



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

April 13, 2012 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, April 13, 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
Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior
Cynthia Schnedar, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice

Non Proxy Attendee:

Ann Calvaresi Barr, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
Richard B. Vasquez, Acting Assistant Inspector General, Financial Management and Reporting Directorate, U.S. Department of Defense

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Cheryl Arvidson, Assistant Director, Communications
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Donald Cox, Deputy Director of Accountability
Carrie Hug, Director, Accountability
John McCarty, Assistant Director, Law Enforcement Liaison
Atticus Reaser, General Counsel
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Ms. Tighe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the March 16, 2012 minutes were approved.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, provided the members with an update on the Lessons Learned Review initiative. She reported that 16 Inspectors General (OIGs) are participating in the collaborate effort and that several have concluded entrance conferences with their respective agencies. Ms. Kendall informed the members that the group's first status meeting is scheduled for May 3 at NASA Headquarters. There was a brief mention of the recently released Lessons Learned Report authored by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Ms. Kendall noted that while the overarching objectives of both efforts are similar, the Board-OIG effort approaches the ARRA related processes and activities from a more detailed perspective. Ms. Kendall also noted that thus far the initiative is running smoothly and on course.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, briefed the members on the status of the current recipient reporting cycle. He noted that the reporting period ends on April 14. To date, recipients have reported approximately 36,000 prime awards 82,000 sub-awards. Mr. George

commented on the importance of tracking and publishing the list of non-compliers. Mr. Wood commented that the number of non-compliers continues to decline. He added that the count of non-compliers during the last reporting cycle was approximately 300.

Mr. Wood also provided an update on the Board's joint venture with the U.S. Census Department to create the second annual ARRA Recipient Data Book.

There was a discussion on the effort to determine the status of agency ARRA appropriations. Mr. Wood informed the members that the Board's staff is developing a comprehensive list of all ARRA appropriations and obligated funds. Agency lists will be forwarded to the relevant OIGs for review and feedback in June.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, provided the members an overview of the recently completed Recovery Operations Center (ROC) Review. He informed the members that the document includes information on eight significant projects, five projects underway, challenges encountered during the ROC's start-up, cost information, and suggestions for future steps. The members agreed to review the document and provide feedback to the Accountability Committee. Board approval of the document is expected during the next Board meeting. Mr. Edwards also presented the group with the latest OIG oversight statistics. Mr. Cox briefed the members on the status of the ROC pilot programs. He commented that three agencies and two IGs are currently accessing components of the ROC's platform and the Fast Alert tool through the FederalAccountability.gov web portal.

Ms. Tighe commented that the outreach sessions with the OIG community have resulted in increased interest in the ROC's services. Ms. Tighe introduced John McCarty, a detailed employee from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, OIG. Mr. McCarty will assist the Board with its OIG outreach efforts and help enhance the ROC's capabilities.

Ms. Tighe informed the members that Michael Horowitz has been appointed to the position of Inspector General for the Department of Justice. Mr. Horowitz will become the newest Board member. Ms. Tighe thanked Ms. Schnedar, interim member, for her dedicated service to the Board.

Ms. Tighe also informed the members of the upcoming Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) meeting. She provided the members with an overview of the meeting agenda. A brief discussion of the GATB's June report to the President ensued. Ms. Tighe commented that the report will identify the efforts underway to implement the recommendations outlined in the December report. Mr. Wood provided an update of the efforts being coordinated by the Board's staff in conjunction with the GATB. These include testing the utility of FederalAccountability.gov as a centralized oversight portal for all government agencies; exploring the use of Recovery.gov as a template for displaying additional spending data; launching a pilot program with selected states, counties, cities, and universities to determine if FederalReporting.gov can be used as a centralized collection point for federal grant data; and identifying steps needed to move the Government toward a universal award ID system.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary