

NAEPB Executive Session Minutes
September 19, 2011
Teleconference

Call to Order

President Karen Walls called the meeting to order at 10:35 am EST.

Board Members in Attendance

Kirk Adams
Mike Gilliam
Kevin Lynch, Ex-Officio
Reinhard Mabry
John Mitchell
Dick Monaco
Lou Moneymaker
Billy Sparkman
Karen Walls

Board Members Absent

Dan Boucher
Jim Kerlin
Chuck Lange

NIB Staff in Attendance

Vida Muldarry

Roll Call/Waiver of Meeting Notice

NAEPB By-Laws require a waiver of written notice if meetings are not announced five days in advance of the meeting. Lou Moneymaker polled the group during roll call; all in attendance waived the requirement.

Introductory Remarks

President Karen Walls, Billy Sparkman and Kirk Adams met following the September 12 Executive Session to plan and compose a survey for all NAEPB members to complete. During this meeting they decided it would not be possible to design, implement and analyze a membership survey and moved forward with a survey that focuses specifically on government relations (GR.) Ms. Walls and team composed the email to be sent with the survey and engaged Matt Wieseler of NIB to draft the survey itself. The email and draft survey was forwarded to all Board members and she opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion

Mike Gilliam liked the manner in which the email and survey was drafted; he asked if there is a way under full disclosure to tell the membership how much each budgetary

option will cost, so that all members make an informed decision and understand the implications of their vote. Ms. Walls suggested including verbiage that indicates the cost for full engagement in FY2012 will be comparable to the cost in FY2011.

Reinhard Mabry felt the language in the email suggests the Board is “on the fence” and asked whether the Board has a uniformed opinion on how to proceed should this question ever be raised? Mr. Gilliam suggested the members should have an opportunity to decide free of any bias. Ms. Walls stated there is no question whether or not to use a government relations firm, rather how to go about doing it. Billy Sparkman and Lou Money maker emphasized the importance of remaining neutral. Mr. Money maker did comment that the survey does not allow for an exchange of opinion and therefore the survey can be an uninformed opinion. Ms. Walls suggested the flip side is there are agencies that might not be comfortable voicing their opinion during a full membership meeting and the survey gives them an opportunity to express themselves freely.

Mr. Adams felt the statement, “The Board strongly suggests moving forward with MLA...” does not accurately capture the feelings of the Board following the September 12 session. Options such as scaling back MLA or using NIB’s GR firm were also discussed during that session and they drove the very idea of creating a survey. Ms. Walls added that the group agreed as a whole to continue messaging and “taking the temperature” on the Hill.

Dick Monaco suggested rephrasing the first sentence in the survey as activity is presently taking place on the Hill. Ms. Walls made the following change with support from the Board: “While JWOD Modernization is not likely to be pursued by this Congress, there are organizations actively seeking to make changes to our program, not all to our liking.”

Mr. Monaco asked how the survey results will be analyzed and whether the Board will go into the October meeting with a recommendation? Ms. Walls stated Mr. Wieseler will analyze each question based on the percentage of “strongly agree” responses. These results will be available the day after the survey closes. Ms. Walls recommended the Board meet again before the October meeting and use the survey results as a basis for which budget to approve. The survey results and Board’s decision will be communicated in October and then the type of dues (tiered or flat) can be opened up for discussion.

Billy Sparkman made the motion to accept the survey and email as amended. Mike Gilliam seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am EST.