

Subject: SDB Issues - We're back on track

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009 1:23 PM

From: David Honig <dhonig@crosslink.net>

To: Mark Seifert <mseifert@ntia.doc.gov>

Conversation: SDB Issues - We're back on track

Mark, good morning,

Susan Crawford called, and we figured out this solution to the notice issue:

- our four panelists can address all of our NTIA-related questions in their statements; and
- our key RUS question can be asked/answered handled at this coming Monday afternoon's session (Susan will followup). We'll have someone there to ask the question from the floor if you'd prefer that it come from the floor – just let me know. The question is:

The RFI requests comment on NTIA-RUS coordination (NTIA Section, ¶12; RUS Section, ¶2). In light of these requests, will NTIA and RUS consider comments that address the extent to which the selection criteria for RUS grants should be congruent with the selection criteria for NTIA grants?

We've assembled most of our legal team, and are preparing comprehensive comments for a broad spectrum of civil rights organizations and MBEs. I did a briefing on a mass conference call yesterday morning, and it went very well. So we're back on track, although with a LOT of work ahead of us.

Let me know if you'd be free for a quick call re: outreach and networking – spreading the word especially among the MBE community, and taking advantage of every opportunity to introduce MBEs and large contractors to one another.

Best,

David

3/14/09

On 3/13/09 8:16 AM, "David Honig" <dhonig@crosslink.net> wrote:

Mark, good morning,

Here's where we are on each of the open items --

Hearings:

I'm happy to confirm these panelists – all heavy hitters who'll add a great deal to the record:

Selection Criteria: John Muleta (CONFIRMED)

Underserved Areas: Allen Hammond
(CONFIRMED)

Role of the States: Harold Williams (INVITED)

Community and Economic Development:
Ronald Johnson (CONFIRMED)

Outreach:

I anticipate that minority contractors will be convening in state or regional meetings to ramp up overall stimulus contracting opportunities. The first (and probably one of the largest) such meetings is scheduled for March 21 at an HBCU – Bethune Cookman College. The Executive Officer of the Governor is the sponsor, and the Florida State Conference of Branches of the NAACP is helping organize the event. Governor Crist is the keynote speaker, and attendance should be around 500. Let me know if NTIA can send a representative. I'm attaching a draft of the agenda.

Networking Opportunities:

I have a suggestion regarding the agendas for the hearings — could an hour and a half after each hearing

be scheduled for networking among the contractors and subcontractors who attend — a room with refreshments, tables, chairs, etc.? These networking sessions could be hosted or co-hosted by the MBDA, MTDP, or both. We'd encourage MBEs to attend and bring their brochures and business plans, and we'd ask the trade associations with members on our Policy Committee (USTelecom, CTIA, NCTA, NAB, etc.) to cooperate.

Request for Information:

Susan Crawford and I spoke late yesterday. She came up with the idea of addressing the SDB and related questions I sent you yesterday through the vehicle of an FAQ, rather than in a supplement to the Request for Information. This is a brilliant idea! On reflection, it would be even better than a supplement:

- An FAQ is an official document
- It uses lay language
- Its purpose is to generate comments, which is the point of this exercise
- It would allow NTIA and RUS to address concerns raised by others besides the civil rights community.

If this is agreeable, let me know and I'll take the liberty of drafting some proposed Q&As that your staff could edit.

Civil Rights Organizations' Planning:

I'm convening an 11 AM to Noon conference call today with the civil rights organizations and our team (60 have been invited; about 20-25 will participate). During the call, I'll encourage everyone to focus on building a robust and thorough record. If you would like to be on the call for a few minutes to make any announcements, let me know and I'll arrange that.

Thanks for your help and creativity in moving this so far so quickly.

Best,

David

**MMTC Seventh Annual Access to Capital
and Telecom Policy Conference
Save the Date: July 20-21, 2009
Washington, D.C.**

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