Mid Atlantic Acquisition Council  
Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, February 14, 2018 
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Host
Dan O’Sullivan, DHS

Attendees:
Bob Vitelli, GSA  
Stacy Buechele, GSA  
Jack Wise, GSA  
Mike Dyszel, GSA  
Sue Davaro, GSA  
Liliana Delbonifro, GSA  
Lisa Makosewski, FEB  
Tiffany Cooper, EPA  
Paul Ferguson, GSA  
Cheryl Chandler, USACE  
Dena McLaughlin, GSA  
Sue Labman, GSA  
Chris Callender, DOL

The February 14, 2018 meeting was hosted by GSA at The DOW Building. Thanks to GSA for providing the meeting space and the refreshments. The meeting began with a brief introduction of everyone in attendance. There was a review of the 2017 MAAC Training Symposium and then the agenda was addressed. Some of the topics approached in this segment are as follows:

- Overall feedback on the Symposium from people within each agency was:
  - People liked the breakouts and felt there were a diverse range of topics and excellent speakers. There was a high level of engagement between the speakers and audience throughout all of the breakout sessions.
  - The space was better than the first Symposium.
  - There was a feeling of great accomplishment that day, but then people lost engagement after.
  - The Council should try to keep the same caliber of guest speakers from DC for the future.
  - In terms of guest speakers, we need to make sure we keep the topics they discuss in line with what the average 1102 is experiencing from day to day.
  - The council should also try to focus topics and breakouts on what will affect the 1102 community in the future, what’s on the horizon.
  - People enjoyed the focus on human capital and the career path of the 1102.
  - We should get back to some more of the technical aspects.
  - Look into staggering breakouts with 3 sessions of the same topic so people can hit all of the different topics. There were breakouts this year people wanted to attend, but couldn’t because they also had to attend another breakout at the same time.

- Dan O’Sullivan, the new Executive Chairman for the MAAC, wanted to discuss the current position of the MAAC, what participating agencies would like to get from the MAAC and how we should proceed from here.
• Outreach to agencies who have lost interest and new agencies is needed to make the Council robust.
• How do we get agencies in the outlying areas outside center city involved more?
  o Take a look at a case study or protest and have a dialogue around it as opposed to a full on training session.
  o Look into doing a webinar to engage more people.
  o Do a semiannual event with GAO to go over the nuts and bolts of contract specific issues.
  o The EPA has a good, free space where we could do some sort of event with multiple breakouts. The only problem is they don't have a common area large enough to accommodate more than 120 people.
  o If we did an event with multiple breakouts we would need each agency to take responsibility to handle a session or two. It was tough for the Events Subcommittee to pull together the necessary resources for the Symposium alone.
• The 3 main pillars of the MAAC are the training provided for the area, best practices shared from agency to agency and the networking that occurs between participants.
• The Council should also focus on making Philadelphia a place to go for training by expanding the training offered to its maximum.
• Council could also set up discussions on different topics by identifying what agencies excel in different areas and leading a discussion on a proposed topic that affects the contracting community as a whole.
• Start a rotational program or meeting swap program so people can experience and learn how things are done at a different agency.
• Focus on use of the website to promote the MAAC by posting training, helpful documents, webinars, etc.
• Networking could be enhanced by incorporating events such as happy hour, lunch and learn, speed dating and cross agency mentoring.
• ACT/IAC is coming in October and is asking for the help of the MAAC. Jack and Lisa will be on a call with them to find out exactly what their ask of the MAAC is.

Action Items:

• Council Members will reach out to agencies they have previous contacts (Dan with OPM and Navy, Chris with FEMA, etc.)
• Stacy will send Dan her contacts with the Navy.
• Sue will reach out to SSA once they move into the DOW building with GSA.
• Sue to set up phone call to discuss topics for next meeting.
• Report back to the group via e-mail on outreach efforts and responses received when inquiring to other agencies about participation within 30 days (By March 19th, 2018).

• Carry Over Hot Topics (for future meetings):
  o Concern with legislation on consolidation and bottling from SBA.
  o Strategic Sourcing- Proliferation of ‘what is labor’ and the restrictions on using outside sourcing.
o VTC to make it easier for members to attend meetings, and possibly expand numbers of those attending.
o We need more acquisition advocates to help make the process simpler, not more complex.
o Digital Services and a discussion on the training program for this (Kristin).
o Employee retention and how agencies plan to retain those they train.
o Procurement innovation labs.
o GAO protests, the good and the bad.
o Explore the “Buy American” executive order, because it is not as clear cut as it seems (this might be best if done in the future to allow time for the executive order to take effect).
o Monitoring workload, how is it done? How do you manage similar employees with different workloads? Why do they have vastly different workloads?
o Agencies (at local level) should be cutting back on regulations. Now is a good time and place to push that, agencies should jump ahead and cut back on regulations.
o Multi agency reverse industry day.
o How was each agency impacted (emergency contracting, HR, etc.) by the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico?

Next Council Meeting May 16th 2018 10A.M. @ DHS