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Request For Quotation

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In the

OGC® Kentucky Watershed Modeling Information Portal

Annex D

Communications Plan

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1 Overview

This document describes the Communications Plan for KWMIP. It defines the approach, including policies and procedures, which OGC will use in providing for effective communications between and among pilot Participants, Sponsor, and the Interoperability Program (IP) Staff.

Each participating organization, regardless of any teaming arrangement, shall provide a designated Point of Contact (POC) who will be available for scheduled communications about KWMIP status. That POC shall provide backups or alternatives for *ad hoc* discussions of IP issues that may arise. They will provide various means for contacting either themselves or their alternates. Participants shall provide documentation of their understanding, acceptance, and handling of the communications plan with their proposal.

Various Team Leads will be designated to assist with the conduct of KWMIP operations. Those Team Leads shall ensure that IP Initiative Manager, responsible parties, and the leads themselves have a mutual understanding of KWMIP tasks that are assigned during the course of the pilot. Team leads will also work to ensure that tasks stay on schedule and any issues are communicated and worked rapidly with management.

2 Communications Plan

There are several elements in this communications plan, all of which are directed to some requirement. The communications requirements are:

- The need to alert participants of events, deadlines, and decisions that affect them,
- The need to keep participants apprised of the status of all participants to ensure coordination of efforts,
- The need for participants to post items of interest, status reports, and software for distribution amongst the participants,
- The need for participants who are in remote locations to provide to IP Staff or other participants with software for installation at various support sites, and
- The need for groups of participants to communicate about and discuss ongoing definitional and development issues and solutions.

The above requirements have led to the implementation of the following tools to be used during the initiative:

- Interoperability Program email reflector (KWMIP@opengeospatial.org)
- Public project web site (<http://www.opengis.org/initiatives/?iid=198>),
- Web portal (<http://portal.opengeospatial.org/>) with the following Modules:
 - Calendar for assigning, viewing and coordinating schedules,
 - Contact list of participants, Staff and other Key individuals,
 - Discussion Forum for Technical discussions,
 - A web-based file upload mechanism,
 - Project timeline tracking,
 - Action Items tracking, and
- A procedure for arranging, announcing, and executing teleconferences.

Each of these solution elements is described below.

2.1 KWMIP Email Reflector

Non-technical electronic mail communications should be sent to the single email reflector for the KWMIP program. This email list is KWMIP@opengeospatial.org. There may be heavy traffic on this e-mail

list, so to make it easier to follow pertinent threads and to avoid back channel communications, please follow the guidelines listed below. All technical discussions will take place on the email list. Reminders will be issued if the guidelines are not used.

Participants should carefully consider the subject of email. To facilitate sorting, email to this list will automatically contain the Prefix in the Subject line of each message: [KWMIP].

The OGC IP lists get heavy traffic. In order to facilitate efficient handling of that traffic and to reduce redundancy, all replies will go to the list not the sender. OGC is currently using the Mailman Software package to manage and maintain our lists. Mailman allows KWMIP users to customize many preferences, for example, you can change your settings to allow for Mailman to digest the messages per day, to receive “no mail” when you are on vacation, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: the email reflector is not intended for exchanging files with others. A procedure for uploading files to the project web sites is described below. When files are uploaded, automatic notification is sent to participants.

2.2 KWMIP Public Web Site and Participant Portal

A portion of the Open Geospatial Consortium web site (in the Interoperability Program area) will be dedicated to communications of the KWMIP effort. The URL and Website Architecture will be published at Kickoff. All initiative communication will be done through the OGC Portal.

2.3 Teleconference Procedure

There are three phases in the execution of a KWMIP Teleconference. These phases are initiation, planning, and execution. The procedure for each phase is defined below.

2.3.1 Teleconference Initiation

Due to the need to carefully manage the scarce resources of the IP effort, a teleconference must be appropriately planned and approved by the IP Initiative Manager. The Teleconference Calendar is available on the OGC Web Portal. Please ensure that the time slot and resources that are needed for the Teleconference are available.

An **authorized discussion leader** must lead a teleconference. A list of authorized discussion leaders will be made available on the KWMIP Participant Web Site.

Any participant may initiate a teleconference by first contacting an authorized discussion leader to pre-plan the teleconference.

The authorized discussion leader must then obtain approval from the IP Initiative Manager.

Approval is gained by sending an email with the subject line “IP Teleconference Request” to the Initiative or Operations Manager for KWMIP with the following format and content.

Proposed Date and Time: *the proposed date and time*

Purpose: *a description of the purpose of the teleconference*

Designated Discussion Leader: *the name, organization, and email of the designated discussion leader (must have been authorized to act in this role previously and must be available for the proposed teleconference)*

Participants: *a list of participants (name, organization, and email required) that should be involved*

Expected Duration: *an estimate of the expected duration of the teleconference*

Agenda: *a detailed agenda, including the time to be spent on each topic*

Approval must be sought **at least one business day prior to the proposed teleconference date**. It would be desirable for teleconferences involving Australian, European, Japanese, and North American participants to be scheduled and announced at least two days in advance.

If the request is approved, the authorized Teleconference Moderator, a member of OGC IP Team will then take over the initiation of the teleconference by entering the meeting information into the portal calendar and reserving the teleconference line.

If the request is denied, the IP Initiative Manager will work with the requesting individual, organization, or group to reach a satisfactory solution to all.

2.3.2 Teleconference Planning

The appropriate OGC IP Team member will arrange the teleconference. The details will also be posted in an area of the KWMIP Participant Web Portal. An e-mail to notify all of the listed participants may also be sent.

2.3.3 Teleconference Execution

All participants will execute the teleconference by calling at the appointed date and time.

Teleconferences should not be extended without ensuring the resources remain available, and prior coordination. This requires that the designated discussion leader keep the teleconference on schedule with the agenda. Obviously, this means that vital agenda items should be covered first in the agenda and, if agenda items run over the time allotted, the discussion leader will need to adjust the agenda by deleting or shortening later topics.

The designated discussion leader will keep notes of the teleconference and forward a summary to the Initiative Manager and the IP Executive Director. The notes should contain documentation of decisions reached, action items (including a description and action item holder), and issues for resolution by IP Staff. The meeting minutes will be posted on the KWMIP web portal.

2.4 Progress Reporting

The OGC IP staff will provide regular (monthly) progress reports pertaining to progress of KWMIP to the sponsors. To do this, participants shall submit monthly progress reports to the IP Program Manager. The status report for each month is due to the Initiative Manager no later than 5 business days after the month's end. These reports will be consolidated into the progress reports submitted to the sponsors. The OGC IP staff and the sponsors intend to provide regular status reports about the program to the OGC Technical Committee, and the OGC Planning Committee. At those times the participants may present interface designs to the TC and PC. Demonstration scenarios and the architecture to support those demonstrations will be included in the presentation.

OGC IP staff will review action item status on a weekly basis with Team Leads and participants that are responsible for the completion of those actions. Action item status reports will be posted to the KWMIP web sites each week. Email will be used to notify Team Leads and responsible parties of pending actions for a given week.

3 Interoperability Program Code of Conduct

3.1 Abstract

This document outlines the Principles of Conduct that shall govern personal and public interactions in any OGC activity. The Principles recognize the diversity of OGC process participants, emphasize the value of mutual respect, and stress the broad applicability of our work. A separate section of the Policies and Procedures details consequences that may occur if the Principles of Conduct are violated.

3.2 Introduction

The work of the OGC relies on cooperation among a broad cultural diversity of peoples, ideas, and communication styles. The Principles for Conduct guide our interactions as we work together to develop multiple, interoperable technologies for the Internet. All OGC process participants aim to abide by these Principles as we build consensus in person, at OGC meetings, in teleconferences, and in e-mail. If conflicts arise, we resolve them according to the procedures outlined in the OGC TC and IP Policies and Procedures.

3.3 Principles of Conduct

1. OGC process participants extend respect and courtesy to their colleagues at all times.

OGC process participants come from diverse origins and backgrounds and are equipped with multiple capabilities and ideals. Regardless of these individual differences, participants treat their colleagues with respect as persons--especially when it is difficult to agree with them. Seeing from another's point of view is often revealing, even when it fails to be compelling.

English is the de facto language of the OGC process, but it is not the native language of many OGC process participants. Native English speakers attempt to speak clearly and a bit slowly and to limit the use of slang in order to accommodate the needs of all listeners.

2. OGC process participants develop and test ideas impartially, without finding fault with the colleague proposing the idea.

We dispute ideas by using reasoned argument, rather than through intimidation or ad hominem attack. Or, said in a somewhat more consensus-like way: "Reduce the heat and increase the light"

3. OGC process participants think globally, devising solutions that meet the needs of diverse technical and operational environments.

The goal of the OGC is to maintain and enhance a working, viable, scalable, global set of interfaces and protocols that provide a framework for interoperability in the geospatial domain. Many of the problems we encounter are genuinely very difficult. OGC participants use their best engineering judgment to find the best solution for the whole domain of geospatial interoperability, not just the best solution for any particular network, technology, vendor, or user. We follow the intellectual property Principles outlined in <http://www.opengis.org/legal/ipr.htm>.

4. Individuals who attend OGC facilitated meetings are prepared to contribute to the ongoing work of the membership and the organization.

OGC participants who attend OGC meetings read the relevant Pending Documents, RFCs, and e-mail archives beforehand, in order to familiarize themselves with the technology under discussion. This may represent a challenge for newcomers, as e-mail archives can be difficult to locate and search, and it may not be easy to trace the history of longstanding Working Group, Revision Working Group, SIG, or Initiative debates. With that in mind, newcomers who attend OGC meetings are encouraged to observe

and absorb whatever material they can, but should not interfere with the ongoing process of the group. OGC meetings run on a very limited time schedule, and are not intended for the education of individuals. The work of the group will continue on the mailing list, and many questions would be better expressed on the list in the months that follow.

3.4 *Acknowledgements*

OGC acknowledges the work done by the IETF on a code of conduct (specifically RFC 3184). These principles of conduct are modeled on their work.