

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 Thursday, July 2, 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
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Treasury
Calvin L. Scovel, II, Inspector General U.S. Department of Transportation
Mary Kendall, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Eric M. Lippold, Secretary
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Michael Wood, Director, Recovery.gov
John Higgins, Assistant Director, Audits, Evaluations and Inspections
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations

Proxy Attendee (Non-voting):

Mary L. Ugone, U.S. Department of Defense, Deputy Inspector General for Auditing

Presenter:

Suzanne M. Murrin, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Assistant Inspector General for Management

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:

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Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of the June 18, 2009 committee meeting and informed members of the planned July 29th webinar for New York State agencies receiving Recovery Funds. Mr. Scovel briefed members on the status of the Single Audit Project, and communicated that the next Recovery Funds Working Group meeting would be held on July 14, 2009 and that the next committee meeting would be held on July 15, 2009.

Mr. Skinner, Accountability Committee Chair, provided members with an update on several Accountability Committee issues and briefed members on the various alternatives for call center operations. Mr. Skinner informed members that the Board hired an analyst for hotline and referral efforts, and that Board staff had prepared a statement of objectives for the data center.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of the Recovery.gov Committee meeting held on July 2, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the status of solicitation AVT0009100 (Recovery.gov 2.0), and asked the full Board to accept the source selection recommended by the source selection panel. Mr. George emphasized the importance of the proper custody, use, and preservation of official information related to the Recovery.gov 2.0 procurements, and explained that all committee members had signed non-disclosure certificates prior to this morning's meeting.

Members then discussed the unusual situation of not all Board members knowing the full details of the proposal prior to moving forward. Mr. Thorson objected to voting on a matter on which he had not been fully briefed. Ultimately, members agreed that the Recovery.gov Committee Board members were more informed to make a recommendation, and with unanimous consent of the members present, authorized the Chairman to act on the source selection recommendation of the Recovery.gov Committee, request that the OMB apportion funds, and to instruct GSA to proceed with the procurement.

Members discussed the in-bound recipient reporting (FederalReporting.gov) timeline and activities. The initial submission is October 10, 2009 with an adjustment period of 20 days. Currently, OMB recommends publishing recipient reports to recovery.gov following the adjustment period or 30 days after the end of the quarter. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of publishing recipient reports after the adjustment period, and authorized Mr. Devaney to communicate the Board's recommendation that recipient reporting information be available as close to October 10 as possible.

Ms. Murrin, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Assistant Inspector General for Management, briefed members on two proposed joint projects between the Board and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. Members referred the projects to the Recovery Funds Working Group for further consideration.

Eric M. Lippold
Secretary