve	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y	Mr. Bruce Tulloch	N
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Sean Connaughton	y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

Other Participants

Elizabeth Davison
Director, Housing and
Community Affairs, Montgomery
County

Brian Tracey
Atlantic Market Executive, Bank
of America

Robert Griffiths
Department of Transportation
Planning, COG