

Environmental Information



EN2017

Agile Design and Development *A Roundtable Discussion*

2017 Exchange Network National Meeting

Innovation and Partnership

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#EN2017

<http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2017>

Victoria Phillips – Massachusetts DEP

- Agile helps the team to focus on the immediate goals while mapping out the overall project
- Training in Agile makes all the difference!
- Don't strive to be perfect, strive to show improvement
- Business (non-IT staff) need to invest and trust in the process
- IT needs to set realistic goals

Karen Baldwin – Virginia DEQ

- Iterative approach, using three-week cycles which delivered functionality that users tested and which formed the basis for the next iteration.
- Documented initial high-level requirements, build on these with every iteration.
- Relevance and utility delivered immediately so software doesn't sit unused.
- We introduced Agile / iterative approach because we had very defined timelines and could not gather all requirements.
- Users really liked getting functionality immediately as well as actively participating in ongoing requirements gathering / refinement.
- Benefits: process improvement is ongoing; built collaborative relationship with business; build solid release management process; resources available for various project phases (req'ts, testing, deployment).

Bill Kramer – U.S. EPA Beaches Program

Use of Agile in Development of the verification Tool (vT) for the EPA eBeaches System

- Project team and Data Submitters have 5+ year working relationship (two calls per month)
- eBeaches System multi-phase development plan is compatible with Agile approach
- Existing contracts support use of Agile
- Volunteer Data Submitters tested first release, were prompted with “Considerations for Testing”
- All Data Submitters were provided “Table of Testing Comments and Planned Resolution” for their use of, and comment on, subsequent releases.
- Tasks per release increased over plan. Releases were subdivided. Time between releases increased over plan. Plan flexibility allowed overall functionality and time goals to be met.
- Testers and early adopters liked planned series of useable releases with accumulating functionality
- Data Submitters had option to wait for later releases or use previous manual Verification Guidance.

Mike Matsko – New Jersey DEP

- Business Process flow diagrams are just as important in Agile as they are in Waterfall
- Select a SCRUM Master that can facilitate conversations about process flow, requirements, and backlog refinement
- Empower staff with decision making authority to be present during backlog refinement meetings
- Assign Project Backlog Items (PBIs) to a process flow and logically group PBIs into a sprint
- Define hours or some unit of measure necessary to complete each PBI
- Assign each completed PBI to a lead individual for testing
- Beware of Technical Debt

Agile Reference Material

- Books
 - The Art of Doing Twice the Work in Half the Time, *Jeff Sutherland*
 - Coaching Agile Teams: A Companion for ScrumMasters, AgileCoaches, and Project Managers in Transition by Lyssa Adkins
- Web Resources
 - Scrum Ink. www.scrumink.com
 - Digital Services Playbook: <https://playbook.cio.gov/#introduction>
 - Agile Government Leadership: <http://www.agilegovleaders.org/>
 - A helpful Agile video: <http://blog.crisp.se/2012/10/25/henrikkniberg/agile-product-ownership-in-a-nutshell>
 - DigitalGov Usability Resources: <https://www.digitalgov.gov/resources/digitalgov-user-experience-resources/digitalgov-user-experience-program-usability-starter-kit/>

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