

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
March 9, 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 FEBRUARY 9th

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the February 9th meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

a) Board Policy Focus for 2005

Chair Davis briefly discussed the updates to the Board's three-year policy focus.

b) First Annual Animal Services Awards

COG held the first annual Animal Services Awards program in February to honor professionals and volunteers for outstanding service to animals and their owners. Chair Davis commended Supervisor Penelope Gross, who was awarded the Animal Service Award for Elected Official of the Year for her dedicated service to many important issues, such as the prevention of animal cruelty and animal sheltering. Ms. Gross briefed the Board on the awards program and thanked COG staff for their work.

c) Metro Funding Panel Report – Follow-up Status

In January, the Board voted to accept findings of the Metro Funding Panel and approve a resolution to encourage member jurisdictions to evaluate the panel's report and work toward finding a solution to Metro's funding shortfall. Mr. Robertson provided background on the funding panel and presented the current status of the panel's report and what actions are being taken.

d) Executive Director's Report/Letters Sent and Received

Mr. Robertson highlighted activities as of March 2005 by other COG policy bodies, officials and staff.

4. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

(A) Resolution R9-05 – Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit a Grant Proposal to the Summit Fund of Washington to Implement Its Increasing the Effectiveness and Influence of Anacostia Watershed Citizen-Based Groups

Authorizes the Executive Director to submit a grant proposal in the amount not to exceed \$38,000 to increase the effectiveness and influence of Anacostia Watershed citizen-based groups through the period of 12 months from the receipt of funding and to enter into a contract with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to provide support for the Anacostia subwatershed group expansion.

(B) Resolution R10-05 – Approval of FY 2005 UASI Subgrant for COG Homeland Security Planning and Technical Support

Authorizes the Executive Director to apply for and accept an FY 2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) subgrant to provide regional support for homeland security activities in the National Capital Region.

5. OFFICE OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COORDINATION BRIEFING

Tom Lockwood, director of the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC), works closely with COG and other local, regional, state and federal stakeholders to strengthen emergency preparedness and coordination. Mr. Lockwood briefed the COG Board on ONCRC priorities and activities, progress on federal agency coordination, and ongoing efforts to improve homeland security governance and decision-making.

He discussed the national response plan and how the federal government would respond and support state and local governments during an emergency. Mr. Lockwood's office has worked on several projects, including the WWII Memorial, Ronald Reagan funeral and the IMF World Bank protests. The challenge is taking all plans and aligning policy and prioritizing resources. The ONCRC is also working to establish national performance measures. The region has made a significant commitment to assess processes that lead to preparedness and better public safety.

One of this year's goals is planning a meeting in May to discuss building a strategic plan and the research going on to coordinate state plans with the federal plan. The ONCRC's mission is to coordinate, integrate, and advocate. Mr. Lockwood discussed the issue of credentialing for first responders. One short term approach for the federal government is the use of smart card technology.

The Executive Branch will have uniform card reader technology and will be coordinating with the District. The office will also work with Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania. The overall strategy is to bring coherence to all programs and efforts, increase information sharing and public awareness, and to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Williams said that it was important to realize how extensive emergency preparedness efforts have been. At the recent Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) meeting, the bylaws were formally changed and the group expanded the number of slots for elected officials.

Council Member Carol Schwartz expressed concern about regional funds being used for inaugural expenditures and asked Mr. Lockwood how he could help with reimbursement. In response, he said the problem stemmed from sufficient funds not being identified in the District of Columbia budget line for those purposes. DHS has done all it could by working to make sure reimbursements were fully identified. Mr. Lockwood said there have been discussions with the congressional delegation, but he doesn't know the status of any legislation.

Chair Davis stated that COG sent letters to the administration asking for reimbursement. Board Member Jay Fisette expressed concerns about coordination of homeland security and asked for insight on the new secretary and who the federal point person is in the event of a disaster. Mr. Lockwood indicated that the process is difficult because 22 different department and agencies merged. Each group has a mission in addition to new ones, and many practices and procedures need to be coordinated. Mr. Lockwood said he was pleased with the new secretary, who has already begun an operations assessment of the department. It's not a question of who is in charge but who is in charge of what. Local governments will always be first responders, and the incident commanders would be in charge at that time.

6. PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL IN THE COG REGION – 2002 & 2003

Tom Manger, Chief of Police, Montgomery County Police Department, and member of the COG Police Chiefs Committee, briefed the Board on changes in the way in which some local law enforcement agencies collect crime statistics and on current activities of the committee. The most recent report completed was for a two-year period reflecting data received for 2002 and 2003.

Law enforcement agencies used the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) to gather information since 1929. Most jurisdictions are now transitioning to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), a better system that shows the occurrence of each crime within a specific incident. It is a more accurate way of reporting crime.

Chief Manger discussed a few statistics and recommended that jurisdictions not be compared because of differences between the UCR and NIBERS. He said he hoped to spark a dialogue on how to reduce crime in the region and discussed specific findings of the report.

Council Member Phil Mendelson asked about cross jurisdictional deputization and problems that occur when crimes are committed close to the Prince George's County and District of Columbia line. Chief Manger said that is an issue the two jurisdictions are working on. His committee is addressing the larger issue of all jurisdictions assisting each other during major events. Mayor Williams added that an arrangement between Prince George's County and the District would need the support of the U.S. Marshals. Laws for the kind of incident Mr. Mendelson asked about are already in place.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE GANG WORK PLAN

COG has taken a leadership role in developing a 24-month work plan to address gang activity in the National Capital Region, following the Regional Gang Summit in September 2004. Ms. Gross, Chair of the Public Safety Policy Committee, briefed the Board on the work plan and next steps.

COG hosted the gang summit in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Arlington County Police Department and Cox Communications. The purpose was to present a clear overview of the clinical, legal and social implications of gang activity in the region, promote policies, programs and best practices, and take steps toward development and implementation of the plan.

COG has secured \$200,000 from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to implement the plan. Overall goals have been identified to effectively reduce or eliminate gang activity in the region. COG will convene a task force of critical stakeholders, and the task force will develop strategies for interagency partnerships and convening those currently working on these activities, as well as work with elected officials.

A press conference will be held with OJP, local elected officials and members of Congress to announce the gang plan. Part of the plan includes developing and coordinating media outreach, and identifying cost effective programs to increase the region's capacity for combating gang violence. The task force will develop evaluation criteria to make the initiative successful. Motion to approve the plan was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

8. ADOPTION AND TRANSMITTAL OF COG ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED FY 2006 FEDERAL BUDGET

The President's Proposed FY 2006 Budget, released on February 2, 2005, contains many direct and indirect financial implications for the National Capital Region, for the state and local governments comprising the Region, for those governments which are participating jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and for COG, itself. At the request of the Board of Directors, Lee Ruck prepared a preliminary analysis of the President's budget, with particular attention to those proposals – both increases and cuts – which have particular relevance to the National Capital Region.

Mr. Ruck said the budget proposes a \$427 billion deficit. There are reductions in domestic spending, both discretionary and mandatory. He highlighted a series of program cuts, including certain education grants, the Drug-Free School grants, vocation grants, etc. There is also a \$252.5 million cut in foster care programs, and the Community Development Block Grant is being eliminated. Homeland Security funds going to first responders are being cut, although UASI is being increased.

Mr. Fisette made a motion to defer Resolution R7-05 to the April meeting until the Board has numbers directly relevant to COG jurisdictions, stating that COG does itself a disservice by putting forth a resolution that doesn't address how the budget impacts COG directly. In response, Mr. Robertson said that COG could go back to the jurisdictions to determine how major cuts impact them and include this information as an appendix to the report.

Motion to defer Resolution R7-05 was seconded and carried unanimously.

9. 2nd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Robertson briefed the Board on COG's second quarter financial report.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Chair Davis recommended the following administrative appointments or reappointments for 2005:

- A. Annual Retreat Planning Committee:** Robert Bobb, Camille Exum, Jay Fiset, Lori Waters and Chair Davis
- B. Pension Plan Administrative Committee:** Robert Bobb, Penny Gross and Michael Knapp
- C. Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee:** Robert Bobb, Camille Exum, Jay Fiset, Penny Gross, Phil Mendelson and Chair Davis

Motion to adopt Resolution R8-05 was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

11. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 13, 2005

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: March 9, 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	N	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.	N	Michael Cady	N
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	Ms. Sandra Peaches	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Patrick Hogan	N		
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	N	Marty Meserve	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Maureen Caddigan	N		
	Hon. Hilda Barg	N	Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Ed Reiskin, District of Columbia
Chief Tom Manger, Montgomery County Police Dept.
Tom Lockwood, Department of Homeland Security