

Purchasing Roundtable Meeting Notes
The Rhett Room – City of North Charleston
July 25, 2012
11:00am

Attendees: Denise Badillo, Eddy Medina, Gary Cooper, Monica Rubinstein, Evelyn DeLaine Hart

The meeting was called to order a few minutes before 11:00am. Gary Cooper was introduced to the group and an overview of the roundtable and its functions was provided.

A brief discussion of the business case for diversity ensued. Its limited discussion was primarily because the overwhelming data on the subject related to f=diversity in the workplace. The importance of diversity was addressed but EDH will pursue more relevant information on the topic. A good source would be CMSDC.

Based on the readiness chart provided by CMSDC, with the exception of Boeing and Choate, the Cities of Charleston and North Charleston agreed that they were at levels one and two respectively. Choate is at three and Boeing at four or five. The City of North Charleston engaged the MBP to carry out its functions which will begin with simply identifying its vendors as they are registered and as awards are made.

As more discussion ensued with regard to the varying practices of each roundtable member, it was determined that EDH would schedule a meeting with each of the partner members to ascertain how their procurement functions are conducted. Issues such as good faith efforts, levels at which ads are made, goals, etc. will be addressed. EDH will begin this process with an optimistic completion date of prior to the next Leadership Council meeting, which is August 15th. A more likely date will be mid-September. A list of standardized questions will be developed and forwarded. Once compiled, this information will be used to make decisions about how to move forward to generate a regional approach to inclusion and measuring it.

Certifications were discussed. The focus was primarily on the UCP and CMSDC while the County and City of Charleston SBE certifications were acknowledged. The latter two certifications are limited to the County and City of Charleston while the others have national acceptance. Grandfathering opportunities are available with some but not with others.

EDH asked to be placed on the mailing list of firms who regularly issue solicitations for work. They are to be sent to edelainehart@charlestoncounty.org. Links to these firms would be added to the MBP website to make access easy for suppliers.

Members were asked to refer one buyer to the group. One name is that of Byron Rogers of Santee Cooper.

The CMSDC Business Opportunity Conference will be July 30 – August 1 at the North Charleston Convention Center. On-site registration will be conducted on Monday the 30th beginning at 10:00am. Transportation for the invitation only C-suite breakfast departs the Embassy Suites beginning at 6:15am.

More discussion will be held regarding an MBP Trade Show for next year. The meeting concluded at noon. No meeting is scheduled until September.