

**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 Friday, July 31, 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  
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Calvin L. Scovel, II, Inspector General U.S. Department of Transportation  
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, US. 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  
Richard Skinner, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice  
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Treasury  
Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy  
Gordon S. Heddell<sup>1</sup>, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense

**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

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. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of progress made with [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov) (inbound reporting) and [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) (outbound reporting). Mr. Wood then explained that performance testing of federalreporting.gov was successful and the inbound reporting system would be ready for recipient registration on August 17, 2009 pending OMB's final decision on the required data elements.

Mr. Wood then informed members of the potential need to transfer additional funds to GSA to expand Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) licensing. Mr. Wood further explained that the DUNS number, and D&B-maintained

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<sup>1</sup> Attended by means of a conference telephone

business information, when used with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) process, provided for a centralized, standard approach to collecting authoritative identification information on registered businesses and organizations authorized to do business with the Federal government. This identification capability was necessary to establish identity and maintain consistency across government information systems.

Mr. Devaney told members the use of a standard source for organization identity had the potential to enhance transparency and accountability by enabling not just government functions but also enable the public and good government groups to compare information and other reports to recipient reported information. Mr. Devaney informed members that he would meet with D&B to discuss a wide array of capabilities, including detection of waste, fraud, and abuse, as well as potential solutions for the data not currently conceived.

Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, briefed members on the NY State Internal Control Task Force meeting held on July 29, 2009 via the web. The Task Force is composed of the 24 NY state agencies receiving Recovery Act funds. Approximately 50 Directors of Audits, Chiefs of Investigations, and Internal Control Officers attended the meeting and discussed ongoing and planned economic recovery activities, the audit and investigative roles of the OIGs, and the role of the Board. Mr. Scovel then led a discussion on the OIG Recovery Act plan initiative, and the data quality initiative. Members agreed that the OIG Recovery Act plans should be updated semi-annually, and that the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee should prepare a proposal on data quality for the Board to vote on.

Mr. Skinner, Accountability Committee Chair, provided members with an update on several Accountability Committee issues and briefed members on the status of the Recovery Operations Center and the voice hotline solution. Mr. Hassebrock informed members that the solicitation for the accountability module would be released in August and incorporate the following objectives:

- Obtain a solution that allows the Board to visualize transactions for all appropriated Recovery Act funds.
- Obtain a solution that contains dynamic predictive analysis techniques in order to focus limited government oversight resources (i.e., auditors, investigators, or inspectors).
- Obtain a solution that utilizes the vast amount of public information about companies receiving Recovery Act funds in order to identify non-obvious relationships between legal entities. These relationships will unveil facts that may not have been transparent to government officials at the time of contract or grant award. These relationships might result in leads for investigation, leads for audits, identify an added risk factor, point to excluded parties receiving Recovery Act funds illegally, or a variety of other valuable information.

Mr. Devaney then led a discussion on progress made with efforts to redesign the Recovery.gov website, described the new website architecture and features, and provided members with the latest design and visualization models. Mr. Devaney concluded the meeting by inviting all Board members to attend a presentation on the design and strategy for the redesigned Recovery.gov on Thursday, August 6 from 1:00 to 3:00.

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**Eric M. Lippold**  
Secretary