

Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006

Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C, on Friday, June 12, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. and continued until 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board Members:

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Richard Skinner, Vice Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General U.S. Department of Agriculture
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Mary Mitchelson, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Treasury

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Eric M. Lippold, Secretary
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Donald Salo, Assistant Director, Procurement Compliance
Cathy Votaw, Assistant Director, Legal Outreach

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

By unanimous vote of the members present, the Board approved the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- May 29, 2009 Minutes
- Recovery.gov Committee Charter (as amended)
- Accountability Committee Charter (as amended)
- Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Charter (as amended)

Mr. Skinner, Accountability Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of the June 05, 2009 committee meeting and briefed members on the following:

- Committee Charter, Election of Chairperson (Mr. Richard Skinner) and Vice Chair (Mr. Glenn Fine)
- Hotline and Referral Solutions
- Due Diligence, Data Mining and Predictive Analytics
- Procurement Oversight

Mr. Skinner will provide more information regarding the DHS Baton Rouge, LA call center operation as a possible over-flow solution at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Devaney proposed and the members agreed to hire one or two additional staff for the Board's hotline and referral efforts.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of the June 04, 2009 committee meeting and updated members on the technical solutions for recipient reporting as defined by Section 1512 of the Recovery Act, and redesigning the website to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of Recovery funds as required by Section 1526 of the Recovery Act.

Mr. Devaney summarized that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and the Board are collaborating to support electronic financial and progress reporting under the Recovery Act. Specifically, OEI will assist the Board in the implementation of the Recovery.gov 2.0 project, which will incorporate Recipient Reporting as defined under Section 1512 of the Recovery Act and in supplemental Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandums.

Additionally, Mr. Devaney indicated the Board's intent to redesign Recovery.gov and develop GIS applications using an integrated government/industry team to provide world class GIS support for Recovery.gov. The team would integrate with ongoing development efforts planned for collection of Recovery Act information (inbound data system(s)) and the Recovery.gov website (outbound data). Mr. Devaney explained that a GIS cross government advisory committee of experts from USGS, EPA, USDA and others is currently available to advise the Board.

Members discussed the reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, OMB's guidance and specifically the level of reporting that would be necessary to provide accountability and transparency into how and where Federal funds are spent. Members reiterated the need for OMB to expand the reporting model and include provisions in the June 15, 2009 guidance to obtain information from the first contractor/entity beyond Federal, State, or local recipients.

Mr. Thorson, Recovery Funds Committee Vice Chair, provided members with an overview of the June 01, 2009 committee meeting and briefed members on the following:

- Committee Charter, Election of Chairperson (Mr. Calvin L. Scovel III) and Vice Chair (Eric M. Thorson)
- Annual Reporting by Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Board

Members then discussed the Recovery Funds Working Group membership, the relationship between the working group and the committee, and between the committee and the Board. Additionally, members discussed the role of the committee chair, role of the committee vice chair, and the roles and responsibilities of staff.

Mr. Thorson expressed concerns that the committee had not reached consensus regarding the Single Audit Project or the Procurement and Grant Staff Inspection Checklist.

Members discussed the Single Audit Project and H.R. 2182, Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act, and referred these issues back to the Recovery Funds Committee.

Members reviewed the procurement and grant staff inspection checklist/survey and the suggested roll out schedule recommended by staff. Members discussed alternative methodologies, and ultimately agreed that Mr. Zinser would determine the methodology employed.

Members agreed that all future Recovery working group meetings should be attended by the IG, the Deputy IG or an Assistant Inspector General who can speak on behalf of that OIG office and make commitments.

Mr. Salo and Ms. Votaw briefed members on Section 1523 of the Recovery Act which requires the Board to review whether personnel whose duties involve acquisitions or grants made with covered funds have received adequate training. Members agreed to issue a data call to determine the current state of training by OIGs across all Federal Agencies receiving Recovery funds.

Members agreed to the following dates for future Board meetings:

- July 2, 2009
- July 17, 2009
- July 31, 2009

Eric M. Lippold
Secretary