



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

July 13, 2012 Minutes - DRAFT

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (the Board) was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, July 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:20 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Calvin Scovel, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Lynne Halbrooks, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendee:

David Gray, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Gloria Jarmon, Deputy Inspector General for Audit, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Cynthia Schnedar, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Donald Cox, Deputy Director of Accountability
Carrie Hug, Director, Accountability
John McCarty, Assistant Director, Law Enforcement Liaison
Edward Pound, Director, Communications
Atticus Reaser, General Counsel
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Ms. Tighe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the June 8, 2012, minutes were approved.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, provided the members with an update on the Lessons Learned Review project and the recently launched Agency Review of Recovery Act Appropriations and Obligations. She informed the members that the Lessons Learned Review Working Group will hold its second status meeting on Thursday, July 26. Ms. Kendall provided an outline of the critical milestones and deliverables and noted that the group is on schedule to release its first draft report in September. Ms. Kendall also informed the members that the Recovery Funds Working Group met on June 27 and agreed to assist the Board with an agency review of Recovery Act funding data. Specifically, she reported that the Inspectors General (IGs) would send requests to the agencies for verification of Recovery Act spending data. Responses will be forwarded to the Board's staff for review and publication on Recovery.gov.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, briefed the members on current Recovery.gov and FederalReporting.gov initiatives. He provided the members with the latest reporting statistics and informed them that the twelfth recipient reporting period ends on July 14. Mr. Wood noted

that, as expected, the number of closed reports is beginning to surpass the number of open reports. Mr. George and Mr. Wood discussed the non-compliers list, remarking that 303 recipients comprised the list during the April reporting period. It was noted that of the 303 non-compliers, 6.2% had failed to file a report for two or more periods and 3.9% had not reported for three or more periods. Mr. Wood commented that the Administration's guidance directed the heads of departments and agencies to take necessary action against recipients who fail to report for two periods or more. He also commented that the Board's staff is planning to post a blog on the non-complier's list within the next few weeks.

Mr. Wood informed the members that the recent release of the agency profile page on Recovery.gov provides the public with the status of agency Recovery Act spending and ties into the Agency Review of Recovery Act Funds effort discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Wood provided an update on the Grant Reporting Information Project (GRIP). He reported that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development agreed to participate in the pilot program. Mr. Wood discussed the overall time-line for development of the technology and implementation of the pilot project.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, provided the members with an update of recent Committee activities. He informed the members that the Board's Accountability staff is engaged in dialogue with IGs from smaller agencies to discuss potential collaborative efforts. To date, meetings have occurred between Board staff and the IGs at the Appalachian Regional Commission, Election Assistant Commission, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Edwards also provided the members with the count and status of the agencies currently involved in the FederalAccountability.gov/FastAlert pilot program and agency requests for assistance from the Recovery Operations Center.

Ms. Tighe announced that the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) issued its status report to the President. The report is available on the White House website and the Board's website, FederalTransparency.gov. Ms. Tighe also informed the members that Richard Ginman will be the next Chair of the GATB. The members were provided a copy of the GATB report and information on Mr. Ginman's appointment. Mr. Wood informed the members that the staff is engaged in meetings with the Office of Management and Budget to discuss government-wide transparency and accountability efforts. He also commented that future discussions will include the need to improve quality assurance processes and policies for agency and recipient reporting.

Ms. Tighe relayed the status of the Board's 2013 appropriation and a brief discussion of the Board's budget transfer authority followed. Ms. Tighe and Mr. Wood informed the members that preparation for a symposium to address data sharing, collection, and standardization is underway. Ms. Tighe commented that a meeting is planned with the Government Accountability Office, which has expressed its interest in the symposium. It was suggested that discussions of the symposium also include representatives from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. A draft copy of the concept behind the forum and the draft agenda was shared with the members. Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the overall approach, potential participants, and topics for inclusion.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary