

ITAC Conference Call – May 18, 2011 Minutes

Roll Call:

Bob Lent	Ramona Traynor	Gary Cottrell	Boyce Blanks
Bob Swanson	Mark Hamill (for Susan)	Kim Martz	Bob Kimbrough
Katherine Lins	Dave Mueller	Gary Fisher	
Terri Moore	David McCulloch	Brian McCallum	

Outstanding action items -- http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/itac/docs/outstanding_ais.html

❖ Core Science Systems Discussion

- Brian McCallum was invited to the call to discuss Core Science Systems (CSS) Strategic Planning Team (SPT) efforts
- CSS would like to strategize with ITAC and OWI
- Brian noted that at the recent surface water conference, data chiefs raised concerns that the Water Mission Area has not had enough time to provide feedback to the CSS SPT
- From that meeting, Brian took the action to set up a listening session for the California Water Science Center (took place the week of May 9)
- The CSS would like to get ITAC assistance with webinars for WSC personnel
- To date, the CSS SPT has had weekly calls with team members – this is a new Mission Area; difficult to define.
- Overarching goals of the Team:
 - Foundational science – promote integrated science (library systems, databases)
 - Where do we take USGS in terms of data management, data analysis, and data integration?
 - How do we find new ways to look at data and find new science issues from existing data sources?
- The SPT is putting a report together, due at the end of May, to be reviewed.
- Bob Lent asked Brian if he had ideas on what the CSS wants ITAC to do
 - Brian noted that the draft report will be posted online – the Start with Science website is a good place to start
 - Brian hopes to have more listening sessions before the report comes out, but time is running short to accomplish this
 - The CSS would like to see ITAC facilitation of getting Water leadership to participate on the call at that meeting; follow-up with an all WSC webinar that ITAC would help moderate
- Bob Lent asked if there is background information to share – to help clarify what the CSS Team is addressing
 - There is a PPT presentation available; if further information is needed, than it may be best to wait for the draft report.
- Bob Swanson noted that the CSS Mission Area is “bridging the stovepipes”
- Katherine asked if the big issues were being addressed on CAWSC listening session
 - Brian commented the following questions (examples) that were asked of the CA group –
 - Where do you see data integration going?
 - What is hindering you from doing your job?
 - What issues arise on a daily basis?
 - There is ongoing discussion about support function versus science function. There is a growing need with support functions in CSS

Bob Lent noted that WSCs need to be able to move data around between centers; need the infrastructure to allow integration of data across centers.

- Katherine commented that there needs to be a strong relationship with AEI

- Brian suggested that a steering group is needed; perhaps with an ITAC representative to keep coordination flowing.
 - It is important to know how to bring data together for our outside stakeholders

ACTION: Brian will pursue setting up a listening session with ITAC and CSS. **COMPLETE**

- How do we change the culture of data management at USGS?
 - Bob Swanson commented that there are smart people on the outside who can get to data easily; get help from Universities, Google, etc...
 - Brian noted the recent MOU between NOAA, USACE, and USGS

ACTION: Brian will coordinate with CSS and send out a Doodle poll to determine availability for a listening session with ITAC. **COMPLETE** – Doodle poll sent out 5/23/11

David McCulloch questioned whether anyone has suggested that the CSS Team is not representative of USGS. Brian responded that there has not been formal discussion, but, it has been discussed informally. The listening session may provide a platform to bring this up.

Ramona Traynor noted a recent 3rd-party survey from IBM – “Too much data in public sector stymies effective analysis”

(Refer to: <http://www.govtech.com/education/IBM-Too-Much-Data-Stymies-Effective-Analysis.html>)

❖ ITAC Business –

- **Face-to-Face** –
 - Bob Lent will contact Dar Crammond to follow-up on ORWSC presentations
 - The agenda was reviewed – shorter number of items allowing for more discussion time
 - SharePoint workshop
- **Picasa** – No feedback yet, only an opinion from Scott Horvath. **ACTION:** Katherine to press Scott for more information before June.
- **Web Analytics** – Ramona commented that use of Omniture for Web analytics is out. Google Analytics will be used. Ramona commented that Scott Horvath is interested in policy and guidance. There is uncertainty on where the guidance will come from. Scott will generate the guidance if no one else does so first. Ramona asked if ITAC should weigh in on the issue. This will be added to the F2F agenda for discussion. **ACTION:** Ramona to send Bob Lent title and he will fit into agenda.
- **SharePoint** – Dave McCulloch noted that Rob Wertz uses SharePoint extensively and is willing to give the ITAC a presentation.
- **Stream View** – Bob Lent will contact Sandy Williamson.
- **National Map** – Bob Lent to talk to Geography Liaison
- Have SharePoint discussion the day before the workshop – Dave McCulloch will lead
- Cars for F2F – use public transportation and WSC cars as much as possible due to expense. Make own arrangements.

ACTION: Bob will contact Dar to get information on WSC presentations and field trip

ACTION: Bob will adjust agenda and resend to Katherine.

❖ Review of Outstanding Action Items – http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/itac/docs/outstanding_ais.html

- **StreamView update** –

ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION: Brian will pursue setting up a listening session with ITAC. **COMPLETE**

ACTION: Brian McCallum will coordinate with the CSS Team and send out a Doodle poll to determine availability for a listening session with ITAC. **COMPLETE** – Doodle poll sent out 5/23/11. **Update:** 5/26/11 email from Brian noted that there is no consensus on a date. CSS recommends postponing this listening session until after the week of June 13th so that the CSS team can get a draft report pulled together. ITAC can then look it over and provide feedback.

ACTION: Katherine to press Scott Horvath for more information on Picasa before June. Update: 6/3/11 – Kevin Housel sent email to Paul Exter regarding whether Picasa will remain closed to DOI. Paul responded that we are waiting on a response from DOI.

ACTION: Ramona to send Bob Lent title for Portland agenda and he will work her talk into agenda.

ACTION: Bob will contact Dar Crammond, ORWSC, to discuss WSC presentations and field trip.

ACTION: Bob will adjust the agenda and resend to Katherine.