



Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board

1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington DC 20006-4614

June 4, 2010 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, June 4, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Proxy Attendee (Non-Voting):

Herbert Richardson, Principal Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Dennis Schindel, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury

OIG Staff:

Robert Young, Special Assistant to the IG for the Recovery Act, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
John Higgins, Director, Accountability
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations
Don Salo, Assistant Director, Special Programs Unit
Michael Wood, Director, Recovery.gov
Tara Porter, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of Board members present the May 7, 2010 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Chair, Recovery.gov, noted that the Committee met on June 3, 2010. The Committee discussed State Recovery Act websites and how Recovery.gov may be able to assist the States to improve their websites. Mr. George noted that MITRE was continuing its review on the quality of data on Recovery.gov. As part of Recovery.gov improvement efforts, Mr. George requested that Board members consider taping one to two minute videos on key Recovery Act-related topics that can be posted on the website. Mr. Wood, Director, Recovery.gov, reported that the continuous correction period has resulted in minimal changes. Mr. Wood also reported that the number of recipients who did not report was low and that the list of non-reporters should be posted soon. Mr. Devaney expressed frustration that it has taken the Office of Management

and Budget so long to provide the Board with an accurate list of recipients that did not report. Finally, Mr. Wood indicated that Board staff was working closely with agency staff to gain a better understanding of the data being provided by the agencies to the Board (e.g., master award list; non-reporters; mismatches).

Mr. Devaney indicated that the next meeting of the Board's Advisory Panel is on June 30, 2010. Board members are invited to attend the meeting and a late afternoon social event to meet the Advisory Panel members. The first public meeting of the Advisory Panel is scheduled for early August. Board members are welcome to attend this meeting as well.

Mr. Higgins, Director, Accountability, spoke on behalf of Mr. Scovel, Chair, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Higgins reported that the Committee is recommending that Board staff lead a review to examine the accuracy of the job numbers submitted by recipients. This approach is in lieu of including a review of job numbers in the Single Audit process. The review will be based on a statistical sample of job numbers reported during the October 2010 reporting period. Board members did not object to the review and requested to be kept apprised of the process and the results.

Ms. Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, notified the Board that her office consolidated the work of six OIGs that examined the effectiveness of agency data quality reviews. Mr. Robert Young, Special Assistant to the IG for the Recovery Act at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reported that the consolidated report contains three recommendations: 1) create a uniform award identification number; 2) require agencies to conduct logic checks of data; and 3) issue additional guidance on what constitutes a material omission or significant error. The Board agreed to provide comments on the consolidated draft report by June 11, 2010. Ms. Fong indicated that she plans to issue the final report to the Board by the end of June. Board members agreed to vote via email on how to proceed with the report.

Mr. Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations, spoke on behalf of Mr. Skinner, Chair, Accountability Committee, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Hassebrock provided the Board members with an overview of the performance measures used to monitor the performance of the contracts associated with the Recovery Operations Center. Mr. Devaney requested comments on the measures and indicated that he intends to have the Advisory Panel review the measures as well. Mr. Hassebrock also provided the Board members with a trend analysis of the top three Recovery Act cases for each OIG. The trends identified to date are consistent with non-Recovery Act cases.

Mr. Devaney noted that the next recipient reporting period will begin on July 1, 2010. Since the July 4 holiday falls within the 10-day reporting period, consideration is being made to extend the reporting period. Board members did not object to extending the reporting period.

Mr. Devaney noted that the next Board quarterly report will be sent to the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee on June 18 and expects that the full Board will vote on the issuance of the report at the July 2010 Board meeting. Due to the July 4 holiday weekend, the Board members agreed to move the July Board meeting from July 2 to July 9, 2010.

Tara A. Porter
Secretary