



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

January 11, 2013 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (the Board) was held in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 11, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:15 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
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
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Lynne Halbrooks, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
Mary Kendall, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendees:

David Smith, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Donald Cox, Deputy Director, Accountability
Nancy DiPaolo, Chief of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Thomas Fraser, Assistant Director, Budget and Finance
Carrie Hug, Director, Accountability
Thomas Moyle, Chief of Mission Support Services
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 November 16, 2012, minutes were approved.

Mr. Scovel, Chair of the Section 1530 Compliance Committee, thanked the members of the Committee and the Board's staff for their efforts to identify and complete the activities necessary to sunset the Board. He recapped the strategic items discussed in his absence at the last Board meeting. Mr. Scovel invited Mr. Wood and other staff members to provide an update of the various efforts underway.

Mr. Wood discussed the collaborative work of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Board to evaluate the portability of the Recovery Operations Center (ROC). Ms. Tighe commented that the exercise had proven very beneficial. She added that the CIGIE was scheduled to meet later in the month to discuss the evaluation.

Mr. Reaser provided the members with information regarding the necessary actions needed to maintain the Board's Information Collection Requests pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act for the collection of award recipient information. He also outlined the key legal issues surrounding the termination of the Board and potential transfer of Board contracts, interagency agreements, and use of public data sets. Ms. Tighe commented on her discussion with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding the continuity of reporting processes. She added that a transfer of the FederalReporting.gov operation should occur prior to the Quarter 3, 2013 reporting period. Ms. Tighe also informed the members that the Board's scheduled termination has triggered an ethics review by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE). She added that the OGE will review the components of the Board's ethics program, which includes ethics training and its compliance with public and confidential financial disclosure requirements.

Mr. Moyle updated the members on the efforts underway to assist with staff transitions. He provided the members with the count of current employees and discussed the various training and information sessions being offered to the appointed employees. These include training on resume preparation, interviewing and presentation skills, and information sessions with human resource specialists from the General Services Administration.

Mr. Fraser provided the members with a brief update of the Board's financial posture. He reported that the Board's 2013 original budget submission was \$31.5 million. Mr. Fraser commented that under continuing resolution and sequestration, the amount drops to \$28.5 million and \$26 million respectively. He added that the approval of a two-year budget will help with the transfer of funds to a successor agency. He also commented that additional expenses associated with close-out efforts may be incurred, but that a detailed estimate was not currently available.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, provided the members with a status of activities underway in the Board's Accountability Section. He reported that ROC analysts had responded to 250 requests for assistance through calendar year 2012. Mr. Edwards discussed the Accountability staff's work with a new software tool called uReveal. He informed the members that a brief demonstration of the tool's capabilities was provided to members of the Accountability Committee. The new tool will replace the iConnex and INSPIRE tools previously used in the ROC. Mr. Edwards also discussed the A-133 Single Audit project underway by members of the Accountability section and the Census Bureau. He reported that the project is designed to develop and share a systematic process for searching the large amounts of unstructured and structured audit reports and information for trends and questionable relationships.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, provided the members with key statistics from the Quarter 4 reporting period. He stated that, to date, approximately 14,000 recipients had reported. He added that the number is expected to climb to 25,000 by the close of the reporting period on January 14, 2013. Mr. Wood commented that 3,000 reports were closed during this cycle. He also commented that a drop in reporting had been observed for several agencies and states. Mr. Wood added that staff members are reaching out to OMB and applicable agencies and states to ensure reports are submitted before the deadline. Mr. George commented on the drop in IG reports submitted to Recovery.gov and reminded the members of the need to continue forwarding IG reports for posting.

Mr. Wood briefed the members on the results of the Agency American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Verification project. He informed the members that the agency certified data was made public on December 6, 2012. A copy of the new Recovery.gov page and the summary data was provided to the members. Mr. Wood also informed the members that a second data call to collect updated data from the agencies and OIGs is scheduled for February.

The members engaged in a discussion of the presidential waivers that provided relief from the repayment of unobligated ARRA funds for six Offices of Inspectors General and four federal agencies. Mr. Smith informed the members that the U.S. Department of Commerce OIG is currently engaged in follow-up discussions with the OMB to clarify portions of the OIG waiver.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, updated the members on the activities underway on the Lessons Learned Review project. She informed the members that the Working Group expects to complete the collection and review of supplemental information by the end of January and issue the enhanced report in late February. Ms. Kendall reported that a project update will be forwarded to the full Recovery Funds Working Group, which includes representatives from the 29 OIGs.

Ms. Tighe provided the members a recap of the November 19, 2012, Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) meeting. She discussed the 2013 internal guidance document, which is designed to lay the proper foundation of the GATB's implementation approach to fulfilling its mission. A final version of the document is expected to be circulated among the GATB members for review and comment. There was a brief discussion of the Grant Reporting Information Project (GRIP). Mr. Wood commented that the evaluation of the project from the nine recipients who participated is close to completion and a final report would be issued in the next few months.

Ms. Tighe informed the members that the joint CIGIE/GAO/Board Data Forum is scheduled for January 16 at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, DC. She reported that approximately 30 individuals from the private, state, and federal sectors are participating in the forum to discuss dataset capabilities and challenges as they relate to fraud detection and prevention, data management, and data sharing. She also noted that a collaborative report of the day-long discussion is planned.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 8, 2013.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary