



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

February 10, 2012 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, February 10, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:40 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
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Lynne M. Halbrooks, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendee:

William Blier, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
John Hartman, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Robert Knox, Assistant Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Alan Boehm, Assistant Director, Accountability
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 provided a quick overview of the agenda and meeting materials. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the January 13, 2012 minutes were approved.

Ms. Tighe announced her decision to relinquish the role of Chair of the Accountability Committee. She informed the members that Mr. Edwards has agreed to serve as the Committee Chair. To ensure the effectiveness of the Accountability Committee, Ms. Tighe nominated Mr. Zinser to serve as the fourth member. Ms Tighe informed the members that Mr. Zinser has agreed to serve as a member of both the Accountability and Recovery.gov Committees. The nomination was unanimously approved by the members present.

Mr. Knox on behalf of Ms. Kendall, who was absent, provided the members with an update of the Recovery Funds Working Group (RFWG) Committee activities. He outlined the proposal for the collaborative Lessons Learned Review Project and provided the project timeline. He discussed the roles for the participating offices, noting that the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General (OIG) will serve as the lead for data consolidation and report preparation. There was a brief question and answer session after which, the Board members agreed that the project should move forward. Mr. Knox reported the findings from the Board staff's review of existing Inspector

General (IG) audit reports involving recipient reported jobs data. He informed the members that the RFWG Committee would like to encourage the IGs to conduct additional jobs audit work and asked the members to review and comment on an audit approach underway by the OIG at the Department of Agriculture. The Board members agreed to review the audit plan and provide feedback to the staff. Mr. Knox also informed the group that the Grant Fraud Guide will be disseminated to the Recovery Funds Working Group for review and feedback in early March.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, briefed the members on several projects undertaken on behalf of the Committee. He provided an overview of the recently completed National Dialogue on Fraud Prevention co-hosted by the Board and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and outlined the four recommendations that resulted from the initiative. Mr. Edwards discussed the development of the Fraud Risk Scorecard. He commented that the Committee is discussing a name change for the tool. Mr. Boehm provided the members an overview of the discussions with the IGs on the utility of the Recovery Operations Center (ROC). He informed the members that a report is being developed to document the ROC processes and initiatives. Members were presented with several draft components of the report. The Committee expects to present the report for review at the next Board meeting.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, updated the members on several Committee activities. These included the latest statistics on IG reports published on Recovery.gov and featured stories. Mr. Wood commented on the impressive quality of reports from the IGs. He informed the members of the efforts to enhance the Recovery Board Blog and invited each member to contribute articles for the Blog. Mr. George engaged the members in a discussion of Agency spending of ARRA funds. He canvassed the members on methods to ensure that Agencies are obligating funds as required as well as handling unobligated funds appropriately. Several members commented on the role of the Office of Management and Budget in this issue. The Board's staff will look into the issue and report back to the members.

Mr. Reaser outlined the amendments to two of the Board's Systems of Record as a result of the change to the budget appropriations language. He informed the members that the notice for the amendment to the FederalAccountability.gov System of Record was published in the February 6, 2012 Federal Register. Mr. Reaser offered support to other OIGs impacted by the language.

Ms. Tighe provided the members with a brief update on the status of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board). She commented that the work of the GAT Board is expected to resume after the selection of the GAT Board Chair. Ms. Tighe also discussed the recent release of the Recovery Board's Congressional Justification document and the inclusion of earmarked funds in support of the activities and recommendations of the GAT Board. A copy of the document was provided in the meeting material.

Ms. Tighe provided an overview of her recent discussions with Congressman Issa, and his staff, on the DATA Act legislation and Mr. Werfel regarding the FastAlert and Do Not Pay initiatives. The members then engaged in a discussion of near-term and long-term strategies for the Recovery Board.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary