

September 28, 2009: Cost Estimation Technical Review Team Meeting

Members present: Mike Jenkins  
Joe Weber

Other attendees:

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Mike stated that there was a conference call earlier to discuss mission and goals, objectives, and the ballot items related to cost estimation and so those activities would be minimal for this meeting.

Pitch for new membership. This is not an election year for this TAG so Mike will continue as coordinator with Marc Connolly of New York remaining as the Assistant TAG Coordinator.

Review the agenda.

Mission statement reviewed and no changes were recommended.

Short term and long term goals were displayed for the benefit of the group. Mike also talked about the list service and web site and indicated he is going to try to make a concerted effort to boost user involvement on those two different media options. He envisions sharing of cost sheets and other estimate related information between cost estimators.

The status of the cost estimating TRT was presented. All desired functionality has been identified for all phases of project development. The intent is to follow the estimating guidelines as written by TCCE. A comprehensive requirements document has been developed which will be presented to the TTF at their November meeting.

Mike pitched a solicitation for membership to the Cost Estimating TRT for document review and finalization. There have been vacancies and therefore they are actively seeking members.

Louisiana asked about the time commitment to the TRT. Mike explained the face-to-face meetings, which are infrequent. The teleconferences involve designating action items to the membership. Mike estimates that the time commitment is about 5-10% of his workload. Sometimes the time commitment is not as intense; dependant on the stage of development and the number of members.

The TRT is focusing on all areas of cost estimating, including:

- Parametric
- Scope Vs. Cost
- Snapshots
- Life Cycle Costs

Resumes should be submitted to Cheri Sylvester, the TTF member who currently chairs the TRT. Agency approval is a requirement, and the TTF will then select members from the interested parties. The desired size of the TRT is 9 members.

Resolution made by Proposal through Award TAG – presented at the 2008 TUG. This resolution was explained by Mike to the group. The resolution content is:

“Whereas, there is an identified need to share data beyond the confines of geographical boundaries;

And whereas, the various Technical Review Teams and TAGs solicited agree that this need could be facilitated via minor modifications to the web Trns.port database;

And whereas, these modifications can be leveraged in the long-term for yet to be identified purposes;

Let it hereby be resolved that the Trns•port Task Force and product specific Technical Review Teams determine the appropriate method of collecting and housing shared data across geographical boundaries.”

The intent is to create a means by which agencies can compare bid prices beyond the confines of their state. With national codes for classifying items, it will theoretically allow for items to be rolled together across regions for various functions such as bid analysis, market analysis, etc. The current resolution only defines the foundation to do the analysis; the fields are being added to the wT database now as place holders.

Q. Nassar inquired if this is an optional feature. Yes it is optional – the agencies can utilize the fields for sharing data or they do not have to. The only stipulation is that they cannot alter the values in these newly created code tables, since the intended use is standardization among agencies.

The recommended codes will be sent out to the relevant TAGs for review and comment – feedback is welcomed and hopefully will result in a consensus of how these classifications should be defined.

Sarah from AECOM gave a presentation and explanation of Tracer.

Considerable discussion of the gaps that exist among the current software offerings for cost estimation as related to the guidelines that the TCCE is developing. Risk and escalation are a big concern and the TRT has addressed that in their requirements for a new estimating software solution.

Break

Jim Patton from InfoTech gave a demonstration of CES and Estimator utilizing web services to retrieve data from other sources, including wT and also accessing scatter plots from DSS data or bid tab analysis features of BidX.

Review of action items: Soliciting for new members is the only current action items – for both the CE Tag and the TRT.

Joe Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Fowler seconded.

Motion carried – meeting adjourned