

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors

January 15, 2010

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors was held by conference call on January 15, 2010 with the following participants: Jim Brady and Kerry Lawrence. Volker Jurowich was unable to attend at the last minute, and sent Ann comments on several agenda items for her to share during the meeting. Also Romano Allione was unable to attend at the last minute and sent comments afterwards which are included in these minutes. Steve Fox and Ann McGough participated by invitation.

Finance , Budget & Membership

Steve Fox gave an update on the report that was distributed to the Board, noting the Foundation finished stronger than projected. He said this positive result is thanks in part to the Bucharest conference, and also the Caltrans and CDOT training workshop held at the end of the year.

Steve noted that Romano Allione had requested splitting office expenditures between the two regions, which he has done and will be reflected in the February budget report.

Steve said that membership renewals are close to where we were this time last year (242 to date). He said he will send a second mailing within a week, followed by individual emails. He said he plans to work with Paul Taggart again to chase down members in Region 2, and he will try to do the same with Blase Reardon for Region 1.

The new insurance policy is in place, and Steve noted the additional coverage includes the website/Internet.

Steve said that the hiring of a part time staff person has been put off until February, as he hasn't been able to arrange a meeting with Jim Donaldson.

UK Chapter

Ann shared Volker's comments on the UK Chapter issue, noting: "The matter is here the same as with Region 2 - should we form legal entities or not. Presently there is a predominant opinion that it would not offer real advantages but it would cause more administration. For the time being, the Region 2 and UK chapter could function but without being separate legal entities." Volker suggested the issue may be thoroughly reviewed and finalized at the face to face Board meeting in Istanbul. (Romano advised that he agrees to this proposal.)

President Elect for Region 2

Ann reported that the process is underway, with criteria being established for the nomination of candidates. Once set, a call for nominations will be distributed by email to all Region 2 members in February, with a vote in March. (Romano suggested circulating the proposed requirements which have to be coordinated with the ones to be proposed by the Nominating Committee for the DRBF President.)

Outreach

Region 1: Kerry said the Outreach Committee is starting to implement their program, with DRBF members attending on the Foundation's behalf. He noted that Kurt Dettman went to a Center for Public Resources meeting in NY and participated in a webinar for the Energy Bar Association this week. Kerry also said the ABA Construction Forum wants to do a primer or DRBs for younger lawyers, possibly using the webinar format.

Looking ahead, Kerry reported that he and Doug Holen will be doing a one-day training for the San Antonio hospital and they are still in cost negotiations. Kerry and Hal McKittrick are planning on attending the AAA National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee meeting in June in Washington, DC. AAA will be hosting a program for their Neutrals next November in Orlando, and Kerry is looking into getting someone from the DRBF on the agenda.

Overall, Kerry said he believes the outreach program is starting to work, and he feels Blase is being cautious with the budget, focusing on owner and design groups with less emphasis on contractor events.

Region 2. The main activity for outreach in Region 2 is to increase the number of regional conferences and workshops. Ann reported there will be another conference/workshop in Bucharest in June, and noted it will be done in partnership with FIDIC as that region primarily uses their Conditions of Contract. She also reported there are new workshop and conference events being planned for Manila in July and Vienna in October.

Conference & Workshop Updates

It was noted that the Region. 2 conferences are being planned for Sao Paolo in 2011 and Australia in 2010. For Region 1, Kerry noted that Seattle and Vancouver were being considered for 2011. In Houston, he did an informal poll to gauge interest and the preference was in significantly in favor of Seattle. He has already been trading emails with Ann on possible venues, and has explored the possibility of booking the Convention Center (although they won't confirm until one year out).

Kerry went on to say that he and Ann have been talking about the possibility to going to New York in 2012. He said that although it was considered and rejected a few years back due to costs, he thinks it makes sense to look at this market again. The group discussed a number of benefits, noting it would be a draw for the international market and there are a number of big projects underway now. It was noted that previously we did not have a sponsorship program in place, but sponsorship support might be the key to keeping the event affordable for DRBF members. It was agreed that a committee consisting of Steve Fox, Ann McGough, Jim Brady, Kerry Lawrence and Bob Rubin would form to explore the options. The goal will be to make a proposal at the Board meeting in Charleston. This would allow 2 years to plan the event in New York, or to identify a new location if the committee concludes it is not viable. One difference for this market is that the committee will consider alternate locations for meeting facilities with no host hotel. Delegates would be provided with a list of surrounding hotels in various price ranges, with no room block obligation by the DRBF. Steve agreed to pull out any notes from the last time NY was proposed, and distribute them to the group.

Database

Kerry had sent around a report on his discussions with Kathleen Harmon about this project, which he projects would take about 200 hours. He noted Kathleen has done seven different articles on DRBs, and new data would help for future articles and promotions.

Forum Website & Advertising

Ann reported that the next issue will be out in February. She said the International Conference committee agreed to one ad for each conference sponsor, and that it would be in the issue following the conference (August for Int. Conf, and November for Annual Meeting).

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 12 noon ET by Conference America conference call.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Ann McGough.