

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors March 20, 2009

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors was held by conference call on March 20, 2009 with the following participants: Romano Allione, Bill Baker, Pete Douglass, Volker Jurowich, Jack Norton, and Gwyn Owen. Kerry Lawrence, Steve Fox and Ann McGough participated by invitation.

Financial Report

Steve Fox reviewed the highlights of the financial report which had been distributed to the Board. He noted one change is an increase in the projection for funds that should be available to transfer at the end of the year into reserves. Overall, he said he feels the budget is on track for this time of year.

Steve also reported on the current membership figures, noting the number of members is up by 10, but the financial figure is down by about \$3000, primarily due to an increase in emerging nation members and a slight drop in sustaining membership. He noted that there are still 120 renewal invoices out. Volker mentioned Paul Taggart's campaign for Country Representatives to follow up with those in their region who haven't yet replied. Jack Norton offered to follow up with any in Florida who have not yet renewed, and offered to look at others in Region 1 who may need a follow up.

Project Listing Project

Romano Allione said that while he has been looking at the different options for this service, he has concluded that the DRBF may need to create our own list using information gathered from industry magazines. He said he will put together a proposal for the Board to review, noting he would start with a list of the engineers who submit, and he will cover the Water Power Magazine and is looking for a volunteer to cover ENR or other US based publications. Ann noted ENR's list is available online, and Romano said that someone will still need to volunteer to review the list and whittle it down appropriately.

Conferences

Region 2: – Volker noted that registrations are on track for the London conference, as are sponsorships which are expected to be approximately \$30,000. He said he is still working on securing Jim Haggins as a speaker, and Kerry offered to send him Jim Haggins's contact information so that Volker can contact him directly.

Region 1: – A summary of the conference planning was sent to all Board members prior to the call. Jack Norton reviewed the highlights, noting they are still waiting to hear about a keynote speaker. He said there is a bill in the Texas state legislature that would mandate DRBs on all public projects in Texas, which could significantly increase attendance at the conference. It was stated that the legislative session runs until May or June, and a similar bill almost passed two years ago; it is thought that whatever issue derailed the bill at that time has been fixed so chances are good that it may pass. Volker asked if there is anything he can read about this bill, noting there are similar issues in the European Union and they may be able to learn from the process to help change attitudes the next time it is addressed in Europe. Kerry Lawrence said he is going through the draft now, and said it is not a 'mandate' but a directive to 'actively consider' DRBs. Ann suggested perhaps Kerry Lawrence and Lynn McDonald can write an article for the Forum reviewing what the process was like to get the bill

passed, noting challenges along the way, which would be of interest to readers and helpful to other efforts such as the EU.

Future Conferences: Romano noted that Region 1 seemed to be settled for 2010 in Charleston, South Carolina. As for Region 2, he said he saw an email from Salvador Castro who said no for Manila in 2010, but maybe in 2011. Volker stated he sent an invitation to propose to the Country Representatives and received a strong proposal from Levent Irmak in Turkey. Everyone seemed to support that location, so he sees Istanbul as the front runner. Singapore may also be interested but they have adjudication by law and so it might not draw enough locals. Volker noted that Levent formerly worked for Granite Construction in NY, and is now working for a German government body on the Bosphorus crossing project and is very active. He also noted ICC & FIDIC are having a conference in Istanbul in October 2009 (one day arbitration, one day FIDIC contracts), and there is another big construction conference being planned there this spring. He agreed that it looked like Manila would be considered for 2011.

Workshops/Training

Kerry Lawrence reported that Colorado DOT is moving forward on their training plans to be taught by Don Henderson, who will do it in conjunction with one of his DRB site visits in the area. Don is meeting with them Monday to confirm the dates for the program.

Steve Fox reported he just got the subcontractor agreement from Caltrans which needs to be reviewed and then signed by Jim Brady; Kerry offered to review it for Steve. He said they are planning eight workshops in four different locations in California, although the dates are not locked down yet.

Kerry said that at the Annual Meeting, current plans are for the A&P workshop on Thursday afternoon, the Chaining workshop on Friday morning, and possibly the Update training on Friday as well. There are pros and cons, noting it is a lot of training for two days, but it can be planned to transition nicely into the vertical construction session late Friday afternoon. It was noted that Jim Brady has proposed making the refresher course mandatory every two years in order to stay on President's List, and that may drive the need to offer the update training in Houston. It was stated that if the requirement is confirmed, a note may need to be sent to all on the President's List advising them of the requirement and the opportunity to attend the course in Houston.

Kerry reported that the continuing education program for lawyers is coming along well, and the planning partners are very supportive. He said the General Counsel from the Miami airport is coming to speak, and she said she did not know about the DRBF and is willing to talk about all her lessons learned and how the DRBF could have improved the process for her.

Volker reported there will be a full day training workshop held in conjunction with the London conference, and also one is being planned in conjunction with the Bucharest regional conference. He noted there needs to be detailed discussions about how to meet the target of having six additional training programs over the course of the year, still some work to be done. Romano asked Gwyn to talk with Volker about his experience/ideas. Gwyn noted there has been some resistance to having course providers, and he thinks with the proper DRBF support it could take some work off our plate and provide a solid revenue stream. He recognizes there are some split feelings about it, but there are other organizations planning training which may apply pressure and turn the tide. Volker agreed and said there is also an issue of tutors being paid (as they are currently teaching for no fee). Volker said it is well understood that the DRBF needs to do something and will be working closely on it. Romano suggested to Volker that he consider nominating someone who has the time to devote to the effort.

Bylaws

Kerry's latest draft was distributed prior to the meeting, and Romano has sent a few comments. Kerry noted the bylaws are meant to be a basic set of guidelines, not tightly defining certain things so that it is flexible enough for the Board to make decisions as the organization evolves. Volker asked about the election process, noting he knows Board members are elected by the whole membership, but isn't clear about the nomination process. Kerry said there is a nominating committee, but we don't promote who is on the committee or the process for making nominations. He suggested the DRBF should use the Forum to seek a solicitation of interest in positions and nominations and tell people who is on the committee and how to contact them to make the process more transparent. It was noted there was an issue last year about the process and Gordon Jaynes took the lead to put together a report but there has been no final assessment from Gordon.

Volker also asked about fee collection process, and if the idea that the region collects the full fee and forwards a percentage to Seattle, or if the whole membership fee would go to Seattle and a portion would go back to the region. The draft bylaws as currently structured would have the regions/nations collect the full fee and forward the DRBF portion to the DRBF at least twice per year. That reduces the transfer fees and charges, and puts the obligation with regards to taxes on the most local entity, i.e., the region or national DRBF.

The Board was asked to submit final comments to Kerry, and he said he would have a new version out by the beginning of April. He said the Articles of Affiliation need a lot more work, but said he thinks it will come together easier than the bylaws and noted they don't need the approval of the membership.

New Business

Streaming Video: Ann McGough gave a brief summary of the report she submitted to the Board prior to the meeting, noting there had been an ongoing email dialog about the issue among Board members as well as conference committee members. Romano said he agreed with one of the comments that it is probably too late to implement for the London conference, and suggested it be considered for Houston. He suggested polling the general membership for their opinion and feedback on whether it is a service they would want or use, and whether it would be viewed as an added value or if it would compete with their willingness to attend the conference in person. There was also some discussion about filming the conference and making it available on disk afterwards. Gwyn Owen shared some background on a similar system he uses through Linksys. His system can only handle about 5 viewers, but he believes one can upgrade the system to accommodate more participants. It was decided that Ann will look into the options, including the Linksys system, and present more information and options to the Board for consideration.

Stimulus Package: Romano noted there has been plenty of email discussion on this subject, and suggested progress should proceed as indicated by Jim Brady. Any further discussions will be deferred to the next meeting.

Istanbul Conference in May: Volker distributed a brochure on an upcoming conference in Istanbul. He asked the Board if anyone might be willing/able to submit a paper on dispute resolution. The conference appears to be big and very technical on project management, and Volker feels dispute resolution could fit in their agenda. Gwyn said he may be able to submit a paper, and also noted Peter Chapman is currently on a Board in Istanbul and may be available speak. Volker agreed to follow up with him.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2009 at 12 noon EDT by Skype conference call. All participants are urged to install Skype prior to the call.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Bill Baker and Ann McGough.