ITAC Conference Call
January 15, 2014

Attendance:

Michael Lewis
Scott Gain
Terri Moore
Bob Avery
Kate Flynn
Dane Ohe
Gary Krammes
David McCulloch
Pete Cinotto
Kris Lund
Kim Martz

Agenda:

- Charter and Vision for ITAC moving forward
- Webinars
- Member replacements/nominations and Chair rotation
- Action Item updates

Minutes:

Charter / Vision for ITAC –

Terri commented that the charter is important and a priority for ITAC. It is outdated, and we need to update it before we can move forward and be successful in our efforts. Terri added that we need to determine what we should be doing as ITAC. Michael suggested that ITAC talk broadly about what we should be doing and in what direction we should be moving. What does ITAC need to be? Terri asked for ideas from the group.

- Pete commented that with the direction Centers are going, he sees ITAC having a role in assisting collaboration between centers – encourage a more "commonwealth" approach rather than individual center approach. Facilitate collaboration in combined centers and during times of constrained resources.
- Scott commented that as he looked through the charter, he noticed that the language is out-of-date, but in other ways, it's functional. He asked Pete if what he described is already in the charter or is this something new. Pete responded that he thinks it's there, but suggested that it be brought out as a focal point.
- Scott noted that the description of ITAC's function needs to be revised.
- Michael added that we need to look at our actions as we have melded into a group with internal communications rather than communications out to the field. Scott commented that we have no means of measuring our success or progress.
- Terri commented that it is important to pass on new technologies. ITAC should keep its link to Paul Exter so we can let Centers know what is up and coming. We need to move away from telling folks what to do.

Scott asked if ITAC wants to have a subgroup look at the overall content of the charter and crosswalk it to modern content. Terri suggested that all members review the charter and provide feedback.

Kate suggested that ITAC review the charter and provide feedback within two weeks. Scott suggested that we plan a call (two hours) for the purpose of discussing the charter.

ACTION – Create a charter Google Doc that ITAC can review and comment on. **DONE**

ACTION – Kim will set up a Doodle poll to determine availability. **DONE**

Webinars – Terri has a concern that ITAC has not hosted a webinar in a while. There seems to be no motivation. Terri suggested that ITAC send feelers out to its constituents requesting input on topics of interest.

ACTION – ITAC will email constituents requesting webinar ideas.

Member Replacements and Chair rotation – Bob Kimbrough and Pete Cinotto were due to rotate off of ITAC in December. Terri asked if Pete is able to stay on until a replacement is nominated. Pete responded "yes." **ACTION** – Terri will ask Bob Kimbrough to remain on ITAC until nominations are received.

Scott is due to step down as Chair. Michael has agreed that he will take over as Chair. Scott added that ITAC needs a Vice Chair and ITAC will need to bring in a Center Director representative to replace Scott when his optional year expires. It was noted that any changes with the process or terms of membership / replacements can be changed in the charter. It's important to have Center Directors, but they do not necessarily need to serve as Chair of ITAC. It was decided that Scott will serve as Vice Chair for the coming year with Michael chairing ITAC. An election for Vice Chair will be held at the end of the year prior to Scott's rotation off of ITAC. It may be better to move away from a Center Director serving as Chair. This will get things back on track.

Review/update of Action Items –

Updates from today's discussions will be posted to the ITAC SharePoint site.
Webinar update – ITAC will send email to constituents requesting webinar ideas. Discuss on ITAC's next call.

Stream View – Nate is working on this. Jerad is no longer with Below the Surface. Nate is exploring other options (such as working with Google). A priority is to get the camera back. Nate is working to do this. Bob Swanson has been trying to get others on board with this effort. Using the camera requires being trained to do so. Terri added that she will try and have an update for the next call.

Archiving electronic data – Jim Kolva provided an update. It has been posted to the SharePoint site. Michael commented that this may be one area where ITAC may have a role. He suggested that Kate ask Jim if there is anything that ITAC can do to help. Kris commented that she thought there was discussion of this being done jointly between OWQ and OSW. Kate responded that it's her understanding that it involves OGW, OSW, and OWQ. She added that she will talk to Jim. Scott commented that he gathers that a lot of the issue is the file structure and added that it's part of the Center review process. It would be beneficial to make centers aware of the structure they're moving toward ahead of time rather than try to enforce a tool when it is released. It would be easier to have Jim's proposed file structure now. Michael suggested we invite Jim to our next call. Scott added that he sees no harm in releasing the accepted structure without it being compulsory. Most folks would get on board right away if they were made aware.

Geotagged photos – ITAC discussed this item during the WI F2F meeting. Shaun Wicklein has an interest and is working on this. Scott commented that ITAC needs to decide if it is passionate enough about this to pursue it further. Terri noted that if we decide to pursue it, ITAC can write a justification for use of Picasa and submit it to Paul Exter to put forward to DOI". David McCulloch commented that because Picasa is not part of GafG, we would need to procure a license. Terri added this would be a cost to USGS and we must feel that the product would be used. David commented that a license costs about $100K (Nate quoted this during the F2F). Terri asked how many people the license would cover. David suggested that we talk to Nate. If we take this on as ITAC, we need to get input from the field. **ACTION** – Terri will verify with Nate and talk with Paul.

Michael asked if the original motivation to use Picasa is because that is all we have? David responded that the motivation behind Picasa is because it is a well-known product, much like Google Maps. It evolved because Picasa is a standard tool for sharing photos. Kate commented that she thinks Office of Communications uses it. David added that USGS has a long tradtion of sharing interesting photos. Core Science Systems (CSS) has a photo archive, but he does not know much about it. Kate responded that BRD created the photo gallery but the person who did it was let go.

Programmers Forum – This effort is moving forward internally using the GITHUB. Pete added that he may be able to do a webinar related to collaborative efforts between Centers. The webinar would be a way to let folks know that the GITHUB is there for their use. This is a good tool to use as more commonwealth centers evolve. Pete added that Nate suggested this as a charter expansion – up and coming technologies. Michael suggested that Pete contact Jason Fisher (ID WSC) as he uses the GITHUB extensively. Terri and Scott think this is a good idea for a webinar and encouraged Pete to start working it up. Gary Krammes can help get it set up.

Cloud Hosting – Terri commented that there is a 3-day meeting coming up for ADIRs. A February 6, 2014 release date is anticipated for the USGS cloud portal and guidance. Terri hopes to have more information for the next call.

Videoconferencing – Terri commented that regarding Scopia, there has been no feedback from ITAC to Dave Calhoun. It is likely that Scopia will not be included on the BPA. Test accounts will be disabled by the end of January. Bob Avery commented that Scopia works nicely and is a good tool to use. As a group, are we interested? If we're not, then it is not worth promoting. Bob feels that there is not a great demand for it. This may be due to many reasons – people are camera-shy, it's easier to do what we've always done, we rely on dependable solutions. Terri commented that we can use it, but we will be required to obtain a commercial license. She added that Dave Calhoun provided her with the contact information if anyone is interested in pursuing this on their own.

Michael asked about Polycom. Bob responded that it works like Scopia. It requires an application that costs a nominal fee ($100). We have a bridge in Reston.

ITAC agree that we will take videoconferencing off of the Action Item listing. Bob Avery will continue to pursue it on the side as time allows. Bob will update ITAC quarterly.

Mobile Framework – Nate is working with Lorna. There are concerns that this may become a hinderance to the creative process. Scott noted that one issue revolved around the idea of "who gets to tell whom what to do." Nate will need to update ITAC.

New Business – Michael will be Chairing our next call.

Next Call –
ITAC -- Charter discussion in three weeks. Date TBD
Monthly Call – February 19, 2014