

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
February 11, 2004**

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Stuart Freudberg, Director of Department of Environmental Programs
Paul DesJardin, Director of Planning
Brian LeCouteur, Senior Environmental Planner and Project Manager**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2004

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the January 14 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

a) NARC Washington Policy Conference

Chair Mendelson announced that COG is co-sponsoring NARC's 2004 Washington Policy Conference, scheduled for February 20-25.

b) Telework Press Briefing

Chair Mendelson turned to David Robertson to discuss the telework press conference. Council Member

Gerald Connolly spoke at a press conference held at KPMG the day before the Board meeting to inform the media about a new joint effort by COG and the Greater Washington Board of Trade to encourage 50,000 more commuters to telework by 2005. The program includes free customized training sessions and free trials of telecommuting centers.

c) Regional Power Summit

Chair Mendelson asked the Board to review a proposed agenda for a Power Summit for the region and authorize staff to proceed with planning. He asked the Board to forward comments or questions to himself or Mr. Robertson. The summit has been scheduled for March 31st, and will be held at the D.C. Council Chambers.

d) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director highlighted activities as of February 2004 by other COG policy bodies, officials and staff.

Mayor Judith Davis thanked Mr. Robertson for representing COG at a function to honor Tom White, who provided 30 years of service on the Greenbelt City Council.

Chair Mendelson reminded the Board of the upcoming spring dinner planned for the Board on Saturday, March 27th, and the summer retreat planned for July 23-25.

4. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 13. A-D

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the consent agenda:

A) Resolution Authorizing Limited Waiver of Fiduciary Responsibility of Michael Bunner

Resolution R12-04 – Authorizes a limited waiver of fiduciary responsibility for Manassas Park Council Member Michael Bunner.

B) NewWorldApps Contract

Resolution R13-04 – Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to contract the services of NewWorldApps, an information technology consulting and management firm, to assist COG in managing its information technology services and systems.

C) Resolution Supporting the Loudoun County Baseline Biological Monitoring Survey (Phase II): Proposal Submission to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Resolution R14-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to transmit a proposal and to enter into a contract agreement, not to exceed \$37,500, with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Loudoun County stream monitoring-related services.

D) COG Pension Plan System Amendment

Resolution R15-04 – Amends the COG Pension Plan System in compliance with Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS ON POLICY FOCUS FOR 2004

Chair Mendelson outlined his proposed policy focus and anticipated measurable outcomes. The theme will be addressing growth and development in the metropolitan region. Because there is no one-size-fits-all approach, COG must address the needs of both inner and outer jurisdictions.

The policy goals include partnering with stakeholder groups to help build a "big tent" of views and approaches to reach a consensus that's right for the region. COG will partner with the Washington District Council of the Urban Land Institute, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the National Association of Home Builders, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

COG plans to co-sponsor a one-day strategy-building exercise, among other things. Supervisor Lori Waters expressed concerns about budget issues. In response, Chair Mendelson said there will be "Reality Check" conferences to address fiscal issues.

Council Member Nancy Floreen suggested developing definable outcomes, and said it's good to be clear on what to expect. Communities are very different, which should be kept in mind. Council Member Peter Shapiro added that race and class are two of the driving issues in regional development. Commissioner John Lovell said that growth is the driving issue.

Various Board members expressed support for Chair Mendelson's policy focus.

6. METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REQUEST FOR COG BOARD ACTION

Chair of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) and Alexandria City Council Member, Joyce Woodson, briefed the Board on policy and technical efforts underway that support the Board's policy focus. In 1999, COG adopted the Strategic Plan, and one of its goals calls for promoting balanced, sustainable growth and livable communities.

Ms. Woodson stated that the MDPC is aware of the ongoing imbalance of growth in the region. A review of the new Round 6.4 forecasts suggests a better balance between the number of jobs and new households, at least on a regional scale. The MDPC has been assisting the region's Planning Directors with the development of alternative employment and household growth scenarios. Ms. Woodson added that she and the MDPC reviewed the Smart Growth video and will bring the final version to the Board for approval next month.

She introduced Len Forkas, of the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Mr. Forkas introduced his colleague, Laura Cole, also of ULI. He asked the Board to partner with ULI, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and other organizations, in sponsoring a proposed growth visioning exercise in early 2005, similar to the "Reality Check on Growth" project co-sponsored by the Southern California Association of Governments in the Los Angeles region in 2002. The MDPC recommended taking this action at its January 2004 meeting.

The Board watched a video about California's "Reality Check" project. Afterward, Mr. Forkas echoed Ms. Floreen's concerns about one-size-fits-all and special interests. He said ULI believes it's capable of putting together an unbiased program for the region.

Supervisor Penelope Gross asked how the California program was funded. Mr. Forkas said that funding came from their Council of Governments, the University of California – Davis, ULI and its members. Mr. Robertson added that Resolution R9-04 anticipates that the MDPC will assist in some advisory capacity and help craft local government input.

Ms. Floreen emphasized the need to involve the civic community, who may have significant concerns, and not just stakeholders. Various Board members commented on the structure of the program and suggested other groups that should be involved.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R9-04.

7. BRIEFING ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Brian LeCouteur of COG acknowledged COG staff who assisted on the green infrastructure project. Green infrastructure refers to parks, forests, streams and rivers that make up the region. COG's "Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project" is a partnership between COG and the National Park Service, which began in 2002 with grant assistance provided through the efforts of Congressman James P. Moran, Jr. (D-VA.).

COG recognized a need to map the region's green infrastructure. The primary focus of the work to date has been on the hosting of best practices and technical mapping forums, as well as development of technical tools that help accurately visualize the location of green infrastructure in the Washington region.

Mr. LeCouteur discussed potential next steps, including further development of the products within the COG policy and technical committee structure. A 24 percent population growth is expected in the area, and the region is losing 28 acres of land per day. Mapping the land cover can assist in better planning for the green space we still have. Mr. LeCouteur brought the Board's attention to various maps set up in the Board room. He also created a map of paved areas in the region and showed a series of time-lapsed maps to highlight the development of the land, which will increase the ability to project future forest cover and how population and employment may affect the environment.

Mr. LeCouteur introduced U.S. Congressman James Moran. Congressman Moran said that the mapping is not meant to be a static "snapshot" of the green space. He expressed concern about the development of green space, and how we're sometimes not conscious of its cumulative effect. Congressman Moran said he wanted to see how much green space was being used, so he suggested that COG do a study on the issue. The study, funded through the Interior Appropriations bill at \$500,000, took three years to complete. The result was the green infrastructure map, which is a land use planning tool.

Congressman Moran discussed the history of land use development, and expressed hope that one day green infrastructure will become as critical a factor in land use decisions as roads and sewers.

Ms. Floreen asked whether the green space can be preserved in perpetuity and if COG could do a regional picture similar to one developed in Montgomery County to identify what the region is doing to date to preserve green space. In response, Stuart Freudberg of COG said that green space is not permanently preserved; the space could be further developed. To date, only a small part of it is preserved.

Ms. Gross asked about a green infrastructure conference. Mr. LeCouteur said a conference is planned for late 2004 in the District.

8. BRIEFING ON APA NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

Mr. Robertson reported that this is the first time in a number of years (since 1992) that the APA conference has been held in D.C. He asked the Board to encourage their planning staff to participate and brought the Board's attention to a flyer that outlined a number of sessions at the conference focusing on the region.

He introduced Judy Daniel, President of the APA, National Capital Area Chapter. Ms. Daniel briefed the Board on the upcoming conference, which will held in Washington, D.C. April 24-28, 2004.

The APA's National Capital Area Chapter has been working closely with COG and area local government planning officials to identify conference sessions, mobile workshops and other information that will highlight planning issues in the National Capital Region. The National Capital Area Chapter, as the conference host chapter, has developed a theme track on several regional planning issues.

Ms. Daniel said she anticipates over 5,000 planners will attend the conference. The host committee consists of 250 people working on the conference, and 300 sessions and 78 mobile workshops are planned. She added that *Planning* magazine did a special issue about the Washington region.

The APA will also sponsor full-day trips to Richmond and Baltimore. Ms. Daniel added that the conference will reflect the COG Board's policy agenda, as well as the "Reality Check" issue.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R10-04.

9. LETTER SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELIABLE AND PERMANENT FUND FOR WASTEWATER UPGRADES IN MARYLAND, AND SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN VIRGINIA

Mr. Shapiro briefed the Board on the background of the proposed letter supporting the concept establishing a permanent and reliable funding source for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. At its January 16 meeting, the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC) received a briefing from the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Office of the Governor about a proposed fund to pay for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. An Administration bill (SB320 / HB555) to implement such a fund was introduced on February 3, 2004.

The proposals call for establishing a surcharge on wastewater utility ratepayers, supporting state revenue bonds that would provide between \$750 million to \$1 billion, etc. Mr. Shapiro reported that the Chesapeake Bay clean-up is expected to cost almost \$19 billion. What can be accomplished with the resources we have, and where do we find the funds? He added that most of the proposed funding mechanisms which would be costly now would spread out the costs over time, making the projects affordable and allowing the region to meet water quality goals sooner.

Mr. Shapiro said the CBPC is not recommending that the COG Board adopt a position on those bills at this time since member jurisdictions are still reviewing the proposal. Instead, the CBPC recommends sending a letter supporting the concept of establishing a permanent and reliable funding source for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. A draft letter of support was distributed for consideration by the COG Board. In addition, the CBPC recommends sending a letter to Governor Mark Warner supporting the use of a similar funding mechanism in Virginia.

Kelvin Robinson mentioned recent meetings between D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and the state governors, and asked Mr. Shapiro about plans to treat the Chesapeake Bay like the Everglades in order to have the federal government pay for some of the clean-up. He wondered whether the CBPC's plan would undercut that effort. Mr. Shapiro said the CBPC isn't backing away from a federal solution.

Ms. Floreen asked whether D.C. plans to undertake the federal approach. In response, Mr. Robinson said the issue was mentioned at the meeting. Ms. Gross said that Governor Ehrlich proposed the flush tax in his budget; Governor Warner did not take the same approach. Now that COG has a seat on the Blue Ribbon panel, strategies will be discussed.

Ms. Davis expressed the concerns of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), which is opposed to Maryland's proposed bills. One of their concerns is who should pay for the clean-up. If all benefit from the Bay clean-up, all should pay for the clean-up. As it stands, only those feeding into wastewater treatment plants have to pay. The MML is also concerned about fee increases and that the fund, like the highway user fund, will be raided in the future to balance the state budget."

Additionally, local governments will be collecting the fee instead of the state, which will make locals look like "bad guys" once again. Ms. Davis agreed with the CBPC's decision not to adopt a position on the bills at this time .

Chair Mendelson asked the Board to forward questions and comments to Mr. Robertson by the end of the week.

10. REGIONAL 211 HOTLINE PRESENTATION

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated "2-1-1" as the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to information on and referral to health and human services. There are currently three 2-1-1 plans now in development—one each for the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The NonProfit Roundtable of Greater Washington is working to maximize the collaboration among the three 2-1-1 plans and working to develop a seamless comprehensive 2-1-1 system in the region to match the public with appropriate services. In the last meeting of COG's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee and the Human Services Policy Committee, members voted to request that the COG Board endorse the development of a regional 2-1-1 plan and support legislation currently in Congress to fund 2-1-1.

Chuck Bean, Executive Director of The Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, said he seeks COG's support of enhanced coordination between the nonprofit sector and public sector. Currently, there are a plethora of hotlines with numbers that are difficult to remember. Mr. Bean mentioned a Brookings Institute study that came to the same conclusion and called for the adoption of a 2-1-1 system. He introduced some of his colleagues in attendance, Ernest Taylor, Kristi Stilen-Lare and Debra Daniels.

Mr. Robertson added that 2-1-1 was discussed in the context of the Emergency Preparedness Council and is tied into emergency preparedness. Council Member Catherine Hudgins asked COG to keep in mind the cost of implementing 2-1-1 and maintaining the support we already have in place until 2-1-1 is functional.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R11-04.

11. APPOINTMENT OF 2004 POLICY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS

Chair Mendelson appointed or reappointed the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2004: Vincent Orange and Penny Gross, Vice Chairs of the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee; Howard Denis and David Catania, Vice Chairs of the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at National and Dulles Airports; James Dula and Sandra Allen, Vice Chairs of the Human Services Policy Committee; Vincent Orange and Elizabeth Hewlett , Vice Chairs of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee; Gordon Aoyagi and Margaret Kellums, Vice Chairs of Public Safety Policy Committee; Penny Gross and Carol Schwartz, Vice Chairs of the Strategic Plan Committee; and Bruce Williams, Chair of the IRE Advisory Board.

12. THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WOULD BE MARCH 10, 2004

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