



STATE OF INDIANA

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Division

Indiana Government Center South
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Monday, March 8, 2010

MINUTES

The Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises met on March 8, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. in the Government Center South, Conference Room C, Indianapolis, IN.

Handouts

The Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (MWBE) staff distributed several handouts to the commissioners prior to the start of the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m., by Chairman, Jamal Smith

Welcome

Chairman Jamal Smith welcomed the commission members and attendees. Chairman Smith stated that going forward the format of the Commission Meeting would be somewhat changed and he as the Chairman would be asking the Commissioners to play a much more active role within their communities.

Roll Call

Present:

Marcia Duncan
Mark Everson, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Administration
Angela Faulkner, Faulkner Strategies
Rae Pearson, Alpha Rae Personnel
Jamal Smith, MWBE Commission Chairman
Alice Watson, Deputy Commissioner, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Division

Absent:

Ronnie Alting, Indiana State Senator
Jean Breaux, Indiana State Senator
Cleo Duncan, Indiana State Representative
Mara Candelaria-Reardon, Indiana State Representative
Martha Kenley for Mike Reed, Commissioner INDOT
Mike Madrid, Highway Safety
Lisa Spaulding for Mitch Roob, IEDC
Sarah Taylor, City of Indianapolis
Sylvia Trotter, Trotter Construction
Gilbert Velez, G & M Training & Services, LLC

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Smith thanked the commission and public for attending the meeting and discussed his vision for addressing some possible disparities that may exist and efforts to strengthen MWBEs within the State of Indiana by addressing auxiliary obstacles and or opportunities that may affect them as a business. As a result he would like to engage the commission within their communities more. He asked the commission members to report back with issues, opportunities or events they may hear within their communities across the state so the commission could address

them. He would also like to become more proactive in introducing State of Indiana MWBEs to opportunities that exist outside of state opportunities. Chairman Smith gave several examples of how the State of Indiana can and are currently partnering with several private sector companies to provide them with certified MWBEs to work with.

A quorum was not established so annual goal setting and adoption of the December 14, 2009, minutes was tabled.

Chairman Smith was asked by Commissioner Everson to talk about his stance on the goals and Chairman Smith's response was he would like to hold the goals where they are currently until the disparity study was complete. He mentioned without a quorum nothing could be voted on at this time.

There was a brief discussion prompted by comments from Commissioner Rae Pearson regarding our listing of certified businesses and possibly charging private sector companies for that information. Deputy Commissioner Alice Watson stated the information was public and we could not charge. Commissioner Pearson also mentioned the need for a tracking system and wanted to make sure that issue stayed in front of the commission.

Deputy Commissioner Report

Alice Watson, Deputy Commissioner, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, stated that going forward the process of reporting would be consolidated to allow more time for dialogue between commission members to discuss issues within the community. Ms. Watson stated, the ultimate goal of the MWBE Division is to increase participation and opportunities while increasing the number of certified companies within our repository.

Ms. Watson briefly outlined key points within the certification and business development areas that were noted in handouts given to each commission member to review. Handouts were also made available to public attendees.

Ms. Watson pointed out, as a division we have in the past only audited contracts that were \$500K and above. We are now doing random audits of all contracts that come through the state no matter dollar value. Ms. Watson also reiterated the need for a pay audit system which will help with these efforts.

Commissioner Pearson noted some changes she would like to see within the reporting style. There were also some changes in the page titles within the Business Development report that were denoted.

Ms. Pearson also suggested letters be sent out to under-performing agencies from the IDOA Commissioner and Commissioner Everson stated that had already been done and the MWBE Division was working to improve the numbers within state agencies.

Commissioner Pearson stated it may be time for the Governor to send letters to each under-performing agency.

Ms. Watson also discussed the scoring process and the need to look at a possible change in the process.

Commissioner Faulkner brought up the disparity study and the impact that may have on the goals and the numbers. There was a brief discussion regarding the disparity study and the change in the economic climate and how that has affected our numbers and what is showing on the current agency reports.

Ms. Watson mentioned the disparity study public forum recently held on February 24. She stated the forum was the first of 2 – 3 to be held. Ms. Watson denoted approximately 15 businesses spoke at the forum regarding their experiences with State of Indiana contracting opportunities. Ms. Watson stated the next forum will be held in September after the initial disparity study results are released. These findings will be posted on the state website and thereafter another forum will be held within 30 days of the release of the initial findings.

Outreach

Terrie Daniel, MWBE Outreach Manager referred attendees to handouts to review events that have taken place since the last Commission meeting. Ms. Daniel informed attendees that the MWBE Division has received positive feedback regarding MWBE initiatives including the recent 2010 Spring Resource Fair which was a success with attendance at approximately 350 and 68 exhibitors.

Ms. Daniel thanked the title sponsor, Citizens Energy Group and mentioned upcoming events including the next Resource Fair which will be held on July 14, 2010, in conjunction with the Indiana Black Expo Business Conference.

New Business

Chairman Smith mentioned that at the next Commission meeting, Commissioner's should be prepared to comment and report on what is happening in their respective areas across the state. He would like to hear about issues that may be large or small to bring more awareness of what is happening across the state.

Commissioner Faulkner stated she would like to propose that the commission to take a look at the overall goal and vision of the commission. She would like to take a look at the mission to see if it is still applicable to 2010 based on the statute. She stated she personally doesn't think it is and would like to look at the actual employees of the division and how the commission supports what each employee does. She wants to take a real or dummy contract and look at the whole contracting process from beginning to end to look at goals and if they were met or not. She feels they don't have a good grasp as a commission on the total contracting process and the issues.

She suggested she would like to make their job as commission members more effective. Ms. Faulkner also mentioned she has talked with several business owners in the community and there is a mutual feeling that the commission meetings are becoming more of a useless tool so they are no longer attending. She stated she was very surprised at the attendance today. She would also like to see us work more closely with other community stakeholders.

Ms. Faulkner said she would also like to see something established where participation is mandated by commission members and if they are not active they are removed from the commission.

Commissioner Pearson also mentioned that there is a need to look at how the legislation can be changed to have some teeth to satisfy the women- and minority-owned businesses and small businesses within the State of Indiana. She stated it has been her mission since she has been on the commission to look at the legislation and how it is written. She feels the process of sanctioning has not been fully discussed to her satisfaction.

Commissioner Everson also stated that he and Deputy Commissioner Watson have had serious conversation regarding the certification process and compliance and will continue to look at the process. He mentioned that he feels that changes can be made without necessarily making changes to the actual legislation which is a much more detailed process. Mr. Everson also mentioned the disparity study and the need to review the study results before making suggestions for change.

Commissioner Faulkner asked what they could do as a commission now before the disparity study results are released.

Chairman Smith stated at the next meeting there will be time delegated to discuss the compliance issue in detail as well as the certification issue. Mr. Smith mentioned he would present an initial plan to the commission to address the compliance issue. He also mentioned time would be allotted to address commission member activity or lack thereof at the next meeting as well as having a for profit organization to present opportunities they have available and best practices within their organization.

Public Comments

Nancy Jones, WBENC commented about her program which is geared toward women-owned businesses and her desire to partner with the State of Indiana.

Marvin Crayton, Marvin A. Crayton Construction Company, Mr. Crayton is from South Bend, IN and stated he appreciated the job the division was doing. He mentioned the need for change in the legislation to put teeth into it to hold prime contractors to their commitments to sub-contractors.

Adjournment

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Terrie Daniel, MWBE Commission Secretary