

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
May 11, 2005**

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 13

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes from the April 13th meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Fisette requested that time be reserved at the end of the meeting to briefly discuss the pending BRAC recommendations.

Chair Davis added the name of Dr. Jacqueline Brown from Prince George's County to the 2005 Budget and Finance Committee. (Consent agenda item "c")

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Foster Parent Gala was a huge success this past weekend, honoring over 800 parents and nine outstanding foster families.

A Reality Check update will tentatively be placed on the June or July agenda.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson presented a series of possible next steps for the Metro Funding Panel. COG staff will compile a list of local/state/federal actions and opinions and draft a letter outlining the Board's recommendations.

At the recent Awards Banquet of Leadership Washington, the Community Partnership Award was presented to COG, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and Barbara Harrison of NBC-4, for Wednesday's Child.

Chair Davis recently hosted the annual employee awards. This year a special award was established in honor of John Bosley and was awarded to Tanya Spano for her multi-year efforts supporting the maintenance and enhancement of the Blue Plains Treatment Plant as a major component of regional water quality.

Mr. Robertson called attention to recent media coverage of the Commuter Connections program as well as the upcoming Green Infrastructure Forum on May 24th.

There has recently been much correspondence on the Little Fall's Gauge and its continued funding. This gauge, operated by USGS with COG as its local partner, is located upstream of Chain Bridge, where it monitors water quality in the Potomac. COG has recently renewed the partnership agreement for another year.

Mr. Robertson noted the addition of a legislative briefing to the agenda each month, to be presented by the General Counsel. Mr. Ruck then discussed the goals of such a briefing stating that the purpose is to inform the Board of any proposed legislative or regulatory actions that could potentially affect the Washington Metropolitan area as a region. This new briefing will allow for the Board to become aware of issues as they arise, to monitor continuing status, and to take action as it deems necessary.

Mr. Ruck briefed the Board on the regional implications of the 'Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005' (HR 1544), legislation designed to more efficiently provide funding for first responders. Staff recommended that the Chair be authorized to send a letter supporting the provisions set forth in HR 1544, with one caveat: that funding currently in the process of being allocated or obligated not be delayed or denied pending adoption of standards by the Secretary, particularly for those jurisdictions and regions like the National Capital Region, which have invested so much time and effort in the consideration and development of best practices of response likely to parallel or equal standards set by DHS.

Action: Motion was made, seconded, and adopted authorizing the Chair to submit a letter in support of HR 1544 with the agreed upon caveat.

Chair Davis asked that the legislative communiqué be sent out to the members before the monthly meeting.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Action: Consent agenda items A. - C. were agreed upon and adopted as modified.

(a) Resolution Revising Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Bylaws

The Board adopted **Resolution R17-05**, which amends the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee's (CBPC) bylaws to: 1.) assume oversight and approval responsibility for COG's Regional Water Resources Work Program and Budget; 2.) Modify the membership of the CBPC to include water and wastewater utilities who contribute directly to the Regional Water Fund. The CBPC endorsed these changes and recommended approval.

(b) Resolution Authorizing Application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Funding under the HUD Work Study Program

The Board adopted **Resolution R18-05**, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to submit an application and execute a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a grant covering August 2005 through August 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$270,000. No COG matching funds required.

(c) Appointment of Budget and Finance Committee

Upon Chair Davis' recommendation, the Board appointed the following Members to the COG Budget and Finance Committee: Judith Davis, City of Greenbelt, Board Chairman; Jay Fissette, Arlington County, Board Vice Chairman,; Anthony Williams, District of Columbia, Board Vice Chairman; Penelope Gross, Fairfax County, President and PSPC Chairman; Carol Schwartz, District of Columbia, Vice President; Michael Knapp, Montgomery County, Vice President; Robert Bobb, District of Columbia, Secretary-Treasurer; Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia, TPB Chairman; Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County, MWAQC Chairman; Elizabeth Hewlett, MNCPPC-PG, MDPC Chairman; Walter Tejada, Arlington County, HSPC Chairman; Rob Krupika, City of Alexandria, CONAANDA Chairman; John Lovell, Frederick County, CBPC Chairman; Dr. Jackie Brown, Prince Georges County.

7. PROPOSED TRASH REDUCTION

Tracy Bowen, representing the Alice Ferguson Foundation, gave a brief background of the Foundation and an overview of the "Trash Treaty," as requested by the Board at its last meeting.

One area of focus for the Alice Ferguson Foundation has been the Potomac River Watershed Clean-up. This program is the most comprehensive of its kind with more than 208 tons of trash removed during the campaign. The Foundation's goal is to have a trash-free watershed by 2013. However, the foundation cannot do it alone, nor do they wish to. The Treaty was established to solicit local governments' commitment to the reduction of trash within their borders.

The Treaty is comprised of three goals: (1) supporting and implementing regional strategies aimed at reducing trash and increasing recycling, (2) increasing education and awareness of the trash issue throughout the Potomac Watershed, and (3) reconvening annually to discuss and evaluate measures and actions addressing trash reduction.

The Foundation will also host a "Trash Summit" where local leaders will be asked to develop strategies for inter-jurisdictional waste management, to establish short and long term goals for trash reduction, and to compile research to determine where the trash is coming from. Ms. Bowen urged COG to support this regional effort, stating that while trash is not the biggest environmental problem the Potomac is faced with, it is a stepping stone towards a cleaner watershed.

Mayor Williams commended the organization for its work and noted that in addition to the Potomac clean-up, the Anacostia should be included in the process as it is a tributary of the Potomac. Mayor Williams added that enforcement of environmental crimes should be stepped up because much of the trash is coming from individuals.

Mr. Fiset suggested that a portion of the educational awareness process be focused on Virginia, as many jurisdictions may know little about the organization.

Action: Resolution R16-05 was moved, seconded, and adopted unanimously.

8. Regional Task Force on the Arson Investigation

Chief Sedgwick summarized the overall work program of the task force including a list of the jurisdictions involved. The Chief emphasized on the fact that there were jurisdictions providing resources and support that had no instances of these arson cases within their borders.

Task force Commander Scott Bolander presented a summary of the serial arson case. In May 2003, Prince George's County Fire Investigations personnel reviewed several incidents that appeared to be connected. In June 2003, they met with District of Columbia Fire Investigations personnel to compare similar incidents. A few days after this meeting, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) began providing assistance as well as several local jurisdictions that had yet to have a case reported. When similar fire incidents occurred in Alexandria and Fairfax County, these jurisdictions also joined the task force.

DNA collected from evidence at various arson scenes matched and on April 1, 2004, a suspect was developed. The suspect's DNA matched the collected DNA and this person was arrested on April 27, 2004. The suspect has since confessed to several fires in all the affected jurisdictions. During the serial arson case, the task force also worked together to solve cases such as an impersonation of a fire official at an elementary school.

Ms. Gross inquired as to whether the way individual departments respond to such situations has changed as a result of the serial arsonist. Chief Sedgwick responded that networking has always been an integral part of the process and it will continue to be.

The Chair suggested that this information be brought before the Fire Chief's Committee to determine whether the *ad hoc* procedure developed here should be regularized.

9. WASHINGTON AREA HOUSING BEST PRACTICES AWARDS

At COG's annual meeting in December 2005, the Washington Area Housing Partnership will present its first ever best practices awards. The awards will recognize local government efforts in preserving and producing affordable housing. The awards will showcase creative policies, programs, and other strategies that lead to additional affordable housing opportunities in local jurisdictions in the metropolitan Washington region.

WAHP is planning an outreach campaign for local elected officials to create a regional best practices tool-kit, and welcomes COG board members to join the advisory committee.

Action: Motion was made, seconded, and adopted to endorse and approve the awards program.

The Chair congratulated and thanked local jurisdictions for their contributions to the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund; those contributing jurisdictions include Arlington, Fairfax, Prince George's, Montgomery, Alexandria, Falls Church, Rockville, Takoma Park, and the District of Columbia.

10. HOMELESS ENUMERATION REPORT

Fran Becker, Chair of the Homeless Services Planning and Coordination Committee, briefed the Board on the findings of the Homeless Enumeration Report. The report shows that the number of people who are homeless rose very slightly for a fifth straight year. New survey methods used to track the homeless population are helping to pinpoint more accurately how many people are literally homeless, and will help us move even more individuals and families into the supportive housing, which is a vital part of the solution to ending homelessness.

Ms. Becker added that the most effective way to aid in the reduction of the homeless population is to look at the issue as a regional problem instead of jurisdiction by jurisdiction; suggesting that local elected officials make a commitment to coordinate their respective ten-year plans.

A regional conference is scheduled for October 25th to help officials craft intra-regional plans to end homelessness, and to propose the design of a regional data warehouse for tracking the number of homeless people.

Action: Motion was made, seconded, and adopted approving the Homeless Enumeration Report for dissemination.

11. PRESENTATION ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND PROPOSED "STREET SMART" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, briefed the Board on the regional Street Smart Campaign, and an April 20, 2005 TPB resolution requesting voluntary funding from local jurisdictions. The resolution requests voluntary funding for 2006 at a suggested level of five cents per capita which is consistent with certain previous local contributions.

Pedestrian safety is a major problem nationally specifically in the Washington area where every year pedestrians and bicyclists account for nearly a quarter of those killed on the roads. Pedestrian safety is addressed in three ways: engineering, enforcement, and education.

The Street Smart Campaign is a one month long media campaign supported by federal safety funds through states, along with some local funding. All funds that exceed cost go towards strengthening the campaign through additional media relations activities.

The goal of the campaign is to change driver behavior, specifically targeting males ages 18-34 because statistics show that this group is disproportionately involved in accidents. The campaign uses drive-time radio on selected stations to reach these individuals as well as ads on buses and bus stops to get the message out to cyclists and pedestrians.

This initiative was presented to the Police Chief's Committee, which was very supportive of the program and agreed to coordinate law enforcement efforts for the June 2005 campaign and in future years. The timing of this call for local funding is aimed at making jurisdictions aware of this voluntary request so that officials can budget for it in the next fiscal year. Some jurisdictions, such as Fairfax County, budget for this every year. The resolution would simply allow for any jurisdiction to contribute as much as they can afford with the five cents per capita as a suggestion or guideline.

Media efforts have proven to be very successful, specifically in raising awareness among citizens.

The Chair asked if statistics were available that display accidents in categories such as ethnicity. Michael Farrell, DTP, responded that the statistics are provided by the State Department, and it does not break down the information that way. He noted however, that through police reports one can see that many victims are Hispanic. All ads are translated into Spanish and are broadcast on Spanish media networks.

The Chair raised concerns of the timeliness of this request, noting that many jurisdictions have already completed their budgets for FY 2006 and suggested that this issue be brought up at the Board retreat.

Dr. Brown requested that when such requests are made to the Board, the CAO's, and the jurisdictions, that information be provided on the rate of return, description of results, and evaluative criteria.

12. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bobb briefed the Board on COG's third quarter financial report. The salient points are: (1) The balance sheet shows a cash balance of \$3.8 million and reserves of \$5.2 million; (2) Revenue has exceeded expenses by \$460 thousand; and the comparative budget shows a net increase of \$813 thousand, due to new D.C. Respite and Recruitment funds. Mr. Bobb and Mr., Robertson responded to questions.

Action: The report was received and accepted without objection.

11. BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC)/ DoD BUILDING SECURITY STANDARDS

Vice Chair Fisetto presented for discussion the issue of the pending recommendations of the Department of Defense on military base realignment and closure (BRAC), due to be transmitted to the Congress and the BRAC Commission on Friday, May 13th. His presentation demonstrated the potential impact that these recommendations may have on the region, not only affecting military bases but individual leased facilities as well. Of concern, in part, is how the DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards will inform decisions related to BRAC.

In 2003, DoD released its Minimum Anti-Terrorism Standards for Buildings on facility locations and design standards. These standards are prescriptive in nature and separate from those created for the remainder of federal government installations and properties. In October 2004, the standards took affect and applied to new DoD construction; in October 2005 they will apply to any new leased space, and in October 2009 they apply to any rollover or existing lease terms. These standards are extremely difficult to implement or comply with in an urban environment because, in large, they call for large setbacks, restrict underground parking design and access, and permit no ground level retail or mixed-use/tenant buildings. They also reverse the trend for transit oriented development and are inconsistent with security standards for all other federal agency facilities.

Mr. Romer asked that a copy of the presentation and supplemental information be distributed to the Board and volunteered the work of the CAO committee.

Mayor Williams stated that we need to think about risk assessment and the societal costs of these types of standards and urged that this information be placed on the website. He also suggested that COG ally with the US Conference of Mayors, which has done research on this issue.

In reference to Ms. Pepper's comment that these standards could negatively impact the region, Ms. Waters stated that instead of the region losing jobs, there might simply be a shift in location from the urban areas that cannot accommodate these facilities to suburban communities that can.

The Board recommended that COG analyze this new information, with support from an ad hoc Board committee chaired by Mr. Fisetto, prior to possible action at the June 8 meeting. The Board

also recommended that COG collaborate with other public and private sector groups and organizations, such as the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and national associations that are tracking this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: May 11, 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2005

<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	Y
	Mr. Robert Bobb	Y	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	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	Y
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y	Ms. Sandra Peaches	N
	Hon. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. Pepper	Y		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fiset	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Robert F. Lederer	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Daniel Gardner	Y	Marty Meserve	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Maureen Caddigan	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Tracy Bowen, Executive Director, Alice Ferguson Foundation
Chief Lawrence H. Sedgwick Prince George's County Fire/EMS Dept., Member, Fire Chief's Committee
Barbara Favola, Arlington County Board, Chair, Washington Area Housing Partnership
Fran Becker, Carpenter's Shelter, Chair, COG Homeless Services, Planning and Coordination Committee