

FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

Event Summary: Discussion on Asset Management from a Legislative Perspective

November 14, 2017 – Asset Leadership Network Conference, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

The Federal Real Property Association (FRPA) hosted a panel discussion during the Asset Leadership Network (ALN) annual conference on November 14, 2017. The panel focused on asset management from a legislative perspective and featured Walker Barrett (Legislative Director for Congressman Jeff Denham), Keith Cunningham (Assistant Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, GAO), and Mike Aimone (ALN Senior Fellow for Real Property Accountability). The event was moderated by Mary Goldsmith (Director, RSM). Highlights are below:



From left: Mike Aimone, Keith Cunningham, Walker Barrett, and Mary Goldsmith

Federal Asset Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA) – Mr. Barrett gave an overview of FASTA and the status of the Board. Congressman Denham’s office is working with the Senate and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to get the Chairperson confirmed. Ms. Goldsmith asked if there was anything the private sector could do to move the confirmation process forward. Mr. Barrett responded that it would be helpful for the private sector to encourage support for the \$6 million in salaries the Board will need to operate. Mr. Aimone drew a comparison between FASTA and the multiple rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Mr. Aimone noted that there were cost savings from the reduction and consolidation of real property assets during BRAC, however there were also considerable cost savings from the realignment of the workforce. He suggested that this is something agencies should consider as they go through the FASTA process.

VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Act – Ms. Goldsmith noted that there are similarities between FASTA and the [AIR Act](#) which was recently introduced in the House. It is yet to be determined if VA assets eligible under FASTA would be impacted by the AIR Act. Mr. Barrett noted that Congressman Denham is committed to finding an approach where the AIR Act can move forward without negative implications for FASTA.

Current GAO Reports – Mr. Cunningham described recently completed GAO reports related to asset management and those that are in-progress. In-progress reports include reviews of GSA smart buildings, Reduce the Footprint effectiveness, costs associated with GSA’s Design Excellence Program, and cost savings from ISO 5500 (the international asset management standard).

ISO 55000 – Mr. Barrett noted that legislation like FASTA could be a first step toward asset management standards in the Federal government. Mr. Cunningham noted that GAO cannot yet endorse [ISO 55000](#) but is reviewing the standard to determine if would save money for Federal agencies. Mr. Aimone added that there has been de facto implementation of ISO 55000 in the Department of Defense (DoD). The standard is an approach for organizations to identify which assets are needed and which are excess, then create a plan to manage their asset portfolio. Implementation requires a top-down approach in the form of policy and a bottom-up approach in the form of training and education.

SPEAKER BIOS

Walker Barrett is the Legislative Director for Congressman Jeff Denham (CA-10) and a shared employee with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I). He has also served on T&I Subcommittee on Public Buildings, Emergency Management and Economic Development, T&I Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials and in the personal office of Congressman Tom Rice (SC-7).

Keith B. Cunningham is an Assistant Director of physical infrastructure issues at the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative and audit arm of the U.S. Congress. Mr. Cunningham has developed a broad expertise in real property policy and management issues during his 20 years at GAO— having led the work for more than 35 GAO reports and testimony statements.

Mike Aimone is a Senior Advisor to The Roosevelt Group and a senior fellow with the Asset Leadership Network. He served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) as the Director for Business Systems & Information Directorate, the Executive Director of the DoD Siting Clearinghouse and as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy. He served in the Department of the Air Force as a member of the Senior Executive Service in various logistics, facility engineering and energy management capacities.