

MRN/deconstruction
Meeting notes from 9/24/09
Submitted by Sherill Baldwin

Meeting started with a short presentation from Rosita Forte-Dobson, a business development specialist with the Small Business Development Center then led to a discussion overall about where the industry is, how it will expand/move forward

Rosita Forte-Dobson provided an overview of services and resources for for-profit businesses.

- Free business counseling – existing and starting businesses
- assistance with business plans
- workshops and training
- management assistance

Is there a one-stop shop for all business questions?

Business Response Center – SMART START – 860.571.7144

<http://www.ct-clic.com/>

Lending – need to find ‘friendly lenders’ for recycling/reuse/deconstruction

- Rosita has some ideas and she can be reached at 860.270.8178 or dobsonrof@ccsu.edu

Deconstruction is an evolving industry – we also need economic development statistics

- there’s no data (currently much is created from current deconstruction efforts)
- deconstruction/recycling is not on the radar of data collectors
- but we need data to seek funds (from lenders/grants etc)
- difficult to trend analysis from other regions since many grants include national competition

Rosita suggested we call Connie Maffeo, DECD, 860.571.7144 as a first step to get this new industry on their radar

- Sherill will contact and include Lil Snyder in the call who is currently seeking this type of data for current grants

History of Deconstruction? How long building materials reuse been around?

(This comment is added now, and not part of meeting: Sherill worked in Oakland in '85 at a reuse center for the arts, and Urban Ore, a building materials reuse center in Oakland was at that point alive and well. She thinks they started in the '70's)

What part of the country is most actively pursuing deconstruction?

Dave B shared he thinks Ohio/Chicago...

What about California? (Brad Guy got disconnected, see his comments below)

We learned there is an award “National Building Deconstructor of the Year” and Dave Bennink is it for 2009!

Went around the room to hear about the different projects/educational efforts to learn how deconstruction will be incorporated it... notes are sketchy at best

- Pathways to Poverty – ECSU/Bridgeport

- will include Green Construction training which will include deconstruction
- will include Resource Management training that will include recycling/deconstruction
- Youth Build/Hartford
 - Looking for trainers
 - Lack of buildings to be set aside for deconstruction; munis could be leaders if they set aside buildings in our communities specifically for deconstruction
- Naugatuck Community College – they're pursuing courses
- EMC – sees the training need and they currently offer different types of training include asbestos remediation and OSHA (See attachments)
- There's interest in Ex-offender program/training
- New Haven -training contractors in green construction including deconstruction
 - Will deconstruct building this fall
 - Lil wants uniform definition of deconstruction (state wide) to help with the certification/training process
 - New Haven will be seeking a zero waste ordinance related to C & D waste/construction projects
- BMRA – still pursuing a national training curriculum and will be seeking partners

We had lost Brad Guy from the phone and he later added his two cents – related to asking questions of how long has 'deconstruction' in terms of the concept/term been around as well as where is it most successful around the country. I also incorrectly thought he was in New Jersey.

From Brad Guy:

I am in Pittsburgh.

The 'modern' term building deconstruction is from 1994 out of Canada.

The 'first' reuse stores in the modern sense of low-cost non-antiques is around 1982 or 1984, depending upon you believe, either with the San Antonio HfH ReStore 1982 or The Loading Dock in Baltimore 1984.

California is far and away the most robust state for deconstruction and reuse, very strong legislation for waste prevention, high environmental 'ethos', of course large population, etc....

CT has some related factors such as constraints on landfill, high costs of disposal, environmental awareness, and both perhaps greater willingness to pay for private deconstruction and with low income populations for demand of materials.

For statistics, I have used my creation of most robust listing of reuse stores in the US, a lot of surveying of the industry, detailed project data, and correlations using US Economic and Demographic data which is IMHO how one must be legitimate in terms of the workforce or business development or other governmental agencies you obviously need to relate to. As noted there are recycling industry surveys. It may not have been mentioned but indicators via the green building industry are I believe important.

Follow up Communication from Brad Guy: (See attachment)

I have been involved in developing deconstruction and reuse in New Orleans and Gulf Coast post-Katrina and currently assisting with development of deconstruction training and guidelines for programs, starting reuse center, and working on LEED-rated project to maximize reused materials.

See attached a paper from a few years ago as we were trying to make the case for FEMA funds to go towards deconstruction as part of the building demolition. Note economic, job and multiplier data from referenced sources and in combination with calculations specific to NOLA. At this time progress has been made with the state land bank's demolitions to make them available for deconstruction.

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