



The National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind

**Crowne Plaza Old Town, Alexandria, VA
2015 NIB/NAEPB Public Policy Forum
9:30am – 10:00am EST**

**Executive Session
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT MINUTES
Approved on 10/13/15**

Call to Order

The Executive Session was called to order on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 by President Steiner at 9:32am EST by President Dennis Steiner. Secretary Garrett proceeded with an Executive Committee Member roll call, after which he announced a quorum was reached.

NAEPB Executive Committee Members Present

Rudy D’Amico	Treasurer
Robert Garrett	Assistant Secretary
Reinhard Mabry	Vice President of Services
Dennis Steiner	President
Eric Stueckrath	Vice President, Operations
Dave Wells	Vice President, Public Policy
Ken Fernald	Assistant Vice President, Operations
Shelly Taylor	Chair of Ethics
David Horton	Vice President, Base Supply Chains
Michael Monteferrante	Vice President, Strategic Planning
Kevin Lynch	Ex-Officio Member, President and CEO, NIB

NIB Staff Members Present

Carla Williams	NAEPB/NIB Administrative Assistant
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Overview on BSC Issue – Dennis Steiner, President

Mr. Steiner stated that the Executive Session was convened to update the Board on the BSC’s issues. Mr. Steiner referenced the Special Board Call of April 14 where it was determined that the NIB Board did not require NAEPB’s approval to be prime on a contract. No formal position was taken during the call, he stated. Mr. Horton has had a call with the CEO’s of the BSC’s agencies since the Special Board call. Subsequent meetings have also taken place.

Update on call with BSC Operators CEO’s - David Horton, Vice President of Base Supply Centers

Mr. Horton stated that he provided a face-to-face summary update of the Special Board call to the BSC Executives in Wichita, Kansas last week. As a result of the meeting, a call was held. Mr. Horton stated that the majority of the agencies on the call were not in favor of having NIB as prime on a service contract. Agencies have requested that Mr. Lynch provide an alternate solution.

Mr. Horton stated that the issue has been ongoing, and should be resolved. Mr. Lynch stated that there are take aways having gone through the experience and the continuing evolution of the store program. NIB did not take a look at the issue before being asked by the NAVY to act as a prime and allocate on a contract. One of the reasons



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cited by the NAVY for the request was reduced Contract Administration support at the Federal and Military levels and a desire to reduce the workload. NIB looks at the terms and requirement, obligations and potential liability before serving prime on a contract. Mr. Lynch stated that 20 years ago, at the request of the customer he convinced NIB's management to become prime on contracts. NIB has looked at it as doing a favor for the customer, until the USS Cole mattress incident. DLA and the NAVY were investigated and as a result, NIB was involved due to serving as prime on the contract. After this incident, subcontracting agreements started to go into place.

NIB serves as prime for no additional cost to the customer. Mr. Lynch stated that there is no value added, yet lots of responsibility and additional work. Recently, NIB has decided not to renew 5 contracts with the NAVY. Mr. Qua has had a call with the NAVY with regards to cutting the contracts. The contract is not up for renewal until the end of the Fiscal Year. In addition, the Contracting Department and Heather Lyons (NIB's General Counsel) are revising subcontracting agreements for the 5 agencies, which will include the requirements for prime contracts. NIB is moving forward in the direction that will extricate them from being the prime, so that each agency will have their own individual contract. NIB was supposed to provide centralized reporting as a part of the contracting agreement, which NIB has not been able to receive from the agencies. The NAVY was told that NIB does have the staffing or system in place to control the requirements. It's hard to be prime on a contract when there is no control over subcontractors, Mr. Lynch stated.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Garrett, Mr. Lynch stated that NIB is prime over a couple of switchboard operator contracts and in the future NIB would not seek to be prime on service contracts but would analyze each on a case by case basis. In a response to an inquiry raised by Mr. Steiner, Mr. Horton stated that NAEPB and the 20 BSC operators were involved because five agencies were being affected.

Mr. Lynch stated that there are additional concerns to the issue, that he recommends the NAEPB as a whole review in addition to continuing the discussion to increase better overall understanding.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Reinhard Mabry, Vice President of Services

Mr. Mabry stated that there is a significant issue arising with WIOA and proposed rules surrounding the act. NAEPB needs to have a clear understanding and a briefing so that the Board will understand exactly what implications will arise as a result of the Act to be informed as an organization. Mr. Lynch commented that he would speak generally about WIOA as well as raise the 14(c) issue in the upcoming Membership Meeting.

Mr. Steiner commented that NAEPB needs to have a formal comment on WIOA and would be given the chance to do so in 55 calendar days. Mr. Lynch suggested that NIB/NAEPB formulate collective thoughts to present. Mr. Steiner agreed, but also wants NAEPB to take a position. He further stated that WIOA could have a major impact on the organization, so it is important that the Board review the Act, understand it and take advantage of the opportunity to



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provide comments. Mr. Wells suggested that the Board schedule Executive Sessions during each meeting whether they are formally held or not. Mr. Steiner agreed.

Adjournment

As there were no further issues to be brought before the Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02am EST.