



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

**March 5, 2010 Minutes**

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:30 p.m.

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

Richard Skinner, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy  
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
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  
Mary Mitchelson, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education  
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

**Proxy Attendee (Non-Voting):**

Lynne Halbrooks, Principal Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense

**Board Staff:**

Glen Walker, Executive Director  
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel  
Ed Pound, Director, Communications  
John Higgins, Director, Accountability  
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations  
Don Salo, Assistant Director, Special Programs  
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff, Recovery.gov  
Tara Porter, Board Secretary

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Walker notified the Board members that the Chairman was unable to attend the meeting due to unexpected circumstances. At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Walker informed the Board members that the Vice President requested that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide the Board with a comprehensive list of Recovery Act recipients. The Board expects to receive the list by March 10, 2010. Mr. Walker also informed the Board members that Board staff has analyzed the job estimates submitted by Recovery Act recipients and based on the analysis has identified three recommendations that if implemented could improve the transparency of the jobs data made available on [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov).

By unanimous vote of Board members present the February 19, 2010 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair reported that the Committee had not met since the last Board meeting but indicated that the Board staff has been focusing on three issues. Mr. Bezark reported that in response to Federal Agencies' requests, FederalReporting.gov is being enhanced to allow Federal Agencies to make bulk comments to recipients during the data review process. Mr. Bezark also reported that Board staff met with the State Technology Sub-Committee and discussed lessons learned from the January 2010 reporting period. Minor enhancements will be made to FederalReporting.gov and Recovery.gov to address issues raised by the sub-committee. Finally, Mr. Bezark reported that Board staff met with *Good Jobs First*, an organization that conducted an evaluation of State Recovery Act websites, to gain insight on enhancements that could be made to [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov).

Mr. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce, notified the Board members that the *Review of Contracts and Grants Workforce Staffing and Qualifications in Agencies Overseeing Recovery Act Funds* report has been finalized. The Board members present approved posting the report on [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov).

Mr. Walker noted that the Board's Quarterly Report has been finalized. The Board members present approved issuing the report.

Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, provided the Board members with a status update on the three data quality reviews currently underway and identified the Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) that are participating in each of the reviews.

Mr. Hassebrock reported on behalf of the Accountability Committee that the official request to collect Recovery Act complaint data was sent to all OIGs responsible for Recovery Act oversight. The notification indicated that if an Inspector General was unable to provide the requested data s/he should contact Mr. Skinner, Accountability Committee Chair, to discuss the obstacles to providing the data. Mr. Hassebrock also reported that FINCEN will provide the Board with relevant data that will assist the Board with de-conflicting Recovery Act issues.

Mr. Walker noted that the Board has been inundated with speaking requests and requested that Board members help cover some of the speaking engagements. Board staff will contact the Board members as speaking engagements are identified.

The Board members present agreed to move the April 2, 2010 Board meeting to April 9, 2010. In addition, Board members requested that they receive an update on the Board's financial activity and an overview of the performance metrics associated with the Board's largest contracts.

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**Tara A. Porter**  
**Secretary**