

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

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

October 10, 2007

**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 Vincent Gray called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the September 12 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gray again reminded the Board of its upcoming Gala on November 15 in celebration of the organization's 50th Anniversary. It will also be during that event that the annual Scull and regional partnership awards will be presented. To make nominations please see the COG website.

On September 21, COG's Executive Director Dave Robertson along with the organization's Director of Environmental Programs Stuart Freudberg joined District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty and several key members of Congress on a boat tour of the Anacostia River led by Representative Steny Hoyer. The event served as a great opportunity for leaders to discuss how to best coordinate efforts to restore health to the river and watershed.

Chairman Gray announced the selection of Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerald Connolly to participate in the 2008 Metrex Conference. Metrex is the network of metropolitan regions in Europe operating much like this organization promoting the collaboration of regional planning and development efforts.

As part of the second annual Save for Retirement Week, October 21 – 27, ICMA-RC has partnered with COG to raise awareness among local government employees. It was first made official last year when Congress approved legislation to encourage all Americans to take steps to build retirement security. A resolution, R67-07, was included on the consent agenda recognizing the week and encouraging participation throughout the region. Carina Snook, Manager of Corporate Learning at ICMA-RC thanked the Board for its continued support and partnership.

Virginia State Senator Patsy Ticer presented the Board with a proclamation from both chambers of the General Assembly in recognition of COG's 50th anniversary.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dave Robertson met with District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty to brief him on COG's programmatic areas of focus and to discuss the potential for future collaboration.

Mr. Robertson spoke at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's annual retreat on September 27 concerning COG's regional climate change initiative.

Mr. Robertson stated that there were a number of events which garnered media attention last month including data compiled regarding the region's contributions to climate change.

Due to unseasonably low-levels of rainfall in the past few months, the COG region has been placed on a drought watch. Loudoun County has also been placed on mandatory water conservation.

The Future's Forum publication detailing the event and outcomes has been distributed.

Mr. Robertson also stated that the Washington Area Housing Partnership will have a workshop on October 26th focusing on bonus density.

COG has been requested by Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett to conduct a compensation study comparing figures across the region. This request comes as many jurisdictions are struggling with high salary and benefit demands.

Legislation providing dedicated funding for Metro is currently pending in both the House and the Senate, though a hold has been placed on the House version. Staff has prepared a letter supporting the legislation and pointing out areas of concern, specifically that the legislation is just and authorization not an appropriation and the requirement of federal representatives on the Metro Board which would require a compact amendment, and upon approval from the Board will transmit early next week.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents Resolutions R67-07 to R69-07 (electronic and hardcopy)

A. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Congress has approved legislation recognizing National Save for Retirement Week, October 21-27, 2007. This is the second annual observance. The purpose of the legislation is to encourage greater participation among Americans in building retirement security and to encourage employees to take full advantage of employer-sponsored plans. The International City/County Management Association-Retirement Corporate (ICMA-RC) is one of several national campaign sponsors and has partnered with COG to raise awareness among area local governments and their employees. The COG Board adopted Resolution R67-07, recognizing National Save for Retirement Week and encouraging area local government participation.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY THROUGH THE U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY FOR A CLEAN ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY INTEGRATION GRANT

The Board adopted Resolution R68-07, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to submit a grant application to the Virginia Division of Mines, Minerals and Energy for a U.S. Dept. of Energy Clean Energy and Air Quality Integration grant of \$125,000 for two years. The proposed grant will support a regional project to develop tools for quantifying energy savings, increased renewable generation and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and nitrogen oxides that result from Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures. The project will be done in partnership with the Virginia Office of Energy, the Maryland Energy Administration, the District Energy Office and the air quality agencies in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Matching funds not to exceed \$25,000 will be identified from already budgeted regional environmental program funds.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT THE GRANT PROPOSAL ENTITLED, "STUDENT ACTION COMMITTEE FOR POTOMAC RIVER PROTECTION," TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND THE WILLIAM G. MCGOWAN CHARITABLE FUND, AND TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND GRANT FUNDS

The Board adopted Resolution R69-07, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to apply for, receive, and expend up to \$50,000 in grant funding from The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund for the purpose of providing District of Columbia high school students with a meaningful watershed experience. The funding would provide them with resources so that they may lead community-based trash clean ups and educate their peers about the issues of pollution and trash in the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds. The project will build on the successful pilot Student Action Committee program implemented in the 2006-2007 school year. The total estimated cost of the project shall not exceed \$51,185. Matching funds will be identified in an amount of \$1,185 from funds already budgeted environmental program funds.

8. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 INITIATIVE

Supplemental Documents: Greater Washington 2050 Discussion Report
Comments Received on the Report
Resolution R62-07

Fairfax County Supervisor Sharon Bulova briefed the Board on the proposed work program and budget for the Greater Washington 2050 Initiative. After presenting its initial recommendations to the Board in September, a request was made for comments and suggestions to the proposal. That input has been incorporated into the document.

The overall purpose of the Greater Washington 2050 Initiative is to enhance the region's agreements on future growth and development, focusing on areas of commonality. A coalition will be created to move the initiative forward and to identify funding mechanisms, with a timeline no greater than 18 months.

Executive Director David Robertson stated that the initiative is a step in the right direction. Based on current trends, the future of the region is not a good one if current growth and development patterns continue; this initiative presents a unique opportunity to change this projection and create a better more sustainable region.

The 2050 Initiative builds upon the work already being done at COG and does not create a new structure or entity. It will be housed in, and managed by COG staff and directed by a small group of roughly 30 public and private sector stakeholders to be determined by the MDPC.

Mr. Robertson echoed the notion that this Initiative will build upon current commonalities amongst regional growth and development plans and added that similar values may require different implementation strategies. A regional survey will be conducted to identify these commonalities, building upon the current travel survey, adding housing and aging components. An aggressive outreach campaign will be undertaken as well as a set of metrics developed to measure success.

The proposed FY 2009 Work Program and Budget includes \$50,000 in COG sources and \$150,000 from non-COG sources to support the project. COG staff will identify currently budgeted activities which can support the project in the interim.

Mr. Robertson stated that it is important to get the Initiative underway even though all of its components have not been finalized to show the region that this is a top priority and to begin to raise the funds necessary to support it.

Virginia State Delegate Jim Scott stated that he is very supportive of the proposal but stressed the need for state legislative participation.

Mr. Robertson requested approval of Resolution R62-07 endorsing the creation of Greater Washington 2050 and its preliminary work program. MDPC will make necessary modifications and report back to the Board for final review and roll-out in January.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R62-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.

9. UPDATE ON REGIONAL PAWN DATABASE

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R63-07

The Regional Pawn Database Sharing System (RPDSS) was developed by COG and its Police Chiefs Committee to serve as a tool for the National Capital Region in its effort to retrieve stolen property. Nineteen local law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and numerous other law enforcement agencies at the regional and federal levels have been authorized to share pawn transaction data through this web enabled system. This critical unprecedented system has enabled investigators to close approximately 450 previously unsolvable cases resulting in the recover of approximately \$450,000 in stolen property. Captain Eddie Reyes of the Alexandria Police Department briefed the Board of recent efforts to diminish the accomplishments of the program.

The RPDSS has demonstrated the success that law enforcement can experience when agencies work together as a collaborative and are provided the technological tools necessary to fight crime across geographical boundaries. Because of its success, the system has drawn opposition from organizations like the National Pawn Brokers Association which would like to eliminate or diminish its effectiveness by promoting legislation that would weaken pawnshop's reporting requirements. Past efforts have failed, though proponents of weakening the system continue to find creative ways to include language into unrelated legislation and keeping the issue below the radar. The Police Chief's Committee requested that the Board send a letter to its congressional and state delegations alerting them to this issue and requesting their opposition to such efforts.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R63-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.

10. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED FEDERAL ENERGY LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND PROVIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND TRAINING GRANTS

Supplemental Documents: Federal Energy Legislation Memo
Resolution R64-07

Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Councilmember and member of COG's Climate Change Steering Committee, provided the Board with a review of the Committee's purpose and goals, an overview of pending Federal Energy Legislation that has the potential for significant benefit to our region and nationally, and recommendations for policy action by the COG Board.

Mr. Berliner stated that carbon emissions in this region expected to increase substantially from approximately 66 million metric tons to 89 million metric tons in 2030 if there are no new regulations or programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The largest sources are electricity (30%), on-road transportation (34%), and commercial, residential, and industrial fuel use (23%). The primary reasons for the increases are population and economic growth. He emphasized that these estimates reflect a 35 percent increase in our regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The science suggests that globally we need to decrease emissions by as much as 80 percent by 2050.

In June and August, both houses of Congress passed energy bills which include helpful provisions for advancing greenhouse gas reduction and clean energy policies in the region; they are now in the reconciliation process. In addition to others, the bills contain four provisions that are particularly relevant to advancing the goals of COG's Climate Change initiative and Energy Strategic plan. They include: corporate average fuel economy

provisions (CAFÉ), energy efficiency block grants, federal renewable portfolio standards, and green collar job training.

CAFÉ standards have not been strengthened in this country in over twenty years. Without an increase in vehicle fuel economy, motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions are expected to grow significantly in the coming decades, approximately 48% in this region by 2030. The US Senate bill's requirement of 35mpg would provide a 16% reduction in emissions by 2020. Currently, there is no CAFÉ provision in the House bill.

Both the House and Senate bills include language for energy efficiency block grants to local governments. These grants allow for additional funding for local governments for projects related to energy efficiency and green house gas reductions. There are different eligibility requirements in each bill, though the Steering Committee supports provisions that would expand eligibility to all local governments; formula and distribution practices should benefit both small and large jurisdictions.

Renewable portfolio standards are requirements that a certain amount of electricity is produced from renewable sources. The House bill contains a provision that would require all private utilities to generate 15% of their retail electricity from renewable sources. The Committee supports this provision, with the caveat that such legislation support state efforts, not pre-empt, particularly in the case where states want to set stricter standards.

To ensure an adequate workforce for the new jobs created in energy efficiency and renewable energy, both the Senate and House bills contain provisions that authorize funding for training workers in these fields.

Mr. Berliner requested the adoption of R64-07 authorizing the transmittal of a letter to the congressional delegation and key committee chairs in support of these provisions.

Maryland State Delegate William Bronrott asked if vehicle types were differentiated in CAFÉ standards or are they all treated equally. COG's Director of Environmental Programs Stuart Freudberg responded that it has been the practice to differentiate between light duty vehicles and SUV or commercial types; though he noted that the 35mpg would likely pertain to light duty vehicles.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Jacqueline Brown questioned how funding for green collar job training would be distributed and if certifications would be given to those who pass the program. Mr. Berliner responded that the dollars would be funneled to the state for the training and that certifications are a desired outcome.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R64-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.

11. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BYLAWS AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES

Supplemental Documents: Amended Bylaws with Tracking (hard copy)
Amended Rules of Procedure with Tracking (hardcopy)
Resolution R65-07

In March, the Board of Directors authorized the creations of a Bylaws Committee to review current Bylaws and rules of Procedure and to recommend changes where appropriate. The Committee presented its draft report to the Board for review and comment at its retreat in July. Lee Ruck, COG's General Counsel, briefed the Board on the proposed changes and requested adoption of those recommendations in Resolution R65-07.

The Committee recommended the following amendment to the Articles of Incorporation: amend Article 7 to authorize a Board of Directors not to exceed 40 members. The Board currently consists of 32 members and cannot be expanded, even if other jurisdictions desire to participate in COG. Given the expanded regional concerns over homeland security and transportation, the size of the Board should be permitted to expand with regional interest and jurisdictional commitment.

In addition it recommended the following changes to the Bylaws:

Amend Sections 2.01 and 2.03 to continue to permit additional jurisdictions within the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area to participate in COG so long as they share a common boundary with an existing member. This limitation would avoid "leapfrogging" membership without continuity of geography for analysis and planning.

Amend Sections 4.01, 11.02, and 11.03 to remove the requirement for the General Membership to approve the annual budget. The Board of Directors has fiduciary responsibility for COG's finances. It is appropriate for the Board to have the authority and responsibility for setting the budget and assessments necessary to meet COG's obligations. Additionally, this action will allow the budget to be proposed, considered, and adopted much closer to its fiscal year.

Amend Section 13.03 to clarify that Bylaw amendments may be made either by the Board of Directors or the General Membership.

Amend Section 8.07 clarifying the legal responsibilities of the Secretary-treasurer of the corporation.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R65-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.

12. REVIEW AND ACTION ON BUDGET AND FISCAL MATTERS

Supplemental Documents: Audit Report (Hard Copy)
Work Program and Budget (Hard Copy)
Resolution R66-07

(A.) Acceptance of FY 2007 Audit

Abdool Akhran, an external auditor with Bert Smith and Co., stated that COG has received an unqualified opinion based on an evaluation of its financial statements. The auditor also made recommendations to improve several administrative procedures.

(B.) Approval of FY 2009 Work Program and Budget

Mr. Robertson provided an overview of the FY 2009 Work Program and Budget noting that it is in line with the Board's multi-year focus on growth and development. He drew the Board's attention to the chart stipulating member dues and described how those dues are derived. Mr. Robertson stated that the new budget, proposed by staff and recommended by the Board's Budget Committee, reduces the per capita rate for local jurisdictions from that previously authorized by the Board and General Membership. The proposed FY 2009 per capita GLC assessment is \$.657 up from \$.639 in FY 2008.

The total FY 2009 budget is \$26.5 million, up from \$25.8 million in FY 2008. Membership dues will total \$3.22 million, up from \$3.1 million in 2008. That revenue represents 12 percent of the total budget, reflecting the organization's success at leveraging the region's resources to generate additional funds to advance COG's goals.

The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R66-07 recommending the adoption of the proposed FY 2009 Work Program and budget at the general membership meeting in November.

Several members questioned the jurisdictional population numbers used to determine member dues stating that there should be a more accurate way to obtain the data. Mr. Robertson stated that projected population numbers come directly from the jurisdictions and are signed off by the county/city executive.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R66-07 was approved and adopted. Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly abstained.

13. MEMBER TIME

Chairman Gray expressed his sincere gratitude for the Board's support of the District of Columbia's voting rights initiative. While this measure failed to pass in Congress, it was by a much smaller margin than past efforts and the District will continue to fight for equal representation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007.

**ATTENDANCE: OCTOBER 12, 2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2007**

<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. Carol Schwartz	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Alan Imhoff	N
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
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	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	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. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	N	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Captain Eddie Reyes City of Alexandria Police Dept.
Bob Mosely Administrator, RPDDS
Sharon Bulova, Supervisor, Fairfax County