



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

July 1, 2011 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, July 1, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:20 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, 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
Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Non Proxy Attendee:

Lori Pilcher, Acting Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Jay Lerner, Senior Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Alan Boehm, Assistant Director, Accountability
A.J. Benavidez, Deputy Assistant Director, Operations
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the May 6, 2011 minutes were approved with one correction.

Mr. George, Chair, Recovery.gov Committee, briefed the Board members on the most recent reporting statistics and updates for Recovery.gov and FederalReporting.gov. Mr. George informed the members that the eighth recipient reporting period officially opened on July 1. Mr. Wood discussed the recent deployment of the Recovery Explorer data visualization tool, which allows users of Recovery.gov the ability to perform analysis of Recovery data more easily and efficiently. He also shared screenshots of the newly deployed monthly electronic newsletter, which recaps prominent Recovery Act related information for thousands of Recovery.gov users. Mr. George informed the members that a demonstration of these tools and more is tentatively planned for the September Board meeting.

Mr. Wood also discussed the joint effort with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop a simplified yet effective way to display the changes in the cost estimates for the Recovery program. Mr. Wood stated that some of the changes will be published on the Recovery.gov website in August.

Mr. George addressed an ongoing concern regarding cloud computing network hosting by foreign nations. He informed the members that foreign nations are not involved with hosting services for Recovery.gov. Mr. Wood recommended periodic discussions between the IGs and

the Agencies to ensure the security of all IT servers, not just those that utilize cloud computing technology.

Mr. Boehm, on behalf of Mr. Scovel who was absent, provided an update on the activities of the Recovery Funds Working Group. He reported that three Working Group projects are nearing completion. The Committee expects to present reports on the results of the ARRA focused Suspension and Debarment Survey and the Pilot Review of ARRA Recipient reported Job Estimates at the next Board meeting. Mr. Boehm also reported that 23 Inspectors General have updated their 2011ARRA Work Plans and that these reports will be published on Recovery.gov shortly. An update of the work the Committee has done to assist the Board with its evaluation and response to the Independent Advisory Panel's recommendations was also provided.

Ms. Tighe, Chair of the Accountability Committee, briefed the group on current Committee activities. She informed the members that the joint pilot project with Veterans Affairs (VA) is complete and the results disclose approximately \$14 million in improper payments. She stated that detailed analytical information was forwarded to VA for appropriate action. Ms. Tighe also informed the members of two additional pilot projects proposed by OMB. Mr. Devaney commented that while pilot projects are beneficial, implementation is dependent on available time and resources.

Mr. Benavidez provided the members with an update of the ROC Information Sharing pilot project. He noted that one key benefit of ROC's platform is its ability to expand the existing link analysis capabilities for pilot participants. Mr. Benavidez outlined the additional tool sets being added to the ROC's platform. These include expanded Dunn and Bradstreet data sets, more robust link analysis capabilities, and the development of a risk score-card.

Additionally, Mr. Benavidez briefly discussed the Board's intent to utilize the services of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to facilitate a public discussion of new technology solutions for the Recovery Operations Center. Mr. Devaney commented that this venture could be similar to the services performed by NAPA prior to the development of Version 2.0 of Recovery.gov.

Mr. Devaney discussed the underlying purpose for creating and releasing the White Paper entitled "Accountability and Transparency: Template for the Future." He also provided insight into the Administration's decision to release the Executive Order creating the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board). Mr. Devaney noted his concurrence with the final composition of the GAT Board. He added that member selection will begin shortly. Mr. Devaney stated that the Recovery Board's role is to educate the GAT Board and assist them with determining what pieces of the Board's current operations are exportable to the entire federal government.

The members engaged in a discussion of the pending legislation that would create a permanent agency to carry forward the work of the Recovery Board. Mr. Devaney discussed the actions that helped shape the legislation, adding that the legislation adopted many of the lessons learned outlined in the White Paper. Board members noted that the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) is helping to draft language which, among other things, would allow the proposed new agency to receive and dispense law enforcement information.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2011.