

ITAC Conference Call
August 21, 2013

Attendance:

Michael Lewis
Bob Avery
Kate Flynn
Dane Ohe

Gary Krammes
David McCulloch
Bob Kimbrough
Gary Cottrell

Gary Fisher
Kim Martz

Agenda:

- Selection of dates for September meeting
- Agenda
- Update Action Items
- Other business

Minutes:

WI WSC Face-to-Face Meeting –

- After a Doodle poll, Nate selected the week of September 23 for ITAC to meet in the WI WSC.
- Kim forwarded the information letter template to Scott for review. Scott will finalize and send to the WI WSC.

Agenda topics –

ITAC discussed Terri's suggested agenda prep items. Comments and suggestions are noted on the DRAFT agenda that is posted on the SP site. To do: invite and confirm presenters, set up WebEx, finalize the agenda.

Programmer's forum – Michael commented that it seems there is not much momentum to push this effort forward. Pete's input is needed for further discussion. Questions brought up from the July call include –

- What is the goal of the forum?
- What can ITAC do?
- Is there a place where WSCs can go to get information about these tools – a web site or SharePoint site?
- Scott - computer moderated collaboration is interesting. How do we get people in remote areas to collaborate?
- What is the commitment of resources over time?

Web Forum – The recommendation is to combine this with the programmer's forum discussion on the agenda. There is concern about the development of a new USGS Web presence and a lack of staff with the full complement of skills to keep up with these bureau level efforts. Where are the skillsets located? Gary Krammes suggested the idea of a web forum something along the lines of the DBA monthly calls.

IPDS – Is this a topic we want to put on the agenda? Kate suggested hearing highlights about IPDS, and Michael commented that he is interested in this as a topic from a Center perspective. Michael also commented that since the Office of Communications is steering this effort, perhaps Barbara Wainman should be invited to be part of the conversation. Michael commented that if the SPN is not going to use IPDS, then what is the point of having it? He asked if this falls under the purview of ITAC with David McCulloch agreeing. ITAC's recommendation was to have IPDS as a topic if we need to fill space on the agenda.

NWIS Vision – Dane will update on the Vision during the Town Hall and would like additional time on the agenda.

AQUARIUS – How much time does Joe need?

Mobile Computing – Gary would like to do a short update during the Town Hall meeting as well as have about 45 minutes of regular meeting time. Combine with Special Projects.

Stream View – Nate to contact Jared Criscuolo for an update on work he has completed to date.

Cloud Hosting – Will Paul or Tim address this? Michael asked Bob Avery if we should talk about virtualization. Bob commented that virtualization is only one piece of cloud computing. Michael is interested in learning more to address concerns that centers may have. Does ITAC have any concerns / questions and how do we address these? Kate suggested that maybe ITAC should pull its questions together so that they can be addressed higher up. This affects Water across the board. How do we have success with the cloud when our network is brittle? A comment was made that we are getting dragged along without practical consideration of the issues that already exist. It may be a challenge or some WSCs to get to the cloud. Bob Avery commented that the noted issues are what the cloud is trying to resolve. David McCulloch added that another concern that needs addressing is maintaining IT support. There is limited ability to keep staff trained. A commitment to have staff and skills maintained at a certain level is needed. **ACTION** -- David and Bob Avery will draft questions/concerns we would like Paul to address about the cloud initiative.

Mobile Applications Framework – Lorna update. Terri will invite.

Archiving Electronic Data – Kate talked to Jim Kolva about the archiving and common file management. The team is very close to a framework structure. The various members have been tasked with filling in boxes for naming conventions etc. Jim will be talking with AI in late Sept or early October about this. Think he is at a good point where he can give ITAC an update. Find 15-20 minutes on the agenda for this.

Inventory of geotagged photos – On hold

Data center reduction – Michael suggested having Paul address this during the Town Hall.

WI WSC Presentations – Nate to decide

From the July meeting –*Supergages* – Nate asked if the idea of supergages (which would be a multidisciplinary effort) has ever been a topic for ITAC. Nate added that in Wisconsin, there is an active set of folks running novel programs with Campbell Scientific Software, and he assumes that other WSCs are doing this as well. This fits in with the programmer's forum as well. Terri asked if Nate if he knows of someone that can give a presentation to ITAC. Nate responded that we can line someone up to give a talk.

WiM and CIDA Projects – Nate will decide topics

Member Rotations – Bob Kimbrough and Pete Cinotto will be rotating off of ITAC in December. Bob suggested that he and Pete start thinking of nominees for the September meeting.

Review/update of Action Items –

Updates from today's discussions will be posted to the ITAC SharePoint site.

Next Call – September 18, 2013

New Business –

No new business

ACTION – Set up a Doodle poll to determine best dates for a September face-to-face meeting. **DONE – The meeting will be held September 24-26, 2013.**

ACTION – Confirm presenters, WI WSC presentation topics, and finalize agenda