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This summary details the 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). This summary also contains important information related to other meetings this month (e.g., Integrated Project Team meetings, Open Calls). For more information on 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.

There was no ENLC call scheduled for March 2012.

Next Call: April 5, 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 11:00am-12:00pm ET.

March 13, 2012

The March NOB call was cancelled. Discussion items will be picked up at the April meeting.

Next Call: April 10, 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 11:00am-12:00pm ET.

March 8, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Glen Carr (Co-Chair), Chuck Freeman (Co-Chair), Eric Cleckler, Dennis Burling, Dennis Murphy, Bill Rensmith, Doug Timms, Phani Eturu, Kurt Rakouskas, Greg McNelly, Jason Payne, Tony Hartrich, Yunhao Zhang, Tony Jeng, Chris Clark, Bob Simpson, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Bill Rensmith will add his comments on the Radon schema to Doug Timms's review and send to Kurt Rakouskas.
- Kurt Rakouskas will distribute the compiled review of the Radon schema to the NTG.
- Kurt Rakouskas will verify that the only changes to the ICIS-NPDES schema submitted to the NTG were the extensions to the allowable maximum field length.
- Kurt Rakouskas and Megan Parker will work with NTG members prior to the NTG Face-to-Face Meeting to provide a brief overview of topics on the agenda to kickoff sessions.
- Kurt Rakouskas, Megan Parker, Glen Carr, and Chuck Freeman will modify the NTG Face-to-Face Meeting agenda based on NTG discussions and send a revised version to the NTG.
- Kurt Rakouskas will send the updated version of the Phase 2 Implementation Plan to the NTG prior to the NTG Face-to-Face Meeting, once the ENLC has approved the next version.
- If NTG members have additional comments or suggestions for the NTG Face-to-Face agenda, please send them to Kurt Rakouskas by March 15th.
- Dennis Murphy and Tony Jeng will determine who from enfoTech will co-present the "Task Scheduling Starter Kit for EN-Node" and notify Kurt Rakouskas.

SUMMARY:

Announcement

- Eric Cleckler (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) is the newest state member of the NTG. He is a Node administrator and has worked with almost all of the data flows so far. The Co-Chairs welcomed Eric and believe he will be a great addition to the NTG.

Schema Review

Radon:

- New Jersey submitted a Radon schema package for NTG review. New Jersey received funding as part of the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to begin sharing Radon test result information with its state department of health. New Jersey built this schema so that it could publish the information via the EN Browser to provide access to the test result data to the agency.
- Overall, the schema package adhered to the guidelines. Reviewers noted a few small issues including that the schema supported comma delimited parameters for multiple parameters. The EN guidelines use pipe for this purpose.
- The reviewers will compile the reviews and send them to Kurt Rakouskas.

ICIS-NPDES:

- The NTG recently received a flow package from U.S. EPA, OECA for the ICIS-NPDES full batch inbound flow for review. There were only minor changes to three data elements that extended the allowable maximum field length. The schema is fully backward compatible, so the number should be 3.1. The NTG agreed that a full schema review was not needed.

NTG Face-to-Face Meeting

- Kurt Rakouskas reviewed the latest NTG Face-to-Face Meeting agenda. The meeting will be held in at ECOS' office in Washington, D.C., on April 18 and 19, 2012.
- NTG members reported that it would be useful to have information about all of the Node- and flow-related IPTs and user groups that are active in one place on the EN Website. Flows that have IPTs or user groups should have this noted on the flow-specific pages. It would be useful to discuss how communication between IPTs could be more effective and more broadly how communication could be improved (relating to how people can be more informed of the work and to help those groups coordinate and collaborate more closely).

EN2012 National Meeting

- The NTG discussed the current list of technology-related sessions at EN2012.

Next Call: April 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.

March 1, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Tom Beierle, Ken Blumberg, April Hathcoat, Martin Husk, Jonathan Jacobson (Co-Chair), Michael Kaufman, Alison Kittle, Janice McLean, Greg McNelly, Darcy Peth, Kurt Rakouskas, Carmel Rubin, Virginia Thompson

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken Blumberg will communicate with Pat Eklund regarding recruitment of a state co-moderator for their regional breakout session at EN2012.
- Kurt Rakouskas will distribute the REST one-pager to the NPRG for their review. The NPRG will review the document and reply to Kurt with any feedback.
- Kurt will distribute a link to the NPM grant guidance to the NPRG.
- NPRG members will email additions and revisions to the Communications Opportunities spreadsheet to Darcy Peth.
- Greg McNelly will post the EN Browser Introductory video to the EN Website's home page.

SUMMARY:

Communications Opportunities Spreadsheet

- The NPRG reviewed the rolling list of communications and outreach opportunities around the country. They agreed that they will email any new meetings or revisions to Darcy Peth.

EN Browser Demo

- Kurt Rakouskas gave a demonstration of the new EN Browser. He explained that the Browser will make data publishing more real for many users as the EN transitions into Phase 2 because it demonstrates what Partners can do with data that are published via a web service.

- The EN Browser is located at www.ENBrowser.net. A link to the Browser is posted to the homepage of the EN Website.
- Partners can control what data they share with other Partners via the Browser.
- The NPRG briefly discussed ways to use the Browser to promote the EN. They considered ways to talk about the Browser that would present its value proposition to management or program staff in a way that showcases its ability to allow them to do things that would be too time-consuming or expensive otherwise. One idea would be to link video demonstrations of the Browser on the EN Website.
- The NPRG agreed that the Browser would make a good topic for an EN Open Call, and that it should be featured as much as possible at EN2012.

NPRG Workplan

- The NPRG discussed items to include in its workplan for the coming year. Suggestions included:
 - Open Call(s) on the updated Implementation Guides;
 - NPRG perspective on REST and EN Browser; a potential joint NTG-NPRG effort; and
 - Targeted National System Flow communications for partners still reaching completion of Phase 1, and other opportunities for targeted communications.

Next Call: April 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 (DW IPT)

The DW IPT convenes a call every other Thursday from 1:00-2:30pm ET.

The DW IPT held one call in March and determined that the next call will be convened on April 12, 2012 to allow time for pilot testing to begin.

March 1, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:

- EPA will purchase five copies of Altova MapForce to use during the SDWA schema pilot test. They will continue to investigate mapping tools and make a final decision on the specific tool later this spring.
- EPA will hold a webinar with the pilot testing states to review use of the tool and deployment at each agency. A Memorandum of Understanding will also be developed that outlines the requirements for states to use the EPA-provided tool.
- Pravin Rana will update the Geospatial Fields document with specific use cases to better define how the required data elements should be used.
- The March 29, 2012 call will be cancelled in lieu of a discussion between the DW IPT Co-chairs and the pilot volunteers.

SUMMARY:

Pilot Test of the SDWA Schema

- The pilot testing phase of the SDWA schema developed by the DW IPT will begin in April. The current volunteer states include Louisiana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Arkansas.

- One state, New Hampshire, is a SDWIS-free state and will test the ability to map to the schema and submit to EPA for states that do not use SDWIS.
- The pilot test will focus on the ability for states to build the XML data file from their local databases and move those data to EPA via CDX. The DW IPT discussed the addition of testing the ability to move data among laboratories and states, but determined that this type of testing should occur later once the first phase of testing is complete.
- The DW IPT Co-chairs will reach out to the pilot testing states via email with a “thank you” and additional details regarding the testing process. The next scheduled call will be cancelled and that time will hopefully be used to bring the pilot volunteers together for discussion and questions.

Geospatial Data Elements

- During an earlier call, a question was raised regarding the required geospatial elements in the schema. Pravin Rana volunteered to gather additional information internally and present it to the full DW IPT.
- A “plain-English” description of the required fields was circulated to IPT members along with a more detailed definition of both the required and optional data elements.
- The documentation Pravin developed ranks the accuracy of tools used to define the geo coordinates. For example, GPS is considered the most accurate depending on the type used.
 - Accuracy is difficult to determine when using tools like Google Earth to find a point. The interpolation is based on the scale a user is viewing the map in and this can be changed. For example, Google Earth has accuracy of 3-6m, but if you are zoomed out then the accuracy is degraded. This makes the description fields very important to carry in the schema.
 - EPA is trying to require method and accuracy description fields to better define how locational data are noted.
 - Currently the method accuracy and description fields are required in the SDWA schema.
- The DW IPT discussed the document and determined that the fact sheet would be more helpful if it included the top three or four use cases to fully define the need.

Next Call: April 12, 2012

Greenhouse Gas Integrated Project Team (GHG IPT)

The GHG IPT convenes a call every third Tuesday from 1:00-2:30pm ET.

March 13, 2012

The March 13 GHG IPT call was cancelled.

Next Call: April 3, 2012