

TUG Board/TAG Coordinators - Meeting Minutes

Date: July 31, 2009
Time: 10:30am to 12:00pm EST
Location: Teleconference

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1. Attendees

Bob Lewis – Construction TAG
Thane Mitchell – IT TAG
Marcita Wade – IT TAG
Turner Bond – Contract Monitoring TAG
Steve Heller – Contract Monitoring TAG
Jim Ferguson – CRLMS TAG
Dave Bernard – Materials TAG
Mark Higdon – Materials TAG
Mike Jenkins – Cost Estimation TAG
Marc Connolly – Cost Estimation TAG

Roger Bierbaum – Pre-Construction TAG
Janet Wastenev – Field Management TAG
Don Grayson – TTF
Melanie Douglass - TTF
Sheri Meyerhoff – TUG Board Chair
Kathy James - TUG Board Secr/Treasurer
Tony Bianchi – AASHTO

2. Topics

2.1 TUG report

2.1.1 June TTF Meeting

Sheri reported that she did not receive any questions or concerns from the TTF concerning the March 2009 TUG Report. It was decided that the TRT Chairs would attend the TUG Board / TAG Coordinators meeting and provide updates on the TRT's. As a result of a request from the CRLMS TAG, it was decided that after beta testing results are received, the TTF will review and post them on Cloverleaf. The TTF will notify the TUG Chair when they are posted so that a notice can be sent out to the TUG community by the TUG Chair.

*See the attached report from the June TTF meeting.

2.2 TAG Coordinators – questions for the TTF

2.3.1 IT TAG

Thane Mitchell reported that there were no comments or questions from the IT TAG.

Marcita Wade asked whether there was discussion of incorporating Active Directory (AD) into the Pre-Construction module. Don Grayson reported that AD would not be in the next release, but will be an option in the future. This feature could be moved up the priority list through agency funding. Jim Ferguson asked for an estimate on what funding it would take to move this up as a priority as there seems to be a lot of agencies interested in this. Don will take our comments to the TTF. Tony reported that the TTF was meeting in 2 weeks and perhaps this topic could be put on the agenda if the TTF desired.

There was also some discussion of getting this topic on the ballot. Sheri reported that there was going to be a meeting later that day (1:00pm EST) to discuss balloting. Don recommended that the Technical TRT develop some user stories

to get into the backlog. Sheri recommended that Marcita send her information/needs to Don Grayson.

2.3.2 Construction TAG

Bob Lewis reported no questions or comments from the Construction Tag.

2.3.3 Contract Monitoring TAG

Turner Bond reported that the Contract Monitoring TAG is currently in the process of collecting information on how people are using the module with the intentions of developing a Best Practices document. Turner asked who he should contact for questions regarding quarry and materials data (wTrns•Port and client/server). It was recommended that he contact Tim Lindberg (Materials TRT chair).

2.3.4 Cost Estimation TAG

Mike Jenkins asked that agendas for TAG sessions be published so that there is no overlap between the TAG sessions and the Break-out sessions. The TAG Coordinators can contact the TRT Chairpersons. Otherwise, there were no questions or comments from the Cost Estimation TAG.

2.3.5 Materials TAG

Dave Bernard reported that there were no questions or comments from the Materials TAG.

2.3.6 Pre-Construction TAG

Roger Bierbaum reported that there were no comments or questions from the Pre-Construction TAG.

2.3.7 Field Management TAG

Janet Wastenev reported that there were no comments or questions from the Field Management TAG.

2.3.8 CRLMS TAG

Jim Ferguson reported that external access is a priority for the CRLMS TAG. Jim asked whether the timeline of other wT modules (i.e. Construction) would be affected by the financial situation faced by agencies. Tony reported that recent AASHTOWare project solicitations were successful in obtaining the necessary number of commitments from member agencies for two other new product development efforts (Turbo Relocation and DARWin-ME). In addition, the Special Committee on Joint Development (SCOJD) is actively involved in working with the AASHTO Project Office staff (AASHTOWare program) to look at different funding mechanisms for not only the anticipated web Trns•port development efforts, but all AASHTO development projects. The order of the anticipated use of funds for the web Trns•port development efforts is as follows: 1) existing license fee revenue (similar to the web Trns•port Preconstruction project), 2) project solicitation (example – Trns•port CRLMS), and 3) other

methods as currently being reviewed by SCOJD. It is anticipated that the web Trns•port Construction and Materials project solicitations (combined into one solicitation) will be released in the January/February 2010 timeframe.

Mike suggested that the priority of what the TRT wants done based on available funding be documented to show that development is being done with available resources. Tony reported that this priority documentation is happening in the TRT's. Priorities are being established by separating 'needs' from 'nice to have'. Todd Bergland will be presenting a TTF Chair report at the TUG conference.

2.4 SiteXchange

Mike Jenkins asked where SiteXchange falls into the picture and whether the CRLMS and/or Pre-Construction TRT's have been looking at it. Jim reported that the CRLMS TRT has been looking at SiteXchange.

Mike also asked where they were at with external access in the CRLMS module. Roger Bierbaum reported that the TTF is trying to do contract modifications for an enhancement to come out in May of 2010. External access is to include submission of contractor payrolls and subcontractor payments.

There was some question as to whether this would be an increase to agencies. Tony Bianchi reported that there would be no increase to agencies, just normal licensing costs, unless an agency wants to fund a particular enhancement.

2.5 TRT Updates

2.5.1 Construction & Materials TRT's

Roger Bierbaum reported that the Construction and Materials TRT's are hoping to complete scopes and looking at solicitation for this winter.

2.5.2 CRLMS TRT's

Roger Bierbaum reported that Joe Weber is the new chair of the CRMLS TRT.

2.5.3 Pre-Construction TRT's

Sheri reported that Andy Crenshaw was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update from the Pre-Construction TRT. Sheri emailed this to the meeting attendees.

*See attached Pre-Construction TRT Update Report

2.6 2009 TUG Conference Agenda

2.6.1 Breakout Sessions

Sheri reported that the breakout sessions are actually 1 hour and 45 minutes, not just 45 minutes. The TUG Board meeting will be Sunday evening and the TAG sessions will begin on Monday.

There will a sign-up for those interested in the training and/or Question/Answer sessions that are being offered during the Tuesday afternoon activities time slot.

Sheri reminded the group that some TAG's are meeting prior to the conference to discuss their mission statements, goals, etc. Some are voting prior to the conference and some are doing the actual voting in the TAG meeting at the conference. ITI provides support for TAG's for balloting and can setup conference calls.

Sheri would like to setup TAG agenda templates prior to the conference and asked if the format used last year was sufficient for everyone. It was agreed that this format worked well and it was nice to be able to have something to display on the screen for everyone to see. Sheri reminded the group that the agendas would need to be provided to Juanita Moore or Kathy James prior to the business meeting.

There was some discussion on where new ballot items should be presented. Sheri mentioned that most new ballot items come out of the TAG sessions and that bringing it up at the business meeting doesn't allow for sufficient time to review. Mike also mentioned that discussions on ballot items are much easier in the TAG's.

2.7 New Business

Tony asked if there was any resolution on TUG membership for the Philippines. Sheri reported that a proposed amendment to the constitution were reviewed with the TAG Coordinators in May, will be sent out 15 days prior to the TUG conference and will be voted on at the business meeting at the conference. Sheri has not received any further communication from the Philippines.

Turner mentioned that one of the Contract Monitoring TAG's discussions has included a possibility of changing the name of the TAG. He posed a question on anyone's thoughts on having a different TAG for agencies using DSS not for collusion detection, but rather for historical reporting or prediction of bid item prices. He wanted to get feedback prior to sending out a questionnaire to their TAG members. There were no comments from the group.

Turner also mentioned that he talked to developers at SAS regarding an OS (Operating System) neutral platform and SAS reported that they are doing some web development using Adobe Flex.

Jim Ferguson asked if there had been letters of reappointment for TTF staff. Tony reported that an announcement cannot be made until the individual(s) accept. Tony was able to report that John Riedl had resigned. Jim would like to have a current list of members so that he can update the TUG website. Tony will follow-up with Jim on getting this list.

Meeting adjourned.