

Minutes

Association of Small Business Development Centers

Board of Directors

Date: January 29, 2003

Place: Conference Call

Board Members Present	Clinton Tymes Erica Kauten Don Wilson Liz Klimback Don Kelpinski Jim Hogge	Diane Wolverton Grady Pennington Doug Gurley
Others Present:	Carmen Marti Nelson Chan Bob McKinley	Albert Labs Dan O'Grady Craig Bean

The meeting began at 1:10 EST January 29, 2003.

Approval of minutes 12/6/02

Moved by Don Kelpinski and seconded by Liz Klimback. Unanimous approval.

Opening remarks

Clinton asked the Board members to use the Calling Tree to see if State Directors have appointments with their congressional delegation. The Board was also asked to determine who is attending.

President's Report

Budget

Drought Relief and Education increases from Democrats have created the potential for a \$2.9 billion reduction in the Senate appropriation. House is opposed. If the house prevails, \$88 million would be the funding level.

SBA relations

Don Wilson and Greg Higgins met with Johnnie Albertson to discuss new regulations. It appears it will be 9-12 months before we see new regulations due to legal council review. Johnnie is hoping to condense program announcements because regs would cover a majority of the issues.

There is a new Chief of Staff at the SBA.

Johnnie is meeting with California and is very concerned about funding and the ability of the state to continue as host of the SBDC. The SBA may be planning to submit an RFP to break up the state (six SBDCs). The ASBDC has expressed our concern that the host should not be split. Clinton suggested that the ASBDC send a letter to the SBA to formalize our position.

Conference

Information has been sent to potential and past sponsors and exhibitors. Don is concerned that budget reductions will impact the ASBDC by reducing funding available to attend the national conference. Liz suggested conducting a survey to determine potential attendees at the conference.

Legislative

Don provided an overview of his meeting with Senator Snowe. He made her aware of the impact of cuts, lack of dollars for small businesses, and large funding cuts at the state level. Don asked to increase budget numbers to allow appropriators to fund. She was supportive.

Manzullo people are committed to increase funding. Manzullo will move the Sweeney Bill. Senate will have a similar bill from Sen. Ensign with Sen. Snowe to cosponsor.

Don reported on the meeting with Sen. Gregg's staff. Authorization at \$175, \$200, \$225, and \$250 million was recommended. Without significant support, this is not supportable in the opinion of the staff. Gregg's staff was supportive of an increase and supportive of the issues the ASBDC provided. Need to come to an agreement with Greg's staff on the dollar amount. Gregg's staff will work to find additional funds (i.e., Labor, Agriculture, etc.) ASBDC will have to do the "heavy lifting." We must rally support from our friends to let appropriators know the value and need to support the SBDC. We need to have everyone involved, and we need examples and leadership by the Board. We must get Center Directors involved in getting the word out.

Financials

Bookkeeper has not provided adequate financial statements since October 2002. Don is hiring a new bookkeeper by Friday. Cash position is very good. Don will have up-to-date financial statements by the end of February.

EDMIS

San Antonio has successfully uploaded (Softshare). An additional six states have also uploaded. Good cooperation with SBA and Softshare.

By-Laws

The Board decided to have a short session for input at spring meeting but no decisions/vote on any changes to the by-laws.

New Business

Membership Task Force – Liz Klimback, Don Kelpinski, and Jim Hogge.

The Task Force provided their recommendations to the Board relative to increasing participation at the national conference by adding new members to the ASBDC. The following are the primary recommendations:

1. WBC, SCORE, National Interest Sections, MBDC, PTAC
2. MOU with partners describing the benefits (Don Kelpinski will draft)
3. Different pricing

Next Meeting

Conference Call: February 25, 2003.

Spring Conference: March 2-6, 2003. Washington, D.C.

Quarterly Board Meeting: Jun 20-21 in Kansas City.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 EST, January 29, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hogge