

Excom Meeting – February 11, 2010

Participants:

Karl Benedict
James Frew
Michael Goodman
Patricia Huff
Marilyn Kaminski
Chris Lenhardt
Rob Raskin
Annette Schloss
Carol Meyer
Brian Rogan

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes were adopted by acclamation

Website Copyright Policy - next steps

Brian discussed the changes made to the copyright policy statement after feedback from the meeting. Chris Lenhardt asked if other open source copyrights were looked at such as Berkeley open documentation. This wasn't clear from the meeting notes, so any changes were based on the overall discussion. The consensus was that the idea is to try and take what Brian has written and make it a commonly accepted copyright framework.

Brian will “wordsmith” the policy to make it more neutral, after which it will be posted on the wiki so it can be worked on by the Executive Committee as a group. It will be in wiki text so that it can be edited before the next meeting.

IT&I Budget Review

Karl Benedict presented the revised budget justification for Rahul Ramachandran, who was unable to call into the telecon.

- The requested funds would be used as an outreach tool to demonstrate inoperability standards from ESIP Federation partners and to showcase case studies of the value of such implementations.
- The package would be targeted at people in the ESIP Federation and would also an outreach product that could be used for presentations for agency partners.
- The package would consist of PowerPoint, handouts, etc. that would be downloadable for anyone to use.
- The primary focus of the packet is educational.

The point was raised that should there be a review of the draft material prior to its distribution. The IT&I Committee was asked to create a template so that providers can capture the correct information when describing their products for this outreach tool. After limited discussion, the Executive Committee approved the IT&I Committee's funding request.

Outstanding C&B/Partnership Issues

Michael Goodman presented the rationale for why the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) and Partnership Committees need to examine existing governance documents. For the past few years, the ESIP Federation has had difficulty establishing a quorum for its in-person business meetings. It was suggested that the C&B work with the Partnership C to examine avenues to improve the ESIP Federation's ability to govern.

It was asked if there a way to purge people from the rolls. There are currently about 70 active members but there are also issues with Voting Representatives not being designated or attending. One idea put forward would be to charge a modest amount of money for dues, which would be credited towards registration. This would solidify partnership and would also be an incentive to attend the meeting.

Working together, the C&B and Partnership Committees will look at options for moving ahead. The Assembly would have to vote on any changes recommended.

Carol Meyer suggested that there may be additional issues identified by the strategic plan that should be examined by the C&B Committee. Michael Goodman and Annette Schloss will have a brief telecon before bringing it to the two committees jointly. The consensus was to deal first with the inactive member problem before tackling anything else.

International Partner Recruitment

As the ESIP Federation participates more in international venues (AGU, ISRSE, GEO), the question has been raised whether the Federation should actively recruit international partners. Such an inquiry was received by Rob Raskin, who represented the ESIP Federation at an Eco-Informatics meeting sponsored by EPA. The Europeans in attendance were interested in joining the ESIP Federation but were concerned that it is too focused on domestic US activities.

The ESIP Federation would face a number of challenges if it were to support international membership. The infrastructure for it scommunications (web meetings, video conferencing, telecons) would have to be enhanced. Would it make more sense to seed a European ESIP-like organization? The Executive Committee consensus was that it continues to welcome international participation and outreach in international venues. The Executive Committee believes it should solve its existing partnership problems before actively recruiting intenrational participation. In the end, the Executive Committee consensus suggested that the ESIP Federation should continue to do outreach in international venues as a way to promote the organization. If international memberships result from that, then it's a bonus. Instead, the focus should be on promoting the ESIP Federation, what it does and the work of its partners in these venues.

The Committee discussion potential paths forward, including a possible partnership with other organizations (e.g. ESA). The Air Quality Working Group (by virtue of its GEO activities) increasingly has international participation.

The Executive Committee suggested that its website and outreach materials be reviewed to ensure that they are more global in nature. Any future development of materials should follow this same principle.

Summer Meeting

Carol gave a short synopsis of progress to date.

- The Visioneers have met twice and is putting together the template for the meeting.
- The Visioneers asked the Executive Committee to bless the proposed theme of “Energy and Climate”. This was passed by acclamation.
- The Visioneers also would like the Executive Committee to identify locations for future summer meetings for the next three years. A request will be sent to esip-all asking for summer meeting hosts.
- We are currently are soliciting speaker names. These suggestions should go through Carol.
- There is a need to create a meeting template in order to help with pre and post meeting objectives.

The next visioneers meeting is on Monday, February 15. During the last call, representatives from the University of Tennessee and Northrop Grumman were present.

Short Course for Data Stewardship - Update

The conversation is continuing with NOAA for conducting a Data Stewardship short course in June 2011. Scott Hausman (NOAA/NCDC) has been named the point person and a plan is being formulated on how to move forward.

Other Business

NOAA has announced that it's forming a new climate service. It was suggested that we invite a speaker to talk about this at the summer meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM.