



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

**November 16, 2012 Minutes**

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (the Board) was held in Washington, D.C., on Friday, November 16, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. and continued until 11:25 a.m.

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board  
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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 Attendees:**

Raymond Beaudet, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, U.S. Department of Justice  
Juston Fontaine, Special Assistant to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy  
Gloria Jarmon, Deputy Inspector General for Audit, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Michael Phillips, Acting Principal Deputy Inspector General for Tax Administration

**Board Staff:**

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

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Tighe called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the September 28, 2012, minutes were approved. Also by unanimous vote, the Board members approved the creation of the Section 1530 Compliance Committee (Compliance Committee) designed to steer the processes and procedures to terminate Board operations. Members of the Compliance Committee were identified as Mr. Scovel, Ms. Halbrooks, and Ms. Kendall.

The members engaged in a discussion of the steps necessary to comply with the Board's termination mandate. Mr. Wood summarized the Compliance Committee's draft report on closeout processes and other items for consideration. A copy of the document was provided to the members. Ms. Kendall encouraged the members to review the document and contact the Compliance Committee members with any comments or additional input. Mr. Wood commented that the General Services Administration has an elaborate process for terminating agency operations. Ms. Halbrooks commented that other agencies with similar experience may be valuable resources for the Board as it formulates its close-out efforts. Ms. Tighe informed the members of her meeting with the Controller, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to discuss termination procedures and asset transfers.

Mr. Wood, on behalf of Mr. George, who was absent, provided the latest statistics from the Quarter 3 2012 Recipient Reporting Process. He commented that the Board had successfully processed and published reports for approximately 30,000 prime recipients and 73,000 sub-recipients. Mr. Wood also discussed the status of the ARRA Funds Verification exercise. He reported that staff members from

OMB and the Board met to review the agency data and follow-up on agency-specific issues. He commented that open issues were being resolved and the data would be published on Recovery.gov in the next few weeks.

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 Recovery Operations Center (ROC) analysts had responded to 187 requests for assistance through October 2012. Mr. Edwards also reported that 10% of the surveys, rating the efficiency and effectiveness of ROC assistance, had been returned and that all responses were highly favorable. Mr. Edwards informed the group that two Offices of Inspectors General (OIG) recently completed the Board's Palantir Pilot Training session. Specifically, staff from the National Science Foundation OIG and the Department of Health and Human Services OIG trained on the Palantir platform and learned to apply the skill sets during hands-on training exercises in the ROC. Mr. Edwards also discussed the Accountability Section's most recent outreach efforts, which included an information session on the ROC's analytical capabilities presented at the Department of Labor's Northeast Fraud Training Conference and a collaborative initiative with the Department of Justice and multiple OIGs to identify civil fraud targets at the five largest banks that provide securities for mortgage-backed portfolios.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, discussed the Lessons Learned report. She thanked the members for their comments and suggestions on the draft report during the review period. Ms. Kendall informed the members that a small working group had been established to review the recommendation to include more specific examples of beneficial practices and the impact from the challenges to implementation of Recovery Act requirements. She presented three options for proceeding. These included publishing the report as it currently exists, conducting a second agency data call to collect additional information, or modifying the report with information culled from the first data call and additional input from Board member agencies and key Recovery Board staff. The members agreed to the third option and also agreed to provide the working group with any assistance needed to complete the revised report.

Ms. Tighe informed the members that the agency had received its third consecutive clean audit opinion from the CPA firm of Martin and Wall. She also informed the members that the agency had successfully submitted its required Federal Information Security Management Act report. There was a brief discussion of the timeline for the development of the FY 2012 Annual Report. Ms. Tighe encouraged the members to submit any highlights of their FY 2012 Recovery Act efforts for inclusion in the report.

Mr. Wood provided the preliminary results from the Grant Reporting Information Project (GRIP). He commented that the GRIP included nine grant recipients from federal agencies, states, and universities. Mr. Wood reported that the Board staff is currently working with the recipients to prepare a report of the results, which is scheduled to be published on Recovery.gov in 2013.

Mr. Wood discussed the status of the Universal Award Identifier (UAID) project. He commented that a final report on the concept is being prepared by Board staff. Ms. Tighe commented that although the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) initially embraced the use of a UAID as a way to achieve data standardization, alternative options from those initially presented by the Board are being discussed. Ms. Tighe informed the members that the next GATB meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2012. Ms. Tighe and Mr. Wood then discussed the details of the upcoming Data Forum sponsored by the Board, the Government Accountability Office, and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The event is scheduled for January 16, 2013.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2013.

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**Cynthia Williams**  
Secretary