

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, November 6 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
Richard Skinner, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General U.S. Department of Agriculture
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, US. Department of Health and Human Services
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
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense

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
John Higgins, Assistant Director, Audits, Inspections and Evaluations

Proxy Attendee (Non-voting):

John R. Hartman, U.S. Department of Energy

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

By unanimous vote of the members present, Board members approved the October 23, 2009 minutes.

Mr. Thorson, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Vice Chair, informed members that the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) was consolidating the contract and grant staffing qualifications survey results and expects to release a draft report of the results by the end of the month. Mr. Thorson shared that Mr. Hassebrock provided a capabilities demonstration for oversight activities in the Recovery Operations Center to working group members, and Board members then discussed the possibility of expanding membership of the working group.

Mr. Higgins briefed members on the results of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Analyses. The fiscal year (FY) 2009 financial analysis focused on the financial data reported by OIGs in their September 2009 monthly activity report, which reflected the FY 2009 activity and highlighted the following:

- 23 OIGs received Recovery funds to do Recovery oversight
- \$221.5M was appropriated for OIGs to do Recovery oversight
- Duration of funds ranges from 2011 to 2013, and in some cases, no expiration date
- 10% of OIG Recovery funds have been obligated
- \$42M has been obligated on Recovery oversight
- 46% of \$42M is Non-Recovery money.

Mr. Higgins also briefed members on the FY 2009 training and outreach efforts provided by the IG community for the period beginning February 17, 2009 and ending September 30, 2009 and summarized the following:

- Fraud Prevention is the most prevalent training being offered by OIGs (52%)
- Majority of training is at the Federal level (55%)

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, provided members with an overview of the performance of Federalreporting.gov (inbound reporting) and Recovery.gov (outbound reporting) during the recipient reporting period. Mr. Wood discussed the successful collection of over 130,000 award reports through FederalReporting.gov. Mr. Wood opined that the inbound reporting team and the system performed admirably, and that the data was successfully transferred to the outbound reporting team at 3 am on October 30th.

Mr. Wood reported that the section 1512 reports were successfully posted on Recovery.gov as of October 30th in compliance with the law. Mr. Wood explained that the outbound reporting team continued to make new content available and update tables and charts. Mike Wood then concluded by informing Board members that the Board received the “2009 Merit Award for Transforming Open Government from Promise to Practice” award from MeriTalk recognizing Recovery.gov.

Mr. Devaney led a discussion on lessons learned during the reporting period, and suggested that Board members further discuss how to address late reporting, and when to post recipient reports during the next reporting period. Mr. Devaney and members then continued to discuss concerns regarding the proper reporting of jobs data. Mr. Devaney informed members that he would continue to communicate the Board’s concerns to OMB.

Mr. Devaney distributed the draft FY 2009 Performance and Accountability Report for Board members to review and asked that all comments be provided by close of business on Tuesday, November 10. Mr. Lippold provided Board members with a brief summary of the FY 2009 financial statements.

Mr. Devaney concluded the meeting by encouraging all members to visit the Recovery Operations Center, and that Mr. Hassebrock would coordinate demonstrations for all 29 IGs.

Eric M. Lippold
Secretary