

SBO/SBAP

National Steering Committee

Monthly Teleconference

January 14, 2003

Attendance: Region 1: Ron Dyer; Region 2: Maria Rivera, Marian Mudar, Steve Moore; Region 3: Richard Rasmussen, Terry Polen; Region 4: Linda Sadler, Tony Pendola; Region 5: Amelia Gooding, Phyllis Strong, Pam Christenson; Region 6: Christi Townsend; Region 7: Dan Nickey; Region 8: Nick Melliadis, Bonnie Rouse; Region 9: Megan Sullivan (for Rob White); Region 10: Sally Tarowsky; Patrick Hoermann; USEPA: Angela Suber; chair: Mark Shanahan; and Andrew Gosden

The participants approved the December 10, 2002 minutes.

USEPA Strategic Plan

Comments are now being taken on EPA's Strategic Plan on their web site. The plan will not be in the Federal Register, as originally thought. EPA is having a two-phase comment period: comments are being taken now; then EPA plans to rewrite the strategic plan in February, submit to OMB, and then publish the plan again on the web site for comments.

The question posed to the NSC is whether the group should submit a group comment or whether states wanted to submit them individually. It was decided that the NSC would submit a comment paper now during the first comment phase, and again later if necessary. Ron Dyer, Marian Mudar, and Marcia Manley will draft up comments on behalf of the NSC and will distribute to the NSC for comments/revisions by Friday January 16, 2003.

It was also suggested that the NSC chair meet with appropriate EPA staff to initiate dialog of our concerns. Angela will work with Karen to see up those meetings.

Update on MOU with ASBDC and NPPR

The most recent version of the MOU with the ASBDC and NPPR was distributed to the NSC prior to the call. This version contained an addition from the NPPR Board, which was added and approved by the board during the National Compliance Assistance Forum in San Antonio in December 2002. This addition, which adds "pollution prevention" as one of the groups challenges, came under much scrutiny because "pollution prevention" is mentioned prior to "regulatory assistance." Mark will talk with the NPPR about reversing the order.

Regarding ASBDC legislation, the ASBDC is looking at the new congress for reintroduction of the bill. They have to start over with their campaign efforts due to new appointments to the Small Business Committee. Senator Snow will be taking over the Small Business Committee, which is a very good thing for the 507 programs. Senator

Snow is familiar with the work of the 507 program thanks to the efforts of Ron Dyer of Maine.

Update on 2003 Annual SBO/SBAP Conference in Baltimore

The planning committee had a conference call on January 13, 2003. Unfortunately, Administrator Whitman will be unable to close out the conference. Therefore, the committee is in the process of deciding how the conference will close. The NSC initially suggested that a high EPA official, high-ranking person from another agency or a customer service speaker close the conference. Then it was suggested that the Deputy Administrator Linda Fisher speak to the group as a follow-up to the Small Business Summit, which will be held in March. Another suggestion was the SBA's Ombudsman, who supposedly is a good and eloquent speaker. Andrew requested that any suggestions and/or preferences be submitted to him ASAP.

Andrew reported that the committee is in the process of identifying speakers. Once the draft agenda is distributed, if you see a session that you would be interested in speaking at, contact Andrew.

Three site visits have been planned for the conference. Two will take place during the conference: one to a bakery (sorry, they only bake bread); the second to a waste energy plant. The third visit, which will be a visit to International Fabricare Institute, will take place on Wednesday after the conference has concluded.

Registration for the conference will be available soon. The planning committee is hoping to use last year's web address for conference registration and information.

Reports on Subcommittees

Multi-Media: The group has developed a survey that will be posted on the Small-Biz web site, which will be online very soon.

Promotion: The group has revised the PSA from Florida, making it more general for all of the 507 programs. If you want a copy of the PSA, contact Mark. If you are interested in tailoring the PSA for your own state, let Pam or Mark know. There are price breaks if many states want to do this. The group also developed a national brochure that is now available through Karen's office.

Technical: The group is working with RTP to get more input into the ATW guides.

Guidelines: The group has also developed a survey and is working with CTC to post the survey on the Small-Biz web site.

Technology: The group has not yet met, but will be soon.

Awards: The group is looking at state award programs in an effort to develop criteria for an SBAP award program.

Other Business

1. Annual Report.
Karen's office is now handling the annual report. Information about the report will be sent to the states soon.
2. Small Business Summit.
The Small Business Summit is set for March 13, 2003. Information will be sent out soon.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m., EST.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Tarowsky (ID), Region X.