

BCN Advisory Council
Regular Meeting, December 12, 2006
Minutes

Date: 12/7/2006

Attendees: Joan Wade, Ron Kraemer, Ed Meachen, Paul Nelson, Tim Schell, Connie Bandt, Bob Bocher, Barry Golden, Mike Mietz, Jan Schneider, Don Holmen, Michelle Carter, Jamie Poindexter, Attending via Bridge: Tom Ward, Randy Coorough, Frank Ace, Tim Herbert

BCN Advisory Committee Charter Update – meeting less than 8 times per year.

Discussion: The current charter as of the meeting required a minimum of 8 meetings/year, and the Executive Committee found that this number was more than was required, and proposed an amendment to the charter to change the number to 4 meetings per year. The discussion included both a review of the voting requirements for changes to the charter, and identification of the current-voting members.

(See also, Future Meetings, below)

Vote: A motion was made to vote on the amendment, was seconded, and passed by assent with no dissent.

The second paragraph of Section 2.0 was thereby modified to read as follows:

The council will meet at least four times a year, and may find it appropriate to meet more as events require. At least nine voting members will be required for a quorum. All meetings will be open meetings.

Elections of Executive Committee members to replace Frank Ace, Secretary, and Paul Nelson, Member at Large.

Discussion: As identified in the agenda, the Executive Committee terms for Frank Ace as Secretary (but not as State Agency Representative), and Paul Nelson (Member at Large) Election Preview end this year. Both Frank and Paul indicated it was their preference to not continue on the Executive Committee.

Vote: A nomination of Jay Jaeger as Secretary was made by Ed Meachen, and seconded by Tim Schell. A nomination of Bob Bocher for Member At Large was made by Ed Meachen, and seconded by Tom Warden. Both members were approved by vocal assent vote, with no dissent.

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Feedback from the first BCN User's Group Meeting

Discussion.

Mike Mietz from DET indicated that this first meeting was essentially just with the state agencies, and lasted about 1.5 hour. The group at the meeting named, informally, as the "BCN State User's Group". Discussion at the first meeting included operational topics and a discussion around applications. (Mike also mentioned that DOA meets regularly with other groups involved with BCN, such as WADEN)

Operational topics discussed were reported to include billing system questions and issues and repair services processes.

Applications reported included consideration for a new DOA video site funded by a one-year grant, a DWD application for the Job Center, MPLS VPNs between county locations, a DOJ application linking county dispatch.

The group decided to meet in the future as topics arise, rather than schedule regular meetings.

Other applications mentioned at the BCN Advisory Council (this) meeting included the need to discuss more K-12 applications, access to Internet2, and the fact that some state agencies have not made the jump from ISDN video conferencing to using BCN.

Letter from CIO Matt Misziewski

Discussion.

Joan Wade made mention of a memo from Matt Misziewski regarding BCN, giving thanks to participants for the success. Joan particularly wanted to thank Mike Mietz for his efforts.

Mike Mietz indicated that there is a desire to develop a "lessons learned" document, to share and to identify improvements for the next iteration of procurement.

Mike indicated that he also had several hopes for the future, including continuing to work with UW, support Internet2, and be an asset to UW. Mike felt we should be in a good position to collaborate even more strongly with UW the next iteration, and suggested that it may be appropriate to start deliberations in as little as 18 months, even though the contract is for 5 years, with optional 1 year extensions.

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In the meantime, Mike stressed that we should take advantage of the very good network that we have today, and stressed his thanks for the support that DOA has received from its partners in BCN.

Mike also said later that it was very good to work with WiscNet, that they have a very loyal, dedicated, customer focused staff who do a tremendous job, and that they were a big help during the BadgerNet to BCN conversion.

Don Holmen indicated that he would like to include a “chapter” in the lessons learned “novel”. Don stressed that he was very impressed with the level of support from DOA and the vendor during the pilot, with phone conferences every morning during which all the players were usually present.

Don pointed out that the teachers “hung in there” during the not unexpected issues during the pilot, and are now reaping the rewards. In particular Don expressed satisfaction with the stability of the BCN, indicating it has been much better so far this year as compared to earlier years.

Ed Meachen expressed that we had learned a lot about each other during the solicitation and migration process, and that there were lots of things that could conceivably have gone wrong, that did not go wrong, and that contingency plans that had been made did not need to be invoked.

Further discussion regarding the migration was that the migration had been smoother, especially from an “end user” customer point of view than past migrations. Mike Mietz pointed out that MATC staff interns had been involved in lots of QA activities, such as testing and monitoring of changes, and that everyone had been successful in preventing past relationship issues from getting in the way to any significant degree.

Jamie Poindexter pointed out that numerous sites are using the BCN Internet transport service (ITp) to connect to WiscNet, and that this has not resulted in any additional problems. Jamie also indicated that conversion from the older H.321 to H.323 is progressing well.

Joan Wade rounded out the discussion by emphasizing the importance of partnership, and that it is good for all the partners to hear and learn about each others’ issues.

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Future Meetings

The group discussed and set future meetings as follows (all meetings from 3PM to 5PM)

March 22, 2007
June 28, 2007
September 27, 2007
December 13, 2007

Voting Member Rotation / Additional Participation

Discussion.

The following members indicated that they would be rotating off the BCN Advisory Council, and will need replacements:

Paul Nelson (WAICU)
Ron Kramer (UW System)

(Joan, Ed, I believe I may have missed some comments here, and would appreciate it if you could fill me in)

Frank Ace also indicated that he would discuss future BCN Advisory Council participation by State Agencies at the next Technology Leadership Council meeting, in particular to determine whether or not the TLC wishes to select representatives for a particular term.

There was call for participation by other BCN customers, such as municipalities, the courts and enforcement. There was discussion as to whether or not participants should be active customers, including points that potential customers might benefit from participation with other BCN customers, and the opinion that for active groups it would be best to have actual users of BCN.

Jay Jaeger indicated that he would discuss this with the county and municipality participants on WEAT, so that they might contact their peers to determine if they felt participation in the BCN Advisory Council might be beneficial for them.

A motion was then made to conclude the meeting, seconded and affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jaeger
Secretary