Exchange Network Governance Activity Summary

Environmental Information eXchange Network

June 2012

CONTENTS

This summary details the month's activities of the Exchange Network Governance: Exchange Network Leadership Council (ENLC), Network Operations Board (NOB), Network Technology Group (NTG), and the Network Partnership and Resources Group (NPRG). It also contains information related to other Governance-sponsored activities this month (i.e., Integrated Project Team Meetings, Task Force Meetings, Open Calls, Regional and National Meetings, etc.). For more information on the Exchange Network Governance, please visit: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/

Exchange Network Leadership Council

The ENLC convenes a call every sixth Thursday from 3:00-4:30pm ET.

June 28, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Andy Battin (Co-Chair), Karen Bassett (Co-Chair), Roy Walker, Connie Dwyer, Lisa Gover, Virginia Thompson, Jim Newsom, Carol O'Tormey, Andrew Sawyers, Dave Emme, Deb Quinn, Mike Kenyon, John Dombrowski, Steve Schmidt, Chet Wayland, Ken Blumberg, Chuck Freeman, Ron Evans, Martin Husk, Steve Newman, Kurt Rakouskas, Lee Garrigan, Greg McNelly, Rob Willis, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Kurt Rakouskas will follow up with Mike Kenyon and Andrew Sawyers about an EN101 or additional information that would be useful.
- Kurt Rakouskas will work with Andrew Sawyers and Steve Newman to put together a briefing on the SDWIS NextGen process for the August ENLC call.
- Kurt Rakouskas and Steve Newman (through EPA OGWDW) will work with Martin Husk to put together lessons learned from the AQS transition process.
- Kurt Rakouskas will send out information on the 2012 National Environmental Enforcement Information v (Virtual) Meeting to the ENLC.
- Kurt Rakouskas will work with John Dombrowski to put together a briefing on the AFS modernization process for the August ENLC call.

New Member Introductions

Two new members joined the ENLC: Andrew Sawyers from EPA Office of Water (filling Jim Hanlon's position due to his retirement) and Mike Kenyon from EPA Region 1 (the next Lead Region for OEI beginning October 1, 2012).

EN2012

- ENLC members expressed satisfaction with the EN2012 Agenda, noting that it had a good mix of practical content to understand resources to finish Phase 1 and visionary content for Phase 2.
- The keynote address by Ed Hanley was very popular and informative on the groundwork for the EN.
- ENLC members liked the location and layout of the venue, which aided networking.
- The ENLC will convene the next National Meeting, EN2014, in early 2014.

Check-in on Phase 1 Flow Readiness Status

Both AQS and SDWIS are in the midst of deploying the EN Services Center to submit data to EPA.
AQS:
- EPA has completed the transition for AQS to be fully compliant with the EN. They will be shutting down the old flow, which relied on CDX Web, as all users not using a Node have transitioned to using the EN Services Center.
- AQS began transitioning users at the beginning of the year. Instead of setting a target date, EPA began transitioning users over a little at a time. It worked well; no one has been using CDX Web for some time.
- For those using Nodes or publishing data to make available through the EN Browser or client application, ECOS tasked Windsor Solutions and enfoTech to develop plugins that make it easy to submit and publish air quality data. Four states (CO, SC, MO, and WA) have been testing the plugins.
- EPA is working to update the FCD as they implemented a set of REST web services for users to obtain data out of the AQS Data Mart. This process needs to be better documented within the FCD.
SDWIS:
- The Drinking Water IPT is testing a proof of concept on a data mapping tool to map new revised schema. EPA is evaluating the efficacy of using the EN Services Center to submit annual and six-year review data. There is a good deal of promise and potential ways for data types to be flowed via the Services Center. Outreach and training ideas are being discussed.
- The EN Services Center could be a useful tool for the current submission cycle while moving to SDWIS NextGen.

Phase 2 Task Force Update

- The Phase 2 Task Force reviewed and finalized the charter for the subgroup on their kickoff call. The Task Force will meet every two weeks to work through the draft Phase 2 Implementation Plan first created by the ENLC. The Task Force has submitted and reviewed high-level comments and will be tackling the plan goal-by-goal on the upcoming calls.
- The Task Force intends to have a revised draft Implementation Plan to the ENLC for review by September 21, which will allow about two months for broader review, further edits, and handoff to the ENLC for their November 15-16, 2012 Meeting.
- Potential focus areas to include in the Plan are: data of interest to the non-point source program, institutional controls, and AFS.

Carryover Funding from FY2012

- The ENLC discussed potential uses for remaining FY2012 grant funds. Kurt Rakouskas provided a summary of the proposals to ENLC members prior to the call. These funds would be used for centralized services on common platforms that Partners could use, such as a Virtual Node or centrally hosted CROMERR services. The funds will be committed in such a way as to allow for any necessary changes based on information that comes from the Phase 2 planning process.

- ENLC members noted that these high-level ideas seem to have promise and that successful uptake and implementation will depend on the details for each. Prior to implementing these services, EPA was encouraged to check with State, Territorial, and Tribal EN Partners to determine whether there are or will be users for the services.
- There are NOB subgroups working on gathering and documenting the Virtual Node and Virtual CROMERR functional requirements.
- ENLC members expressed support for utilizing the remaining funds and requested consideration of issues raised about the requirements analysis, having a joint voice in how that works, a reality check prior to building the services, and the opportunity to pursue modified or additional work based on the Phase 2 Implementation Plan.

Next Call: August 9, 2012

For more information on the ENLC, please visit: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/exchange-network-leadership-council.

Network Operations Board

The NOB convenes a call on the second Tuesday of each month from 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 12, 2012

The June 12 NOB call was cancelled.

Next Call: July 3, 2012

For more information on the NOB, please visit: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-operations-board.

Network Technology Group

The NTG convenes a call on the second Thursday of each month from 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 14, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Glen Carr (Co-Chair), Chuck Freeman (Co-Chair), Eric Cleckler, Dennis Murphy, Kurt Rakouskas, Joe Carioti, Yunhao Zhang, Phani Eturu, Tony Jeng, Chris Clark, Bill Rensmith, Greg McNelly, Rob Willis, Alison Kittle, Bob Simpson, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Rob Willis will coordinate with the Office of Water to see if they could provide a briefing on the SDWIS NextGen modernization process to the NTG.
- The NTG will check in on the status of the ENDS/EN Browser standardization on a future call.
- Rob Willis will send Joe Carioti the questions on the Admin Flow documentation for discussion on the Program Working Group call.
- Kurt Rakouskas will highlight changes to the WQX FCD and send the information to the NTG for review.

Observations from EN2012 Related to NTG

- There could potentially be work for the NTG related to e-Reporting. Chuck Freeman is involved with some of the e-Reporting discussions and will bring relevant aspects of this issue to the NTG as appropriate. ECOS will also be participating and will monitor for relevancy to the EN.
- NTG members liked the General Sessions, especially the Keynote Address from Ed Hanley.
- The NTG may also play a role in the SDWIS NextGen process. It is still early in the modernization process but questions and issues will be directed to the NTG as appropriate.
- NTG members noted that EN2012 provided excellent opportunities for networking and creating connections between programs and States, Territories, and Tribes.

ENDS Update

- Yunhao Zhang is comparing the exported data from the EN Browser to that which is in ENDS to determine what information needs to be migrated to ENDS before the switch is made so that ENDS feeds information into the EN Browser (versus a separate local data registry). The desired model will be to use GetServices to populate this information automatically.

Admin Flow Update

- The Program Working Group will be discussing some questions on the Admin Flow documentation on their June 28, 2012 call.

REST Update

- The last time the REST Subgroup met, they revisited what they produced for the standard REST URL structure. There was agreement that it makes sense to promote and encourage use of this URL where feasible to take advantage of conversion services. The Subgroup also discussed other ways that the EN can add value to REST services. There is recognition that there are some REST services that do not follow the URL structure. The Subgroup discussed providing ways to allow users to learn about the existence of REST services that provide environmental data and make it as easy as possible to work with them through offering recommendations to help standardize documentation of REST web services. This would include a set of processes, recommendations, guidelines, and tools to help document how to use the REST services. In addition, the EN could offer a place for Partners to register the existence of those services.
- The next steps for the REST Subgroup are to put together rough ideas on the type of information that developers and consumers would want to see in a set of documentation for RESTful web services. Once the Subgroup determines what the core set of information looks like, they can start building a structure for a standard API template. They will also look at the feasibility of using ENDS or RCS as possible registries for those services.

Use of Shared Schema Components

- There are States that are submitting data using ICIS schema that was drafted in 2003 prior to standards. EPA started the ICIS Data Access IPT with the hope of embracing what is out there now to create new shared schema components and use that to publish data out from EPA. Some States want to receive the data back in the same schema format in which they provided it to EPA to allow them to load information back into their system to make comparisons. There is now schema available that provides a basic reuse of the schema that will be used for the IPT through the end of the year to provide data to States. In January 2013, EPA will start to look at true data publishing needs under which they can use NPDES shared schema components.
- There is a set of NPDES shared schema components at the national level.
- There may still be a place for using more shared schema components for ICIS for data publishing. This could be a place where REST services could be used with smaller schemas specific to a particular set of data.
- The NTG discussed the possibility of creating a lookup table schema that would use the same schema across multiple systems instead of a separate schema for each one. It would be useful to document this for the Data

Access IPT. The NTG could help contribute to an IPT discussion of potential use cases prior to moving forward with schema development.

- The FCD for outbound services should be reviewed.

WQX FCD Update

- There was a minor change made to the WQX FCD. The change impacts the maximum file size and requires submitters to include the element ResultStatusIdentifier. There were no changes made to the WQX XSD. The FCD was revised to 2.1b.
- Kurt Rakouskas will highlight changes to the WQX FCD and send the information to the NTG for review.

Next Call: July 12, 2012

For more information on the NTG, please visit: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-technology-group.

Network Partnership and Resources Group

The NPRG convenes a call on the first Thursday of each month from 2:30-4:00pm ET.

June 7, 2012

The June 7 NPRG call was cancelled.

Next Call: July 5, 2012

For more information on the NPRG, please visit: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-partnership-and-resources-group.

Drinking Water Integrated Project Team

The DW IPT convenes a call on the fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00-2:30pm ET. The IPT held one call in June.

June 28, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:
- The next DW IPT call, scheduled for July 26, will focus on the outcomes from the CMD Mapping Pilot.
- EPA will provide a summary of the pilot process, including feedback from the pilot participants, the week of July 10 for IPT review prior to the next call.
- EPA will update the IPT on the ICR mapping process during the next call and confirm if participants can choose to use the CMD schema to satisfy data submission requirements recognizing that will not be the official format for data submission for this round.
- EPA report on updated documentation on data QA and loading on the EPA side of the data submission process.

Pilot Process Update

- The Pilot will conclude on June 29. EPA will then focus on data processing at EPA.
- An assessment questionnaire was distributed to all of the pilot participants to gather information on the mapping tool and potential training needs to continue using the tool with all States.
    - Early feedback identified the need for training webinars and a long-term help desk for primacy agencies to use when mapping their data.
    - Pilot states appear to agree that MapForce is a good tool for automating XML file creation.
- The assessment is due back to EPA by July 2. Pravin Rana will work with Indus to summarize the information gathered by July 10. The summary will include detailed results, next steps, and potential cost scenarios for IPT review.

ICR Mapping Update

- The current ICR expires in 2013 and EPA Standards and Risk Management expects to send the request for data in mid-July 2012.
- Open-environment.org's Doug Timms is working on several changes to the DET based on information required for the ICR.
- Based on the current timeline, it will not be possible to revise the DET and get approval from the DW IPT in time to require States to use the schema to send data for this round. It was useful, however, to get an understanding for future ICRs.
    - For this round, Grantees will submit using tools built into SDWIS State and other reporting mechanisms as they have in the past.
- EPA is developing the next ICR based on the information gathered from this process. Additional time will be spent revising the ICR to be more specific on the data fields requested.
    - A number of data elements mapped one-to-one between the ICR and SDWIS v3.0 (and the CMD DET), but there were some that did not match and will require more information.
    - Some of the data elements in the request are difficult to identify in the XML schema (e.g., treatment information).
- A question was asked about States submitting ICR data using the schema if they choose to go that route and EPA noted they would investigate and report back on the July 26 call.
- For States just starting to use electronic records, the CMD is really the "vision of the future" for data elements that were never required by SDWIS reporting. States noted that keeping the number of required fields to a minimum in the ICR would be very helpful as the data may not exist or may be housed in other systems.

Architecture and Business Rules

- The pilot has focused on States' ability to generate the XML file but is now switching to EPA's ability to accept the data.
- EPA met with INDUS to talk about how the data will flow through the EN into CDX and to the new EPA Data Warehouse for CMD. They are still investigating the options for business rules for CDX and submitting data directly to the Data Warehouse.
- INDUS will work on updating the documentation for the CMD (including the FCD) for review on the July 26 call.

Next Call: July 26, 2012

Greenhouse Gas Integrated Project Team

SUMMARY:

In lieu of a conference call, members were provided an update of the ongoing work and an announcement of a hiatus of the GHG IPT until ongoing work makes sufficient progress. The update included:

- EPA is currently working towards the launch of the final reporting period for the 2011 Reporting Year, which will add 12 new source categories to the data collected under the program and to the XML schema.
- Colorado and EPA continue to explore the most efficient and practical mechanism to automate the exchange of information between EPA and interested parties. EPA is currently planning on importing non-CBI GHG data into EPA's Envirofacts, which will open up the possibility of using existing services to satisfy the exchange requirements. Colorado is exploring the feasibility of using existing services and which delivery mechanism makes most sense.
- States interested in participating and using what Colorado is developing should contact Andy Putnam directly.

As implementation of the data flow nears completion in fall 2012, GHG IPT calls will resume in order to explore how States are planning to use the GHG data (i.e., for co-benefits analysis, verification of state-level GHG reporting, etc.).

Phase 2 Task Force

The Phase 2 Task Force convenes a call every other Tuesday from 2:00-3:30pm ET. The Task Force held one call in June.

June 12, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Andy Putnam (Co-Chair), Jonathan Jacobson (Co-Chair), Dwane Young, Kurt Rakouskas, Joe Wilson, Mike Beaulac, Ken Blumberg, Chuck Freeman, Bruce Jones, Alison Kittle, Greg McNelly, Dennis Murphy, Chris Simmers, Rob Willis, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Phase 2 Task Force members will review Goal 1 and its actions/strategies to see if they are the right ones and if there are any additions needed and provide written comments prior to the July 3 call.
- Kurt Rakouskas and Rob Willis will look at the timeline for the Phase 2 Task Force and determine potential dates for a future in-person meeting.
- Rob Willis and Kurt Rakouskas will revise the Goals to reflect the four themes that emerged from the call.

SUMMARY:

Report from the Front Lines and Review of High-Level Comments

- The Phase 2 Task Force provided observations of where the EN needs to focus its efforts and move to in Phase 2. They also reviewed the written comments and provided additional high-level comments on the full Phase 2 Implementation Plan. As a result, the Task Force decided to reorganize the Plan into different goals that better capture where the EN should be in Phase 2 and how to get there. The four major themes are:
    1. The EN needs to be mindful about "ease of use" and "operations and maintenance." These are important for sustainability.
    2. The EN needs to be mindful about its relevancy to programs. This has been a key challenge.
    3. There is an opportunity for growth and a new customer base of non-traditional partners.
    4. The EN needs to be mindful about technological relevance.

Potential Face-to-Face Meeting
- Members believe that it would be valuable to convene at least one face-to-face Task Force Meeting. The best input from the ENLC to create the draft Phase 2 Implementation Plan was received at a face-to-face meeting as it is easier to have these detail-oriented conversations in person.
- It was agreed that a Meeting should be held later in the process, after many of the issues were worked out, to hone the details of the Plan.

Next Call: July 3, 2012

EN2012

May 29-June 1, 2012

The Exchange Network Leadership Council convened EN2012, the 2012 Exchange Network National Meeting, May 29-June 1, 2012, at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. The 244 attendees represented 46 State agencies; 16 Tribes; 3 Territories; 1 City; 2 Federal agencies; 7 NGOs; and 18 contractors, vendors, and consultants. There were 101 first-time attendees to a National Meeting. At least 140 sites watched some or all of EN2012 online via webcast. The Onsite Attendee List is available at http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2012

The technical program consisted of 75 speakers, panelists, and moderators participating in 63 presentations, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. The Agenda and technical presentations are available at http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2012-agenda/. The Opening General Session and 5 technical sessions were broadcast live online. The webcasts are also available at http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2012-agenda/.