



MINUTES EGC Open Data Workgroup

9:00-10:00AM
3/11/2014
Conference Call

Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Erik Engstrom	ANR
Leslie Pelch	VCGI
Steve Sharp	VCGI
Melissa Prindiville	ACCD
Lesley Bean	VTrans
Jim Duncan	VMC
Ivan Brown	VCGI
Joanna Grossman	VAAFMM
Ivan Brown	VCGI
Pete Young	AHS

Minutes

- **VT Open GeoData Portal – Build NOW or WAIT?** The Workgroup discussed the results of straw poll: “Should the EGC move forward with building a new VT Open GeoData Portal now OR wait and hope that the State’s new Open Data Portal will support the requirements identified by the EGC?” TOTAL OF 8 RESPONSES. **WAIT:** 2 responses. **DO NOT WAIT:** 6 responses
 - Steve indicated that the EGC had discussed the results at their 3/10/2014 meeting, and the general consensus was that the EGC/VCGI should move to build a new VT Open GeoData Portal now (not wait to “harmonize” it into a VT Open Data Portal solution). Steve told the workgroup that the EGC agreed that it should conduct an official vote (E-vote) on the matter to give VCGI the backing it needs to move forward now. The E-vote is in process and will be complete by 3/14/2014. Steve anticipates that the EGC will vote to have a new VT Open GeoData Portal build “now”.
 - Steve asked the group what they thought. There was a general discussion about how to proceed.
 - Melissa P asked if there was a budget. Steve said that there was a possible \$30K a year ago, but that the uncertainty about VCGI’s future put these funds in jeopardy since they may need to be saved to cover VCGI expenses during this time of uncertainty.
 - Melissa P indicated that she wasn’t overly concerned about VT’s Open Data efforts. She suggested that any State Open Data effort will only expose a small subset of data to the public, and that an Open GeoData Portal containing the full set of geodata assets is necessary. She suggested that the Open GeoData Portal be interoperable with the State’s Open Data Portal.
 - *Editors Note: The current Open GeoData Portal includes “user stories” (requirements) specifying that a new GeoData portal must support the W3C’s DCAT and OGC’s Catalog Service specifications. These specifications allow for the implementation of “federated” portals (eg: data.gov), and therefore would support “harvesting” of records from VT’s GeoData Portal (by an VT Open Data Portal or any other such as data.gov).*
 - Erik E wondered why we were having this conversation since VCGI didn’t know if it





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had a budget for a contractor and/or the in-house resources (FTEs with appropriate technical skills)? He wondered how VCGI could possibly be the “Nexus of GIS in VT” without a robust VT GeoData Portal. Steve indicated that the potential still exists for the VCGI Board to allocate a budget for this project, but that it may be difficult under the current circumstances. Steve said that building a new VT GeoData Portal is a priority for VCGI, and would do everything it can to do an in-house build if the VCGI Board doesn’t ok a budget for a contractor.

- Joanna G suggested that VCGI already has a VT GeoData Portal that works, and that we could live with it a little longer if we need to.
- Steve asked the Workgroup what the role of the group would be during the build. Most didn’t comment, but some suggested that could help select a contractor and review/beta-test deliverables.
- Steve suggested that he ask the VCGI Board (at their next meeting on March 18, 2014) if they would authorize a budget to contract out the VT Open GeoData Portal build. There was general agreement that this is next logical step to determine if the new VT GeoData Portal will be built by a contractor (ie: if the VCGI Board approves a reasonably sufficient budget) in-house (ie: if the VCGI Board does not approve a budget).

Action Items

- **VCGI Board:** Ask the VCGI Board of Directors for a budget allocation to support building a VT Open GeoData Portal now. Bring this to the Board’s next meeting on March 18th, 2014. Funding will support putting an RFP out on the street. No funding means it will be an in-house build (assuming VCGI can allocate the FTE’s to do it in a timely manner).

Next Meeting: 4/8/2014 (9AM conf call)