

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in the offices of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C, on Friday, March 27, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. and continued until 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
The Honorable Phyllis Fong, Inspector General U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Calvin L. Scovel, II, Inspector General U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, US. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
The Honorable Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Mary Mitchelson, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
The Honorable J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
The Honorable Richard Skinner, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
The Honorable Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Treasury
Glen Walker, Executive Director, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Eric M. Lippold, Secretary, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Douglas Hassebrock¹, Investigations Support
Michael Wood², Recovery.gov

Members discussed the purpose, strategic direction, and the role and responsibilities of the Board. Regarding the Board's purpose, the Chairman expressed his view that the Board has a dual mission. First, the Board is responsible for establishing and maintaining a website, the purpose of which is not only to foster historic levels of transparency of Recovery funds but also to do so in a user-friendly manner. Second, the Board will coordinate and conduct oversight of Recovery funds to prevent fraud, waste or abuse. Regarding the Board's roles and responsibilities, members discussed how the Board would coordinate oversight activity with the Inspectors General and ensure open communication and frequent interaction with state and local auditors and the Government Accountability Office. The Board members agreed on the dual mission of the Board.

Members discussed the status of acquiring equipment and office space, the process of acquiring staff and the draft organizational chart. There was general agreement that the chart should reflect the Board and the Chairman as one entity, and clearly reflect that the Board's staff would play a supporting role by coordinating and collaborating with Offices of Inspectors General who would be directly responsible for conducting audits, investigations, inspections and reviews.

Mr. Wood briefed members on the Office of Management and Budget's and the General Services Administration's efforts on the website, the status of Recovery.gov and the current operating model.

Members discussed and agreed to pursue the use of a consultant to develop the governance framework for the Board and to establish a Recovery Working group co-chaired by John

¹ Attended portion of the meeting relating to the referral process.

² Attended portion of the meeting relating to the status of Recovery.gov

Higgins, former Inspector General of the Department of Education and Mr. Calvin Scovel, Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

While members agreed to meet more frequently initially, members agreed to meet routinely the last Friday of the month.