

State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium Interim Steering Committee

March 18, 2008 4 PM – 5:30PM EDST

Present: Bjorn Claeson, Vicki Kaplan, Bama Athreya, Eric Dirnbach, Carmen Herrera, Farshid Yazdi, Colleen Crawford Gardner, Curtis Topper, Scott Cross

Minutes: Scott Cross

February Minutes

Minutes were approved with the following correction. The minutes under the heading NASPO joint contract incorrectly spelled the name of the state of Minnesota's representative. The gentleman's name should have read Paul Stembler.

White Paper Updates

Bjorn, Eric and Curt advised the committee that they had discussed comments on the White Paper submitted by Mr. Jeff Baer, City of Portland Purchasing Director. Bjorn sent brief responses to Mr. Baer, forwarded them to the committee, and suggested that the committee may want to consider small clarifications and alterations to the White Paper based on Jeff Baer's comments.

Legislative Updates: Updates were provided on Maryland, Hawaii, Vermont, and New York. Maryland - Proposed legislation is currently residing in committee. Hawaii plans on possibly reviving its bill during the next legislative session. Vermont's House has passed the bill and has forwarded it to the Senate. Vermont's bill does allow the state to affiliate with the consortium. New York's draft legislation has not been introduced at this time but may be introduced soon.

Consortium In-Person meeting

Vicki provided an update on a survey conducted to determine interest in conducting an in-person meeting with procurement official from public entities who are interested in the Consortium. The survey found scattered interest. Seventeen of the twenty five entities responded. Travel budget concerns were a common theme expressed by respondents. Alternatives offered ranged from meeting at a NASPO conference in September to conducting regional conferences or monthly calls. Regional meetings are a possibility and Bjorn suggested the members in each region should establish the date for any such meeting. Monthly calls were agreed upon with the first call on the topic of factory disclosure occurring on March 27th from 4 to 5PM EDST.

Action: Bjorn agreed to send out information to the committee concerning common disclosure & policies.

Cooperative Contract: Curt reported that his staff has completed the draft of a survey that will be distributed to the states procurement leaders by NASPO. The survey will be sent to the states this week. The survey's purpose is to assess interest in the committee's goals. A second survey will be sent to those states that express an interest. The second survey will be a detailed survey addressing apparel

and sweatfree contracts. Curt suggested that some committee members initiate a discussion with other states representatives once responses to the second survey are received. (Note: The response date to the first survey was unknown at the time of this meeting but has since been confirmed to be April 11th.)

The committee discussed a proposal drafted by Rini and Bjorn to NASPO outlining the benefits to both organizations of a partnership between NASPO and the Consortium. Benefits to NASPO members and the Consortium were discussed. The consortium offers NASPO the following: 1) access to expertise in non-procurement areas 2) creates a larger pool of qualified bidders 3) capacity to coordinate corrective action. NASPO offers the Consortium the following: 1) cooperative contracting vehicle 2) known "brand" of quality contracts 3) source of financial support to generate funds to achieve Consortium goals.

Action: Rini and Bjorn will revise the proposal based on committee discussion and present a new draft at the next committee meeting.

Presentation to NASPO: Curt suggested that Chip Gavin and he approach NASPO on the possibility of presenting at a NASPO conference. It was also suggested that a discussion be conducted with NASPO to determine the relationship between the Committee and NASPO.

Cambodia: Farshid provided an update on WRC monitoring in this country. The report summary is located at http://www.sweatfree.org/statements_newwide308. The full report is posted on the WRC website.

Proposed Discussion Item:

Bjorn proposed that part of the discussion at the next scheduled meeting include the topics of budget and membership dues.

Next Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Tuesday, April 15, 2008.