Environmental Information exchange Network

Exchange Network Governance Activity Summary

May 2012

CONTENTS

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 activities this month (i.e., Integrated Project Team Meetings, Task Force Meetings, Open Calls, 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.

May 17, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Andy Battin (Co-Chair), Connie Dwyer, Carol O'Tormey, Virginia Thompson, Roy Walker, Andy Putnam, Lee Garrigan, Kurt Rakouskas, John Dombrowski, Lisa Gover, Jim Hanlon, Leah Ann Lamb, Deb Quinn, Steve Newman, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Connie Dwyer will send the exact timeline for the FY2013 grant solicitation to ENLC members.
- Lee Garrigan will acquire a hotel room block and meeting room for the ENLC Face-to-Face Meeting, November 14-15, 2012.

SUMMARY:

FY2013 EN Grant Solicitation Notice

The ENLC discussed the timeline for development and publication of the FY2013 EN grant solicitation notice and feedback on the proposed funding priorities.

- The grant solicitation notice priorities are divided into tiers. As this is for funding in FY2013, the grant solicitation's focus for first tier activities shifts to Phase 2 work to support activities in this area. Tier 2 focuses on Phase 1 activities that states and tribes have not implemented previously. Tier 3 includes support for upgrading aspects of the 10 priority data flows. The ENLC supported this general structure.

- There should be an initial draft in about 2-3 weeks. EPA will be conducting stakeholder outreach calls after the release of the draft.
- Action Item: Connie Dwyer will send the exact timeline for the FY2013 grant solicitation to ENLC members.

Check-in on Phase 1 Flow Readiness Status

The ENLC checked in on any relevant progress or issues affecting Phase 1 data flows:
- AQS: Work to automate the submission process is now complete. This eliminated a manual step for AQS submitters, which was a disincentive to use the EN. The EN Services Center is now available to make AQS submissions. Four states (CO, SC, WA, and MO) are testing AQS plug-ins currently.
- Beach: All states are submitting via EN in the next reporting cycle. The EN Services Center is available (as well as the node) to submit Beach Notification data.
- UIC: Looking to develop an outbound UIC service from EPA to states. PA is interested in getting more access to this data given the increase in hydraulic fracturing in the State.
- SDWIS: There have been some test submissions through SDWIS. The EN Services Center should be generally available to submit data through and will be promoted. EPA did a demonstration for states. For compliance and monitoring data, the Drinking Water IPT is working on a data mapping exercise to have a tool that can be used by anyone for data mapping, but particularly for compliance and monitoring data. This will go through the node or EN Services Center. SDWIS NextGen is planning on using NAAS IDs for the authentication method. There is a 2014 horizon for production. They are leveraging the EN at every possible juncture.
- RCRA: There was recent success in pulling data out of RCRAInfo via outbound EN web services. Colorado was having issues with getting some of the older data out of the RCRAInfo database due to past changes in data entry rules and schema validation rules. This problem highlights potential challenges that may occur with developing future outbound services.
- ICIS-NPDES: They are still moving forward with bringing the remaining 15 states from PCS to ICIS. There are 14 on track to migrate by December. EPA's OECA is working with ECOS and Windsor to develop OpenNode2 plugins (one for .NET and one for Java). OECA is working with EPA Region 2 to get New Jersey on board with the transition process. PCS will be shutting off by May 2013.
- FRS: Over 30 states are either flowing data at a regular process or sporadically. There is an FRS/state/EPA group that collaborates and helps users to understand the data flow better and move toward the v3.0 schema. They will be very active at EN2012, with a breakout session outlining the progress and enhancements.

Next Steps in Phase 2 Plan Development

- The ENLC drafted the initial Phase 2 Implementation Plan and received comments from Gartner. The ENLC and NOB Co-Chairs decided to seek input from a broader group of Governance members. The newly-formed Phase 2 Task Force will finalize the draft plan prepared by the ENLC and also consider any necessary adjustments to the structure of the Exchange Network Governance to reflect the changing nature of the work in Phase 2. The group will deliver a final draft Phase 2 Plan and its recommendations on the Governance structure to the ENLC in time for the ENLC Face-to-Face Meeting in November 2012.
- The ENLC received the Charter for the Task Force via email prior to the call.
- Andy Putnam and Jonathan Jacobson are the Co-Chairs. Other members of the Task Force are: Chris Simmers, Glen Carr, Mike Beaulac, Robert Holden, Bruce Jones, Dennis Murphy, Joe Wilson, Alison Kittle, Chuck Freeman, Steve Newman, Ken Blumberg, and Dwane Young. The first call is scheduled for May 23, 2012.
- The NTG discussed aspects of the Phase 2 plan at their April 18-19, 2012, Face-to-Face Meeting.

EPA Region 3 Program Outreach

- The ENLC initiated a pilot project with EPA Region 3 to test outreach to regions. During Phase 1, the primary focus was on IT communications within states and EPA. Phase 2 focuses on publishing and sharing data among Partners and others. There also seemed to be recognition that it is the programs and not the IT staff that use the data that flows through the EN. Kurt Rakouskas held meetings with various program offices in the Region.

Other EN Outreach

- Kurt Rakouskas attended the ASDWA Data Management User's Meeting, which is the annual gathering of staff that manage data for the drinking water program in various agencies. There was significant discussion on SDWIS NextGen and its progress. Chuck Freeman gave OEI's perspective on the status of drinking water during the opening plenary session. Kurt discussed some of the Drinking Water IPT's work during the session on compliance and monitoring data and gave a demonstration of the EN Browser to show the capabilities of the EN with respect to publishing.
- Kurt Rakouskas attended the EPA Region 3 State Air Director's Meeting, which was the most significant outcome of the Region 3 program meetings. Kurt familiarized attendees with the EN, how it works, where the idea came from, and why it was built. He demonstrated the EN Browser and Excel demonstration that integrates EN services. Attendees were interested in how states could make use of the Browser. Given that Governance has heard there have been questions about submitting AQS data with XML, Kurt discussed the benefits of XML versus a flat file and discussed the transition strategy. It would be useful to connect with program office staff through more opportunities like this.

Next ENLC Face-to-Face Meeting

- The next ENLC Face-to-Face meeting will be November 14-15, 2012, in Washington, D.C. with travel on November 13.
- Action Item: ECOS' Lee Garrigan will secure a hotel room block and meeting space.

Membership Transitions

- Jim Hanlon is retiring and thus needs a replacement on the ENLC. Andy Battin and Jim Hanlon are looking for a replacement.

Next Call: June 28, 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.

May 8, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Roy Walker (Co-Chair), Connie Dwyer (Co-Chair), Bruce Jones, Mike Beaulac, Jonathan Jacobson, Frank Harjo, Virginia Thompson, Lucy Reed, Kurt Rakouskas, Greg McNelly, Rob Willis, Kristen Durance

ACTION ITEMS:

- The start time for the monthly NOB calls has been moved from 11:00am ET to 12:00pm ET. Calls will still occur on the second Tuesday of each month.

SUMMARY:

Update from the NTG Face-to-Face Meeting

Kurt Rakouskas provided a brief review of the NTG meeting, which was held in Washington, D.C., April, 18-19, 2012. The meeting provided NTG members an opportunity to discuss the rollout of Phase 2 activities and they came up with the following actions:

- Development of a "Report from the Front Lines" would be a useful communication tool;
- We need to make the Network easier to use – flow implementation is still a challenge for some users; and
- As we look towards expanding the Network and data publishing, the Network needs to have strong connections with current programs and business needs. The goal is to build useful services to make the Network valuable.

Meeting participants also discussed the benefits and challenges of RESTful Services, JSON, and data publishing services that the Network should explore in more detail (or are already exploring – e.g., REST). They also discussed the use of cloud computing and potential efficiencies gained for data flow and node maintenance.

There were a number of action items from this meeting that will be discussed by the NTG during future calls and may need to be given to other Governance groups for input. They have also identified items that should rise to the level of discussion at EN2012.

Phase 2

NOB members also briefly discussed the Phase 2 Task Force, which was recently developed at the request of the ENLC. The Task Force will develop an implementation plan that describes the goals for the next phase of the Network and the steps necessary to achieve each goal. There are a number of people participating from each of the Governance groups, but they are still looking for a few tribal representatives.

EN2012

There will not be another NOB call before the National Meeting. Any NOB members who are not able to attend were encouraged to participate via the webcast, which will be available on both days.

Next Call: June 5, 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.

May 10, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Eric Cleckler, Greg McNelly, Doug Timms, Bill Rensmith, Kurt Rakouskas, Tony Jeng, Rob Willis, Chris Clark, Bob Simpson, Alison Kittle, Yunhao Zhang, Joe Carioti, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- The REST subgroup will take up discussions on REST to answer the questions of what the EN wants to encourage/endorse and how to support REST services effectively on the EN and report back to the NTG.

- Joe Carioti will take the Admin Flow documentation to the Program Working Group to determine if there are any additional changes needed or anything the NTG should do to encourage widespread adoption of the documentation.
- Alison Kittle will have the ICIS schema staff person review the Admin Flow documentation to see if there are any issues mapping it with the ICIS flow.
- Kurt Rakouskas will follow up with those involved in the WQX endpoint change to see if there is any updated information.
- Megan Parker will request input on the schedule time change of NTG members after the call and notify the NTG of any change to the schedule. (*Update: Done).*

SUMMARY:

REST

Bill Rensmith gave a brief presentation to the NTG on REST services including a suggested path forward for the EN and NTG specifically.

- The suggestions for supporting REST services on the EN were:
  - 1: Allow any data provider to register a new data service on the Exchange Network
    - Could be SOAP or REST or…
    - Could set up simple rules for what constitutes a first class EN service:
      - Service must be fully documented according to EN requirements
      - Service must be registered with the EN
      - Service must return data in a format that conforms to a registered EN XML schema (could still be JSON)
    - This would imply decoupling data services from FCDs and moving more toward a service registry (similar to programmableweb.com or ENDS directly)
  - 2: Add support for registering REST services in ENDS
    - Need to formally document how to do this, possibly leveraging the existing name/value pairs available in existing GetServices and DEDL schemas
    - Could optionally expand EN Services Center to expose these services
  - 3: Finish the REST specification for EN Queries.
    - In fall 2011, NTG developed draft guidance for REST-like URL syntax of existing EN Query services
    - Suggest that EN does not require services to use this syntax. Rather, guidance would be for extending nodes to expose SOAP Queries as RESTful services.
    - Suggest that registered REST services can use any URL syntax, so long as it's documented

The NTG discussed possible ways to support REST services including the above suggestions.

- The NTG needs to consider how a separate registry for REST services would connect with ENDS; this could include a service-based approach to retrieve information out of the registry.
- The EN Browser and REST builder can help to dynamically consume these type of services if done effectively. The REST builder relies on name value pairs in the REST URLs currently.
- The NTG noted they have to make it easier for the non-traditional EN partners to register and consume REST services related to the EN. Currently services (i.e., SOAP) are registered either by logging into ENDS and typing in the information or from the Node. A potential registration process could use some external user interface (on exchangenetwork.net, for example) where users could enter in certain information and the Help Desk (or other entity) could then log into ENDS and register the service for them. This could provide some quality control.
- There will need to be description pages for REST services so that developers can use them, for example.
- For those that do have nodes, it would be ideal to only register in one place (versus a separate location for REST services in addition to the current procedure).
- Action Item: The REST subgroup will take up discussions on REST to answer the questions of what the EN wants to encourage/endorse and how to support REST services effectively on the EN and report back to the NTG.

Admin Flow

- Bill Rensmith made some recommended changes to the Admin Flow documentation based on previous conversation at the NTG Face-to-Face Meeting. The most important change was to support the specific record ID (business key) for a given record that got the processing result in the error report. For example, the first warning is the record key detail then the name and value are provided. This gives the consuming application the ability to go back and find a record in the source staging table and data system and mark with activity text. This is in line with the way the ICIS schema does this.
- Action Item: Joe Carioti will take the Admin Flow documentation to the Program Working Group to determine if there are any additional changes needed or anything the NTG should do to encourage widespread adoption of the documentation.
- Once this is done, the NTG will send out an EN Alert that the Admin Flow documentation is available.
- This is written into the FCD for the SDWIS flow already (as it is undergoing redesign).
- ICIS could use the style sheet to retranslate their error reporting into the Admin Flow format. ICIS has advanced error reporting that generates the necessary fields.
- Action Item: Alison Kittle will have the ICIS schema staff person review the Admin Flow documentation to see if there are any issues mapping it with the ICIS flow.

ENDS/EN Browser

- There are two options that enfoTech and EPA are exploring to fix the ENDS/EN Browser integration: 1) Keep the EN Browser database and write database script to and import the data into ENDS, and 2) Export the registration file from the EN Browser into an Excel file (GetServices file format). They are exploring the first option first. EPA will compare the two databases to know whether it is feasible or not to import directly from one database to another.

WQX Endpoints

- There has been communication out to the EN community about endpoint changes for WQX. The changes are pending on EPA's end currently.
- This issue highlighted the larger issue of having a schedule for when endpoints can change on different flows and communicating this to the EN community so that these can be anticipated and planned for.
- Another critical question is if when that change occurs will old endpoints continue to work or will that functionality go away and force people to point to the new endpoints.
- Action Item: Kurt Rakouskas will follow up with those involved in the WQX endpoint change to see if there is any updated information.

NTG Call Change

- It was proposed to move NTG calls an hour later (i.e., 12:00pm ET). There were no objections to the change. The call dates will stay the same.
- Action Item: Megan Parker will request input on the schedule time change of NTG members after the call and notify the NTG of any change to the schedule.

Next Call: June 14, 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.

May 3, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Jonathan Jacobson (Co-Chair), Chris Simmers (Co-Chair), Ken Blumberg Michael Kaufman, Janice McLean, Greg McNelly, Kurt Rakouskas, Salena Reynolds, Carmel Rubin, Virginia Thompson, Tom Beierle, Kristen Durance

ACTION ITEMS:

- Tom Beierle will circulate the EN2012 session assignments to members after this call to remind volunteers where they need to be during the National Meeting.
- Salena Reynolds will circulate the updated table of performance measure comments to the NPRG once she has completed separating them by Governance group, flow type, and identifying which comments are questions that require clarification. This spreadsheet will be used to help guide the NPRG discussion at the National Meeting.
- Discussions at the NPRG Face-to-Face Meeting in Philadelphia will focus on performance measurement #3 – *Percent Data Exchanges Using Exchange Network* and any wording changes to other measurements or potential new metrics.

SUMMARY:

EN2012
NPRG members discussed the EN2012 agenda and identified sessions of interest for particular members to ensure good coverage of all the sessions. Various NPRG members have volunteered to listen in on each of the sessions on the agenda so that they can report back on any success stories, lessons learned, concerns, and opportunities that should be included in future group discussions. The NPRG is meeting on Friday, June 1, 2012, after the conclusion of the EN2012 to download what was heard and share any insights gained during the sessions.

Phase 2
The EN Phase 2 Task Force is currently being formed and volunteers have been requested from each of the Governance groups and the state co-chairs. More information will be circulated to the Governance groups after the Task Force has their first meeting.

Performance Measure Results Discussion
The group discussed the current performance measures and the process for reviewing if each target was met. The NPRG will be discussing the development of new targets for each measure at its June 1, 2012, Face-to-Face Meeting using the targets from the last two years and current score as guidelines. The letter scores that were used in the past have been translated to actual numerical values. The following points were highlighted during the discussion:
- Targets should be set with the goal of continued improvement, but without setting them unrealistically high.
- Some of the measures may need to be revised based on the goals outlined in Phase 2.
- Expecting the numbers to constantly increase is not realistic – some may level off but not reach a "7" and that is not indicative of a problem.
- The group should identify any of the goals that really do need to show improvement and set those targets slightly higher – e.g., aspirational goals that may be difficult to attain but worth working towards.
- It will be helpful to look at the trend line over the last few years and see where there is a reasonable expectation for higher targets and where the targets may be in a good place for now.

During the discussion, the group decided on setting targets for the following measures:

1. Satisfaction with the EN = 5.7
2. Satisfaction with Governance = 5.7
3. Percent Data Exchanges Using Exchange Network = Will be discussed at the Fact-to-Face Meeting
4. EN Availability from User's Perspective = 99.5
5. Work Effort to Flow EN Production Data = 5.5
   a. Making the EN easier to use is a critical goal for long-term sustainability of the Network.
   b. It may be worth advertising this measure as a key priority for the Network.
6. Satisfaction with Customer Support Services = 6.3
   c. This measure is similar to #5 and may be worth considering as a stretch goal in the future.
7. Satisfaction with Current Exchange Network Services = 5.7
8. Environmental Program Decision Making Improvements
   a. There was some discussion on the clarity of this measure and if the people surveyed are clear on what the question means.
   b. The amount of publishing activity on the Network is still low and will remain that way until the Phase 2 strategies to increase publishing are identified – this is hard to measure right now.
   c. There is a sense that the numbers may have gone down for this measure because overall expectations are much higher now than when the program started.
   d. This question will be discussed in more detail at the Face-to-Face Meeting – including potential wording revisions to clarify meaning and additional measurements that would be helpful to begin tracking.

Next Call: June 7, 2012 (Update: This call was cancelled during the Face-to-Face Meeting.)

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 every fourth Thursday from 1:00-2:30pm ET. The IPT held one call in May.

May 24, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:

- DW IPT calls are now occurring monthly to provide updates on the pilot testing process. The next call will be on June 28, 2012.

SUMMARY:

SDWA Pilot Process Update
Pravin Rana gave a brief update on the status of the pilot test and data mapping exercise. Five states (NH, LA, AR, NY, and KS) are participating in the pilot and have been working on mapping their data to the schema over the last few weeks. EPA acquired licenses for Altova MapForce® and is using this process to test drive this software in parallel with the pilot test. Assuming the tool is found useful, it will be made available to all states after the pilot test process is completed and the administrative information for distribution is finalized at EPA. Staff at INDUS are participating in the pilot and providing technical support to the pilot testing states - weekly calls are held to give the pilot states a chance to share any concerns and lessons learned as they occur.

The pilot states are each testing different versions of SDWIS and one state (NH) is a SDWIS-free state. INDUS is also taking the lead in mapping all 443 elements in SDWIS to the new schema. June 1, 2012, is the interim "deadline" date to

assess how much time will be necessary to complete the mapping process and test the XML file transmission to EPA. Realistically, it will be the middle of June before these steps are close to completion. Additional detail on timing will be provided during the June 28, 2012, DW IPT call.

A question was raised about whether any Tribes were involved in the testing process. Currently, Tribes are not involved as the pilot test is focused on agencies that have primacy over compliance monitoring data (CMD). For most of the Tribes, these data are submitted to EPA HQ by the Regional offices.

Information Collection Request (ICR) Mapping to the DET
During past ICR submissions, data were provided to EPA via an FTP site as a collection of spreadsheets with the burden of data processing on EPA staff prior to any data analysis occurred. EPA is investigating whether the elements requested in the ICR can be submitted via the SDWA XML format. While some of the data fields are fairly clear (e.g., PWS ID) there are some that are more complicated like plant information and treatment protocols. More details on this process will be finalized in the next three weeks and presented on the June 28, 2012, DW IPT call.

SDWA CMD Flow Documentation
The following updates were provided:
- Schema: The only updates to the SDWA Schema v4.0 since the last call was the addition of 8-10 filter backwash elements. Additional changes are anticipated once the pilot process is completed and INDUS completes the mapping to the SDWIS data elements.
- DET: Doug updated the DET to make it easier to ready and identify which elements are associated with each data submission.
- Flow Configuration Document (FCD): An early draft FCD was circulated to IPT members for review. Updates in the next few weeks will include more detail on how data are submitted to EPA, reporting that occurs post-submission, and any validation steps. These are on hold until the pilot is completed and EPA has an opportunity to test the XML submission process.

Next Call: June 28, 2012

Greenhouse Gas Integrated Project Team

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

May 15, 2012

The May 15 GHG IPT call was cancelled.

Next Call: June 26, 2012

Phase 2 Task Force

May 23, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Andy Putnam (Co-Chair), Jonathan Jacobson (Co-Chair), Glen Carr, Bruce Jones, Steve Newman, Joe Wilson, Dwane Young, Ken Blumberg, Mike Beaulac, Dennis Murphy, Greg McNelly, Kurt Rakouskas, Rob Willis, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Task Force members will review the current draft Phase 2 plan and submit high-level written comments by COB June 8, 2012, to Kurt and Megan.
- Kurt Rakouskas will send questions to Task Force members to structure the review of the Phase 2 document.

SUMMARY:

Charter Review, Comments, and Approval

Kurt Rakouskas reviewed the Task Force Charter (which members received via email prior to the call) including the group's purpose, structure, and timeline on the Task Force Kickoff Call. The mission of the Phase 2 Task Force is to finalize the draft *Implementation Plan for Phase 2 of the Exchange Network* prepared by the ENLC. This document will include the goals determined by the ENLC as well as strategies and actions necessary to fulfill the goals of Phase 2 and the Exchange Network. The Task Force will also consider any necessary adjustments to the structure of the Exchange Network Governance to reflect the changing nature of the work in Phase 2. They will deliver a final draft Phase 2 Plan and its recommendations on the Governance structure to the ENLC. The Task Force approved the Charter.

Homework and Next Steps

- On the next call, Task Force members will each provide a brief report out from the front lines to relay what is working well, what could be improved, and where some of the hurdles and opportunities are for the EN.
- <u>Action Item</u>: Task Force members will review the current draft Phase 2 plan and submit high-level written comments by COB June 8, 2012, to Kurt and Megan.
- <u>Action Item</u>: Kurt Rakouskas will send questions to Task Force members to structure the review of the Phase 2 document.

Next Call: June 12, 2012