

What an Owner & General Contractor Expect from Construction Contractors and Construction Labor

Mark Norton of Meijer, Inc and Tom McGovern of Rockford Construction Company, Inc. spoke to members of the West Michigan Construction Alliance at their November 28, 2007 membership meeting. Approximately 50 labor and management leaders heard from both guests on "What an Owner & General Contractor Expect from Construction Contractors and Construction Labor."

Both guests spoke of the importance of getting Alliance contractors pre-qualified and during the bid process getting at least five contractors to bid in each category. They spoke of many contractors taking the specs from planning rooms but not necessarily bidding.



Mark Norton representing the Meijer Corporation.

Mr. Norton identified the following unique characteristics of Meijer construction goals. Meijer hires their own architect for prototype buildings then adapts prototype to local standards. They want contractors that aren't necessarily the biggest, they want contractors and sub-contractors that have the highest interest of working on Meijer construction projects as well as having the manpower to support the work schedule. Meijer also requires payment to contractors faster than normal wholesalers.

Mr. McGovern spoke on trends that were affecting Rockford as well as the overall construction industry. Building green using LEED standards and identifying contractors who are environmentally friendly are becoming more important to owners and the general community. Using local contractors seems to be a trend among owners as well as identifying contractors with acceptable EMR ratings.



Tom McGovern representing Rockford Construction.

The West Michigan Construction Alliance is labor-management partnership composed of contractor organizations, signatory contractors, organized labor and affiliate members. The WMCA is committed to a program of quality craftsmanship and professional contracting. The primary purpose of the Alliance is to promote and market the advantages of the organized construction industry in West and Southwest Michigan in order to provide the highest quality, most cost effective and safest delivery of our products and services to our customers/owners.