

Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

Quarterly Public Commission Meeting
Ivy Tech Community College, 3501 N. First Ave., Evansville, IN 47710
Monday, March 9, 2015 | 1:06 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jamal Smith called the meeting to order Monday, March 9, 2015 at 1:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Courtney Edmonds took roll call – those members present were:

Jamal Smith Chairman	Jessica Robertson Indiana Department of Administration Commissioner	Terrie Daniel Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Deputy Commissioner	Derrick Casson Indiana Department of Transportation Representative
Erik Scheub Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Representative	David Olivencia Northern Representative	Remo Mezzetta Central Representative	Marcia Duncan Southern Representative
Lani Chuang Southern Representative	Alfonso Vidal Southern Representative		

III. Establish quorum

Quorum was established for the meeting.

IV. Adoption of Past Minutes

Marcia Duncan moved to adopt the December 8, 2014 meeting minutes. Remo Mezzetta seconded the motion. The motion passed and the December 8, 2014 Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises meeting minutes were adopted.

V. Welcome Remarks and Chairman's Update

Chairman Jamal Smith welcomed attendees and discussed legal updates on appeals to the commission, including Platt Construction and the consolidated hearing of Mara B. Clark Consulting, Inc., Amy S. Johnson Consulting Corporation and Real Talk Consulting, Inc.

VI. Deputy Commissioner's Report

Terrie Daniel discussed the Pay Audit system issues with reporting participation numbers during the December 8, 2014 commission meeting. Terrie explained that moving forward, Pay Audit would be used as a compliance tool and that PeopleSoft would be the system of record for reporting participation data moving forward. Terrie Daniel provided updated M/WBE participation numbers. Commission discussed negative trends in participation numbers and ways to increase M/WBE participation and utilization on state contracts.

Luther Taylor provided the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises certification overview. He presented updates on MWBE certification and operations, including total number of certified M/W/VBE Indiana firms, incoming applications, recertifications, average days to certify and top reasons for denials.

Courtney Edmonds provided an update on educational, training and outreach activities, including outreach for the 2015 Disparity Study. She also provided a tentative 2015 schedule of outreach events, including upcoming commission meeting.

Allie Hausladen with BBC Research & Consulting provided an update on the 2015 Disparity Study to the commission.

David Olivencia recommended inviting the procurement directors for each of the state educational institutions for a roundtable discussion to discuss a standard reporting form for their minority- and women-owned business participation and strategies to help achieve their MWBE goals.

VII. INDOT DBE Program Update

Derrick Casson presented the Indiana Department of Transportation DBE program update. He provided an update on certification, contract compliance and support services. He reported certification statistics, including number of certified firms, number of denials, average processing time for applications and number of applications received. He also provided an update on federal DBE numbers for the Ohio River Bridges project.

VIII. New Business

Erik Scheub provided year-end numbers for the Indiana Small Business Development Center and introduced the new PTAC officer for the Evansville region. Erik Scheub also provided information on the upcoming Indiana Entrepreneurship Week.

IX. Public Comments

Bobbie Gilman provided public comments. "First off, I'd like to express that I'm very impressed with the level of professionalism, and I'm so grateful that you opted to come to Evansville. My name is Bobbie Gilman. I am a mechanical engineer. I've been in the field for over 25 years, and three years ago, I opted to become an independent. My company -- Maple Hill Engineering is the name of my company, and we specialize in something unique. We study an enterprise's processes, and then we help them improve them. Through process changes, we can simplify processes, which free up resources. We also help enterprises serve their customers better. This often results in thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in savings for that enterprise. Another specialty that we offer is that we design facility layouts, so by studying what goes on in that business, we can then design a more effective facility for that company. So, here's what I ask today: I have been reading RFQ's for weeks now, and what I'm seeing is that because the work categories in the system don't match our specialty, I'm struggling to find opportunities to submit a quote. So, on behalf of myself, because we offer a unique service, and on behalf of other companies that might offer a unique service, how do we get connected?"

K.C. Jain provided public comments. "My name is K.C. Jain. I have engineering company that's MBE and DBE certified, and also certified by INDOT, State of Indiana. I do quite a bit of work with City of Evansville. And I, first of all, appreciate you guys coming here today and having the meeting today. I never knew about the Governor's Commission, and I found out because I got the information, and I thought I would attend it. So, I appreciate that very much.

But my comment is only that a lot of numbers have been thrown out here, which is a good thing, and you're trying to achieve some goals, which is excellent. My question is: I am civil engineer, mechanical, electrical engineer, but I never get any invitation or RFQ or any contract with INDOT or with any others. So, I've been told to go to these people and then you go to work. And I contacted them, and they said, "Well, you know, you're too small or too far off," that kind of excuses. I never had them con me into that, and I'm -- a DBE certification, it helped me instead of -- in City of Evansville, but not really straight up and down on that.

I was just wondering, I heard you mention that go to Indianapolis and all of this. I went to Indianapolis several times in the meetings and all of this several years ago, not recently, because I have my business for 12 years or so, but the -- when the airport or the arena, whatever they call it, Lucas Oil Stadium, was being built, I went there several times, but I think I got zip, zero, nothing out of those when I contacted all of

those people, primes and all of this. But, you know, I can understand that. They don't want to let anything go out because they can do everything. And that is -- what I am saying is there is no goal for the engineering portion of the work, as far as I'm concerned. It's just the contracts, you know, like you go and do the subsurfacing, the bricks and buildings and all of those things, but nothing for engineering, and that's the reason I have not gotten anything.

My only question about it now is: If you can incorporate that as part of engineering -- separate it doesn't go -- or otherwise encourage some of the primes and also some of the people who issue the RFQ, so that people who are far away from Indianapolis, far away from eastern zones and all of those things, that they can get some opportunity to do the work there. I kind of gave up after working so hard about getting some work and all of those things, and I do certifications, I get certifications.

In fact Derrick, I know him for a long time, and I've been getting DBE certification. I've been certified for several years, but then I still have to send all of this paperwork every year for updating the information there. I don't mind doing that if there's a benefit there, but the thing is there's hardly any benefit. I'm an established MBE for a long time, and I've been getting work from local companies, not only city, but also private businesses such as Mead Johnson and all of those things. But however, my question is that if you can get the engineering portion as part of the goals, so that the primes, who doesn't give you work, and also approach the people who are capable and can do the work. Thank you very much."

X. Adjourn

Chairman Jamal Smith adjourned the March 9, 2015 meeting at 2:54 p.m.