



The National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind

**NAEPB Executive Session Minutes
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 22, 2014**

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROVED on May 20, 2014

Preface

There was a Special Meeting of the NAEPB Board of Directors duly called by President Dennis Steiner on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The meeting agenda was limited to one topic. This was the only official piece of business presented to the Board for discussion and vote. There was an ensuing conversation led by Kevin Lynch, NIB President and CEO and member of the Board of Directors of NAEPB, that took place for informational purposes only. A summary of Kevin's remarks will be included in these minutes.

Directors Present:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Bob Garrett, Assistant Secretary | North Central Sight Services |
| Mike Gilliam, VP of Base Supply Centers | San Antonio Lighthouse |
| Jim Kerlin, VP of Operations | Beyond Vision |
| Kevin Lynch, Ex-Officio | NIB |
| Reinhard Mabry, VP of Services | Alphapointe |
| John Mitchell, VP Public Policy | CABVI |
| Lou Moneymaker, Secretary | Bosma Enterprises |
| Eric Stueckrath, Assistant VP of Operations | Outlook Nebraska |
| Dennis Steiner, President | VisionCorps |
| Shelly Taylor, Chair of Ethics, Practices and Future Trends | Louisiana Association for the Blind |
| David Wells, Assistant VP Public Policy | West Texas Lighthouse |

Directors Not Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Rudy D'Amico, Treasurer | CABVI – Utica |
|-------------------------|---------------|

NIB Staff Present:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Rick Webster, VP Public Policy | NIB |
| Carla Williams, Administrative Assistant NAEPB | NIB |

Background

The Executive Session meeting was called to order at 10:30am ET. Mr. Moneymaker proceeded with a roll call. President, Dennis Steiner stated that the purpose of the call was to discuss the proposed resolution, but to also proceed with a vote to pass the resolution.

Resolution Vote

Mr. Steiner made a motion to pass the resolution, a vote then took place. **Vote Count: YES – 11, NO – 0.** The motion carried passing the resolution unanimously. Mr. Mabry raised the question how would the resolution be used. Mr. Steiner stated that the resolution would be used when working with the Commission and when letting people know that there are serious issues being faced with significant impact on the AbilityOne Program.



The National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind

**NAEPB Executive Session Minutes
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 22, 2014**

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROVED on May 20, 2014

NIB President, CEO & NAEPB Board Member, Kevin Lynch - Information Briefing

Mr. Kerlin requested an update with regards to the Public Policy Forum, Asks and other NIB initiatives. Mr. Lynch stated that conversations have been held between GSA and NIB's Counsel and staff. GSA came back with a response to the CLIN IV and stated that the contractor needed to be an AbilityOne Authorized Contractor and needed to follow the AbilityOne requirements. NIB responded that more clarification was needed on what would be expected from a contractor carrying AbilityOne products in an ETS environment. NIB's attorney requested that the contractors/bidders define how they intend to maintain the mandatory status of the JWOD Act. NIB has also requested that proposals would include a member of the AbilityOne Commission who would act in terms of technical assessment. GSA rejected the request and held to the original response which included that the AbilityOne requirements be present. NIB will respond back with another protest to GAO. Additionally, Mr. Lynch met with Ms. Ballard and Ms. Zeich to go over the ETS report and to discuss the protest. ETS Report is alarming in terms of what was found. Five of the FSSI contractors are in the top 20 worst performing ETS violators. For the first time, sales data was received from GSA Schedule contractors. 119 vendors were matched. In February there was \$250,000 in sales from ETS. Data has been shared with the OFPP as well as the Commission. NIB has asked for a follow-up meeting with OFPP, which will include Ms. Zeich and Ms. Ballard. Formalizing what would disqualify one from being an AbilityOne Authorized Dealer. NIB has offered assistance on drafting language. NIB has asked that interim ETS policies be adopted. LMI is conducting a study that will be available at the end of July. Mr. Lynch stated that there was a lot of activity taking place right now. Events are evolving on a day to day basis. Mr. Lynch requested that the BSC Proposal/paper be reviewed as there was an "ask" of the Commission. The Commission was going to resurrect the document to present to Dennis Lockhart and stated that they would provide a response to NIB. Mr. Lynch stated that the Commission states that they are overwhelmed with the amount of work that has flooded their offices. The BSC program has done a great job over the last 4 or 5 years in terms of trending and substantially reducing the amount of ETS.

Public Policy Forum Update

The Joint Public Policy and Communications Committee met last week. Mr. Webster reported that the "asks" are being worked on, and an email will be sent for the first series of pre-calls which will outline as much as possible. The GSA matter is evolving and the specific "asks" has not been determined, but one will be devised on the issue. Ms. Taylor requested that the information on the "asks" be provided at least a week before the Forum so that the agencies can prepare. Mr. Lynch stated that the "asks" will be provided at least two weeks prior to the Forum, even if they have to be slightly modified. Mr. Lynch stated that it will be important for the employees to tell their stories to Congress to deliver a compelling message. Mr. Webster confirmed that 29 out of 69 agencies were signed up for the Forum as of 4/22/14. Mr. Wells raised the question how could the agencies be more engaged more to participate in such as important conference. Mr. Steiner stated that at



The National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind

**NAEPB Executive Session Minutes
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 22, 2014**

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROVED on May 20, 2014

some point people have to make a decision as to whether they believe the efforts are worthwhile or not. The more legislators are aware of the program, the better. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Steiner offered to make phone calls to encourage agency reps to register for the Forum. Mr. Webster will distribute lists for those agencies that are not registered. Mr. Kerlin stated that this may also be an opportunity to use the NAEPB Liaison list that has been recently revised.

Other Comments

Mr. Moneymaker stated that the resolution with cover letter needed to be sent out to the NAEPB membership as soon as possible. Mr. Steiner stated that he would proceed with getting a copy of a cover letter and resolution out to the complete NAEPB Membership.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18am ET.