

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, October 23, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:30 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
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
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Eric M. Lippold, Assistant Director, Finance and Budget
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations
Tara Porter, Manager, Deputy Assistant Director, Audits, Inspections and Evaluations

Proxy Attendee (Non-voting):

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

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Friedman commented on the need to conduct an annual performance review of the HMS technologies contract relative to established metrics prior to exercising awards for future years.

Mr. Devaney agreed and stated that the contract contained specific deliverables and due dates and that Mr. Hassebrock would monitor the contractor's performance and review status reports weekly or more frequently if needed. Mr. Devaney proceeded to lead a discussion on additional performance metrics and the possibility of engaging subject matter experts to help develop the appropriate measures for the Board.

By unanimous vote of the members present, Board members approved the October 9, 2009 minutes.

Mr. Devaney commented that while FederalReporting.gov had encountered little or no technical difficulties, it was common for help desk operators to assist recipients who were not familiar and/or confused with the OMB guidance.

Mr. Devaney stated that as awarding agencies review recipient reports and provide comments as necessary, agencies will also be working to identify recipients who did not report. Mr. Devaney offered that the Board may reconsider when to post the data during the next reporting period, and that it may be best to postpone posting the data until agencies have had an opportunity to review.

Mr. Devaney led a discussion on the reporting of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs saved. Mr. Devaney informed Board members that a major concern going forward was the reporting of job numbers, and that a request had been made to OMB to simplify the guidance on jobs.

Mr. Scovel informed Board members that the draft report on the consolidated results of the contract and grant staffing qualifications survey will be completed by the end of October. The final report is expected to be released by the end of November.

Mr. Scovel also reported that OIGs contributing to the data quality initiative will submit individual results by October 30, 2009. The consolidated draft report is expected by mid-to-late November with the final report scheduled to be issued in January 2010.

Board members agreed that the consolidated reports will be presented to the Board for final consideration and disposition.

Mr. Hassebrock updated members on the status of the Fraud Hotline posters, and that the final cost and production numbers will be provided as soon as they are available.

Mr. Hassebrock stated that HMS Technologies of Martinsburg, West Virginia was awarded the contract for the accountability module. The kick-off meeting occurred on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Mr. Hassebrock assured Board members that the Board's COTR (contracting officer's technical representative) will work closely with the GSA contracting officer to ensure compliance with deliverables and performance measures.

Mr. Hassebrock stated that the new fraud submission form will be made available on Recovery.gov by November. Mr. Hassebrock concluded by providing Board members with a brief update on the number of total complaints, open investigations, and Audits/Inspections/Evaluations in process.

Mr. Devaney led a discussion on the Board's annual report, and asked Board members to provide their final comments by close of business Tuesday, October 27, 2009.

Eric M. Lippold
Secretary