



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

September 28, 2012 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (the Board) was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, September 28, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Kathleen S. Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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:

Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
John Hartman, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Michael Phillips, Acting Principal Deputy Inspector General for Tax Administration

Board Staff:

Michael Wood, Executive Director
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
Jenny Rone, Senior Advisor for IG Liaison & Web Site Support
Colin Senteney, Program Analyst
Sandra Swab, Senior Advisor for Grants, Performance, and Data Standards
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 July 13, 2012, minutes were approved.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) monthly reporting policy for OIGs. She informed the members that IGs must continue to submit monthly ARRA status reports to the Board until all audit and investigative activities end. She stated that a reminder of the policy will be forwarded from the Board's staff to all IGs with ARRA oversight responsibility. Ms. Kendall provided an update of the Lessons Learned Review. She informed the members that a draft report of the review findings had been completed and discussed the prevalent themes covered in the report. Ms. Kendall commented that preliminary review by the Board's staff and the Chair resulted in some changes, which would be incorporated into the version forwarded to the working group members on October 1.

Mr. Wood presented an overview of the ARRA Funds Verification exercise. Mr. Wood briefed the members on the challenges of collecting and displaying the data. Members were provided a summary of agency provided data. There were several questions regarding the data collection and IG review

processes. The members engaged in a discussion of recommended next steps. The Board staff will follow-up on agency specific issues.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Wood, on behalf of Mr. George who was absent, briefed the members on current Recovery.gov and FederalReporting.gov activities. Mr. Phillips discussed preparations underway for the October reporting period. Mr. Wood informed the members of the new mapping tool on Recovery.gov, which provides users a visual depiction of recipient data by state. Mr. Wood provided an update of the Grant Reporting Information Project (GRIP) and the Recipient Reporting Close-Out Process. Mr. Wood reported that the Environmental Protection Agency agreed to serve as the GRIP agency partner. The project includes additional participation by cities, universities, and other agencies. Reporting is set to begin in October. Mr. Wood also reported that the Award Close-Out module on FederalReporting.gov is operational and in use by agencies and recipients.

Mr. Edwards, Chair of the Accountability Committee, provided the members with a status of activities in the Recovery Operations Center (ROC), and an account of training and outreach efforts coordinated by the Accountability section. Mr. Edwards reported that during the period July 1 through August 31, 2012, the ROC received 62 requests for assistance from 19 agencies and OIGs. A detailed listing of the agencies and OIGs that have requested assistance with investigative or predictive analysis was provided to the members. Mr. Cox informed the members that ROC analysts have developed and conducted a two-day course for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), which will soon be included in curricula for three FLETC training programs. Mr. McCarty discussed the Accountability section's involvement in the joint Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities Working Group (RMBS). Mr. McCarty reported that FederalAccountability.gov will store, ingest, and index over 20 terabytes of structured and unstructured data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. The RMBS Working Group members and ROC analysts will perform analyses using this data.

Ms. Tighe provided a brief update on the pending Digital Accountability and Transparency Act legislation. The members engaged in a discussion of the Senate and House versions of the bill and the impact to the Recovery Board. There was a discussion of the Board's sunset mandate identified in the Recovery Act. Ms. Tighe identified several areas to be addressed in planning the Board's sunset. She informed the members that sufficient time will be allocated during the November meeting to develop the timeline and processes needed to terminate each of the Board's major responsibilities. Mr. Zinser recommended and the members agreed to designate a small working group to implement the actions needed to sunset the Board. Members will contact the Chair if interested in participating in the working group.

Ms. Tighe briefed the members on the August 7, 2012, Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) meeting. She discussed the general direction of the GATB and provided an overview of the agenda topics covered during the meeting. Ms. Tighe also discussed the data forum, which is scheduled for January 2013. She announced that the forum will be jointly sponsored by the Board, the Government Accountability Office, and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. A draft agenda will be disseminated to the members for review.

Ms. Swab provided the members with a status of the efforts underway on the Universal Award Identifier (UAID). She discussed the recommended format and registry process. The members engaged in a discussion of the potential utility of the UAID. Ms. Tighe commented that the Board's staff will prepare a report on the UAID concept in the coming months.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary