



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

July 9, 2010 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, DC on Friday, July 9, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Earl. E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General U.S. Department of the Treasury
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
Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

OIG Staff:

Rod Desmet, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
John Higgins, Director, Accountability
Mike Wood, Director, Recovery.gov
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations
Cynthia Williams, Acting Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the June 4, 2010 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Chair, Recovery.gov Committee, reported that due to scheduling conflicts the Committee had not been able to meet prior to the Board meeting. Mr. George provided a one-page information sheet identifying several of the Committee's key issues. Mr. George noted that the July reporting statistics appeared to mirror prior periods. Mr. Devaney indicated that, as with previous cycles, a surge of reports is likely as the reporting deadline approaches. Mr. George notified the Board that MITRE will provide a briefing on its review of Recovery.gov in August. Mr. Wood updated the Board on the first two Recovery.gov focus group sessions. Mr. Wood said that it was too early to draw conclusions, but thus far participants have made the following points: 1) they believe there is too much information on the home page; 2) they would like a better job search function; and 3) they enjoyed using the maps, particularly for searching projects in their own neighborhoods.

Mr. Devaney provided an overview of the June 30, 2010 meeting held by the Recovery Independent Advisory Panel. Mr. Devaney said he participated in a wide-ranging discussion with the panel members on how they might assist the Board. Mr. Devaney announced that the first *public* meeting of the Recovery Independent Advisory Panel is scheduled for August 5, 2010 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The meeting will be announced in the Federal Register on July 20. Discussion topics will be included in the announcement and the public will be invited to register and submit written comments for discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Scovel, Chair, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, presented the Board's Quarterly Report to the President and Congress and requested approval to publish the report on Recovery.gov. Board members approved the release of the report for the week of July 12, 2010. Mr. Scovel also notified the Board that the *Review of Effectiveness of Department/Agency Data Quality Review Process* was posted on Recovery.gov. Mr. Devaney discussed the need to address the report's recommendations with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). After discussion by the Board members present, they agreed to send the recommendations to OMB.

Mr. Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations, spoke on behalf of Mr. Skinner, Chair, Accountability Committee, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Hassebrock provided the Board with a status report detailing which OIGs are currently providing investigative information to the Board. Mr. Hassebrock also provided statistics on current Board/OIG investigative activities. Mr. Hassebrock notified the Board that the CMS–Board pilot project began on July 8, 2010. Mr. Hassebrock said that Board staff will give CMS a briefing on initial findings on July 20. The final results of the project will be provided to CMS in September 2010.

Mr. Devaney announced that the Biennial National Procurement Fraud Task Force Training conference, scheduled for November 15, 2010, in Philadelphia, will have a Recovery Act theme. The conference is expected to attract 500 guests and will benefit regional auditors, investigators, and attorneys, as well as federal, state and local agency and OIG staff. Mr. Devaney noted that the OIGs need to be full partners in the conference.

The Board members discussed Congressman Issa's June 24, 2010 request for information on Recovery Act-related signs. The Board members agreed that the OIGs of the relevant agencies will respond to the portion of the request regarding agency policy/guidance pertaining to Recovery Act signs. The Board members also agreed that the Chairman will contact the relevant agencies to request that they respond to the question regarding the cost of Recovery Act signs.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 13, 2010

Cynthia Williams for Tara A. Porter
Secretary