

Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2017
Via Webinar

Attendees

Florida DOT: Kris McCrary
Illinois DOT: Stephanie Dobbs
Louisiana DOTD: Steven Sibley, Kevin Reed
Minnesota DOT: Clark Moe
Missouri DOT: Mike Shea

Ohio DOT: Doug Gruver, Thomas Lyden
Washington State DOT: Jay Wells
Wisconsin DOT: Scott Bush
CTC: Brian Hirt, Kirsten Seeber
DW Clonch: Diana Clonch, Diane Watkins

PROMOTING INNOVATIONS

Website

- CTC had previously been given the OK to begin the website redesign in Wordpress to make the new site easier to navigate and easier to update. Brian shared a rough draft in progress on the screen via GoToMeeting. Among comments and suggestions:
 - The top-level headers appear well-organized and easy to use
 - The site should rotate through several images on the home screen. This is in the design plan.
 - The site home images should be clickable links to innovation database entries. This is also in the design plan.
- CTC will share a completed draft of the site with the team for review and feedback.
- Innovation database
 - A key feature of the website will be a consolidation of the innovations scattered throughout the site into the database. Anyone (including non-members) can post an innovation; submissions pass through CTC for approval to filter out any possible spam submissions.
 - Once the new site is up, DW Clonch will be working with the TAC members and others to gather innovations. The TAC will work to help set criteria and parameters for this effort. This will set up the pooled fund as the premier place for folks to find non-winter maintenance innovations.
 - The group discussed whether putting innovations on the website will make them possibly easy for others to copy without permission. This might be addressed with a disclaimer or instructions to users when they post innovations. **Action: Brian to put IP management issues on the agenda to discuss at a future meeting.**

Innovations

- Opiniator
 - Brian had been contacted by Oberon3 about its tool Opiniator for letting travelers give feedback about rest area conditions via their smartphone ([Government Technology article](#)). Brian reached out to No Boundaries members Florida, Louisiana, Virginia and Minnesota who are currently using this too, and both Florida and Minnesota responded with positive responses.

Florida likes the immediate feedback on rest area conditions, which triggers action on the agency's end. Minnesota feels this is an effective solution for immediate feedback. Clark said the costs are \$4,000 to set up and \$1,500/month to run it.

Stephanie confirmed that a half dozen states use it and really like it, and Illinois is considering it. **Action: Brian to add Opiniator the innovations database.**
 - Vehicle cameras for asset management
 - Diana attended the DBi Infrastructure Management Symposium in Atlanta and saw Paul Carlson from Texas A&M Transportation Institute give a presentation, "Robotic Eyes in Your Truck":

At Texas A&M, sensors used for automated vehicles are being re purposed for highway asset management. The presentation describes how geo-coded machine vision technology is being combined with crowd sourcing strategies to develop a new way to inventory assets and keep the data current with relatively little effort.

Carlson might be a good speaker for the group, and might also be a good way to involve Texas DOT.

Upcoming Presentation Opportunities

- Recent presentations by No Boundaries members:
 - Todd Rowley – National Roadside Vegetation Management Association meeting. Todd reported that this presentation went well. He asked the association to link to our website.
 - Mike – Clear Roads meeting. During this meeting, Sandy made a good contact with Colorado DOT who expressed interest in No Boundaries, and Kirsten is following up with them.

Action: All members let Kirsten know of events you are attending and she will get you whatever presentations or handouts you need.
- Future presentations
 - Todd Rowley – Accelerated Bridge Construction – December 2017
 - Diana – APWA Snow Conference - May 2018
 - Jay – Pacific Northwest Snowfighters conference – June 2018
 - Aurora – June 2018. **Action: Anyone please advise if you will be attending and able to present.**

Action: Kirsten will look for further opportunities where the members can give presentations.

November Newsletter

The November newsletter will be coming out the week before Thanksgiving.

TAC MEETINGS

Next face-to-face

- The TAC will hold its next in-person meeting in Seattle, Washington, from April 10-12, 2018.
 - **Action: Brian will send a travel memo to the TAC, so people can start working on out of state travel approval. (Done.)**
 - It was noted that James Bryant with TRB is planning to attend the spring meeting.
 - Also, Brian confirmed after the call that Rich Reagan (the only poll respondent who indicated unavailability for the selected dates) would likely be able to attend or send someone in his place.
 - It was clarified that any TAC member may send another person from their organization in their place with travel and expenses covered by No Boundaries.
 - **Action: Kirsten to follow up with Jay regarding hotel and travel arrangements.**

Next TAC Conference Call

- The next TAC call will be scheduled for late January or early February 2018. The primary focus of the call will be the development of the spring meeting agenda.
- **Action: Brian to send out an availability poll in December.**

MANAGEMENT

Operating Procedures

- The TAC reviewed the latest draft operating procedures shared before the call.
 - With a minor wording tweak, approval was received from FL, IL, LA, MN, MO, OH, WA and WI.
 - After the call, with another minor wording clarification, approval was received from CT, MD, MI, SC and VA.
- The final approval Operating Procedure are attached.

Funding and Commitments

- No Boundaries still needs FFY18 commitments from FL, ND, NY and SC. **Action: Kirsten will follow up with the Research folks at those DOTs, as well as all member DOTs about transferring their funds.**
- MN is still working on the funding for its membership.

MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Brochure

- Brian still plans to redesign the No Boundaries brochure but will wait until the website redesign is complete so they can tie together.

Membership

- Kirsten is following up with the guests at our last two meetings and other who have expressed interest – MB, TN, KY, MS, NC and CO. Diana suggests contacting TX and GA.
 - Diana and Diane recently talked with representatives from Georgia, an original member. They indicated that not rejoining might have been related to out of state travel restrictions. Diana shared contact information with CTC. **Action: Kirsten to follow-up with Georgia.**
 - **Action: Stephanie will send an invite to her counterpart at Texas and copy Brian and Kirsten.**
- Brian noted that the group may at the future revisit the policy, rationale and possibly pitfalls for having non-state entities join the study.
- Stephanie reported that she suggested to FHWA that it pay for the representatives of the 16 states in the monarch butterfly corridor into a room to work on the issue. **Action: She will send an email to all the TAC members from those states asking for the name of her counterpart in those states.** This might be a future entry point for No Boundaries membership.