



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

January 13, 2012 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Lynne M. Halbrooks, Acting Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendee:

Erica Paulson, Congressional Liaison, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General
William Blier, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
Rick Hass, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Alan Boehm, Assistant Director, Accountability
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Thomas Fraser, Assistant Director, Finance and Budget
Ed Martin, Deputy Assistant Director, Recovery Operations Center
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Atticus Reaser, Assistant General Counsel
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Ms. Tighe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked them for their feedback during the recent individual discussions. Ms. Tighe thanked Mr. Scovel for agreeing to continue to serve as Vice Chairman. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the November 4, 2011 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, provided an update of Committee activities. He, along with Mr. Wood, provided the results from the last recipient reporting period. Mr. Wood informed the members that approximately 44,000 prime recipient reports have been submitted. He noted that this number is a reduction from previous quarters as many Recovery Act projects are nearing completion. Information regarding Inspector General (IG) reports published on Recovery.gov and the Board's information technology contracts was also provided.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group (RFGW) Committee briefed the members on the status of the Board's review of existing IG Audit reports involving recipient reported jobs data. She noted that the Committee expects to determine if additional work on the reliability of jobs data is needed and if so will suggest that any work undertaken be modeled after

the audit program developed by the Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General. Ms. Fong agreed to send the audit approach to the Committee members and Board staff for review. Ms. Kendall reviewed the RFWG Committee's proposal for a lessons learned project. The members were asked to review the work proposal included in the meeting material and provide comments to Ms. Kendall by Friday, January 20. Review by the full Recovery Funds Working Group is expected to follow.

Mr. Martin briefed the members on the activities undertaken on behalf of the Accountability Committee. These included the relocation of the Recovery Board's hotline and proactive projects performed in the Recovery Operations Center. Mr. Martin noted that the hotline relocation has resulted in better process control. He also added that 80% of the work performed in the ROC is proactive in nature. There was a brief discussion on ROC leads and observances. Ms. Tighe commented that the Board will begin discussions with members of the IG staff to help shape the ROC strategies going forward. She asked each member to provide the names of individuals to dialogue with the Board's staff. Follow-up discussions and member briefings will occur at future meetings.

The members engaged in a discussion of the structure and composition of the standing Board Committees. It was noted that some committees may be nearing the end of their utility. The members were asked to provide the Chair with input on the structure of the committees going forward. There was also a discussion of the meeting frequency and schedule. Ms. Tighe agreed to send the members a proposed meeting schedule for feedback and concurrence.

Mr. Fraser provided the committee with an overview of the Board's financial posture. This included a review of FY 2009-2011 funding, the FY 2012 approved budget and spending plan, and the FY 2013 budget request. There was a discussion of the Board's new authority to allocate funds to non-ARRA activities. Ms. Tighe commented on the continuing efforts to reduce the cost of several budget line items. Mr. Fraser commented on the Board's 2011 financial audit. He noted that the Board received a clean opinion with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies noted. He also informed the members that the FY 2011 Agency Financial Report would soon be published on Recovery.gov.

Ms. Dure provided the members with an update on the key amendments to the DATA Act. She noted that although the amendment is still being finalized, key changes thus far are in the areas of FAST Board functions and powers, reporting rules and guidance, the sunset provision, and the impact to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and USASpending.gov. Ms. Tighe informed the members that Ms. Dure will be returning to her home agency and that Mr. Reaser will assume the role of General Counsel. The Board members thanked Ms. Dure for her service to the Board and its mission.

Ms. Tighe along with Mr. Levinson and Mr. Scovel provided an update on the report prepared by the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board). Ms. Tighe informed the members that the report had been delivered to the President by former Chairman Devaney on December 15, 2011 and is now published on Recovery.gov. The key recommendations were reviewed and the anticipated follow-up actions of the GAT Board were discussed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary