

Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 700 Washington DC 20006-4614

June 8, 2012 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, June 8, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:35 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture Gregory Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Calvin Scovel, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendee:

Michael Phillips, Acting Principal Deputy Inspector General for Tax Administration Daniel Blair, Deputy Inspector General for Auditing, U.S. Department of Defense

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Donald Cox, Deputy Director of Accountability
Carrie Hug, Director, Accountability
John McCarty, Assistant Director, Law Enforcement Liaison
Edward Pound, Director, Communications
Atticus Reaser, General Counsel
Colin Senteney, Data Analyst
Sandra Swab, Senior Advisor Grants, Performance, and Data Standards
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Ms. Tighe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The members welcomed Mr. Horowitz to his first Board meeting. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the April 13, 2012, minutes were approved.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, informed the members that the internal Recovery Operations Center (ROC) review as presented to the members on April 13 had been approved by the Committee. Mr. Edwards also informed the group that ROC analysts had recently responded to twenty-six requests for assistance from the Inspector General (IG) community. Mr. Edwards provided a brief summary of the Federal Accountability.gov Pilot Usage Report and the April 2012 IG oversight statistics.

Ms. Tighe noted that the forms used to request ROC assistance were provided in the Board member packages. Ms. Fong invited Ms. Tighe or a member of the Board staff to discuss the ROC services at the next meeting of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Mr. Wood, on behalf of Mr. George who was absent, briefed the members on current Recovery.gov initiatives. He provided the members with the most recent count of IG reports published on Recovery.gov. He informed the members of a recent recipient reporting error, noting the need for agencies to maintain their focus even as Recovery Act projects near completion. Mr. Wood also informed the members that the Agency Profile page would be available on Recovery.gov later in June. He commented that the Agency Profiles, similar in concept to the Recipient Profiles, would provide key Recovery Act information to the public. There was a brief discussion of the Grant Reporting Information Project (GRIP). Mr. Wood discussed the overall scope, informing the members that GRIP will provide a centralized system of data collection and warehousing for a controlled group of grant award recipients. The discussion was then tabled until later in the meeting.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, provided the members with an update on the Lessons Learned Review project. She informed the members that the General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Inspector General's involvement in the project may be limited due to the recent issues encountered by the GSA. Ms. Kendall expected to discuss the issue further with the GSA IG. Ms. Kendall and Mr. Wood briefed the members on a proposed initiative to reconcile agency Recovery Act funds. Mr. Wood explained that the Board staff is preparing to publish information on Recovery Act appropriations and obligations as reported by the agencies, in addition to the amount of Recovery Act funds spent as reported by Recovery Act funds recipients. Mr. Wood proposed that the Board ask the Offices of Inspectors General to assist with coordinating an agency review of Recovery Act funds. The members reviewed the Recovery Act funds data worksheets prepared by the Board's staff. After a detailed discussion, the members agreed to discuss the initiative further with their senior audit staff and provide input regarding the best approach for moving forward.

Ms. Tighe informed the members that the 2011 Annual Report would be disseminated to the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee for review in July. She also informed the members that the next meeting of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) was scheduled for June 11. The members engaged in a brief discussion of the GATB's mission and the June Status Report to the President. Mr. Wood discussed the three GATB initiatives that are being undertaken in coordination with the Board. These include the GRIP Pilot Project, USA Spending.gov effort, and Universal Award ID initiative.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 13, 2012.

Cynthia Williams Secretary