

ITAC Conference Call
February 13, 2013

Attendance:

Scott Gain
Mike Lewis
Terri Moore
Kris Lund

Gary Cottrell
Bob Kimbrough
Kate Flynn
Bob Avery

Pete Cinotto
Dane Ohe
Kim Martz

Minutes:

The focus of today's call was to discuss travel restriction impacts on the New Mexico meeting. Due to budget constraints, it was decided that ITAC should postpone the face-to-face meeting scheduled for March. If the situation changes in the next couple of months, it is possible that ITAC may reschedule the New Mexico meeting in the summer. Scott and Terri agree, that because this is the second meeting ITAC has had to cancel, they would like to move forward with the meeting via WebEx and phone. All confirmed topics will remain on the agenda. Day 1 Center briefings will be removed. ITAC will meet, as planned, on March 5 and 6, 2013.

Terri brought up the idea of videoconferencing, noting that she has approached Bill Werkheiser with the idea of ITAC piloting the use of videoconferencing technology. Terri asked ITAC for their thoughts. Bill liked the idea of promoting this technology (one of the missions of ITAC), and he asked Terri to provide cost numbers to him.

Terri commented that there are smaller mobile videoconferencing units that could be sent out to a Center. Terri asked Bob Avery to give feedback on cost. Terri also commented that she would like to demo the technology to Water Senior Staff.

Discussion continued with Scott giving his input based on his procurement and use of videoconferencing equipment for the Tennessee and Mississippi WSCs. Scott commented that their basic unit (from LifeSize) cost approximately \$10-15K, and allows 2 to 3 additional cameras, pay for what you need – the system can be scaled as needed. Setup requires a basic camera, high quality microphone (to cancel out noise), kodex, and a bridge site that can host 10 connections. Computer software is also required – desktop license for each computer.

Mike Lewis – What is the cost for all locations that ITAC sits to pull this off? What does the \$10-15K get you? Scott responded that the camera is about the size of a coffee can. It can be set to zone across a room. The camera connects to a kodex that provides network and bridging. Scott commented that the demo given in the Center allowed for easy, fluid conversation. One site with more advanced bridging is needed; for example, in a central location such as Reston).

Mike Lewis – Will bill consider subsidizing the cost of the equipment? Terri commented that she would like to purchase a setup for the WMA and let others borrow it. This may encourage Centers to purchase their own equipment. Terri would like to demo the equipment to Bill to see if he is willing to purchase it for the WMA.

Terri expressed concern that this will be the second cancelled ITAC meeting. How do we keep ITAC effective? Mike commented that ITAC is moving in a good direction through the use of videoconferencing technology.

Agenda:

ITAC reviewed the agenda for the March WebEx/teleconference meeting. The agenda was revised to reflect a the new two-day meeting. A presentation on data relay futures (Dan Schwitalla) was added on Day 2.

The meeting will now be held March 5-6 from 10:00 Am – 5 PM Eastern.

New Business:

Scott noted a concern that Linda Weiss, Director, NM WSC, has regarding the consolidation of all IT services in New Mexico and giving them to the BIA. Terri will have an update for the next agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION – Kim will finalize the agenda and send to ITAC. **COMPLETE**

ACTION – ITAC will send the agenda to their constituents and request questions/comments for the IT Liaison.

ACTION – Kris will contact Jerad Criscuolo to see if he wants to update ITAC on the call or at a later meeting. **COMPLETE**

ACTION – Terri will make sure David McCulloch knows the meeting is cancelled due to travel restrictions.

ACTION – Cancel hotel reservations.