

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
 INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD  
 Meeting Report  
 October 21, 2004**

Member	Affiliation	Attended	
		Yes	No
Thomas B. Collins (Chair)	DoIT-RI Department of Administration	X	
Stephen Alves	RI Senate		X
Alice Barrows	Library Board of Rhode Island		X
Brenda Brodeur	Budget Office-RI Department of Administration	X	
Maggie Dziadkiewicz	Office of Higher Education		X
Ed Giroux	RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education		X
Michael Hogan	RI House of Representatives—Policy Office		X
Nicholas Leporacci	RI Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals		X
Janet Levesque	RI League of Cities and Towns	X	
Raymond McKay	City of Warwick	X	
Dexter Merry	Public Telecommunications Authority		X
James R. Monti, Jr.	West Warwick School District		X
Adelita Orefice	Department of Labor and Training		X
James Willis	Secretary of State's Office	X	
Chris Wessells	University of Rhode Island		X
A.T. Wall	RI Department of Corrections		X
Don Wolfe	Member-at-Large	X	
William Wray	Citizens Financial Group		X
<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>		
Jim Berard	DoIT-RI Department of Administration		
Howard Boksenbaum	DoIT-RI Department of Administration		
Carol Ciotola	DoIT-RI Department of Administration		
Karen Mellor	OLIS—Library Programs, RI Department of Administration		
Gwenn Stearn	Secretary of State's Office—Archives		
Thomas Viall	RI.gov		

**Action Items—**

- The September 23 Meeting Report will be presented with a request for approval at the next Board meeting.
- J. Willis and R. McKay will present the suggestion to use the RSS feed on the RINET-Muni system to the Web Data Sharing Committee.
- The Technical Advisory Committee of RINET-Muni will identify the City of Warwick's issue with this system and advise the RINET Consortium.
- The City of Warwick plans to upgrade its network to include IPV6. T. Collins will present this issue as an agenda item at the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting to learn how this will affect the State's systems. J. Berard will also review this issue with his network staff.

**Motions Approved—None**

**Chair's Report—**T. Collins reported on the following: (1) The second step in the reorganization of the Division of Information Technology has been completed. All non-union IT staffs outside of DOA have now been transferred into the central IT organizational structure. The third phase will depend upon collective bargaining efforts. The goal is to relax the bargaining unit work rules in order to utilize staff

more effectively within the state. (2) Efforts to move ahead with a new RI SAIL implementation project continue. A series of six Oracle sessions are being held to demonstrate the capabilities of the system and to provide a level of understanding as to what an integrated system can accomplish. (3) In June the State awarded a contract to Sunguard to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the Johnston Data Center. The contract has been signed, and implementation planning will begin for this effort.

**Approval of the September 23, 2004, Meeting Report**—This report was reviewed and accepted by general consensus but not approved, due to the lack of a quorum. Action was tabled until the next meeting.

**Updates: IT Architecture Team/Web Data Sharing Committee**—T. Collins reported that architecture work on server and data storage is focused on disaster recovery and mutual recoverability. The team is primarily looking at a Blade Server architecture as its core. The State would maintain two data centers so that the data storage area networks could replicate themselves. DLT is rewriting its Workers' Compensation system. This project has been chosen as a first target application to provide a configuration for the architecture at the Pastore Complex. Similar efforts will occur in the Department of Administration Building, with the same technology introduced.

T. Viall reported on Web Data Sharing Committee work. The Webmakers' group reviewed the Webmakers' Tool Box, a new initiative on the portal; to date there are 24 users signed up to use the RSS feed tool. J. Willis presented the RSSinate application that he developed, which layers sites between the web server and data base to allow end users to mind their data bases and to use RSS feeds to query the data base, with the results being sent back as an RSS feed. He then cited several examples to demonstrate the RSS feed, which provides dynamic content.

- T. Collins spoke about RINET, which administers K-12 Internet and network connectivity. Over a year ago, the Department of Health initiated a similar capability for municipalities that would provide connectivity to all 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island, as well as the Narragansett Indians Tribe, if so desired. Several agencies are also currently using this system for various initiatives. The RSS feed approach may be a key component for a more effective process than e-mail exchanges. Several members of the IRMB—including J. Willis and R. McKay—are members of the Web Data Sharing Committee and will present and explore the suggested use of the RSS feed on the RINET-Muni system.
- R. McKay spoke about a technical issue that the City of Warwick is experiencing with RINET-Muni. T. Collins stated that the Technical Advisory Committee will work with the City of Warwick to identify the problem and advise the RINET Consortium. J. Willis cited the need to reach out to municipalities when they offer input, and get their problems solved quickly.

**Portal Review Committee (PRC) Report**—T. Collins referred members to the General Manager's Report that was distributed for their information, as well as a Brief on DEM's Commercial Marine License Renewal Revision. The Department of Health at the last PRC meeting demonstrated its redesigned web site, which includes multi-lingual activities.

T. Viall distributed and reviewed a matrix presenting portal trends. He also commented on an internal project being undertaken by RI.gov to take a high-level look at the portal to analyze the best practices exhibited across the nation and the winners of national awards to incorporate them into a strategy for a relaunch of the portal in early 2005. Recommended changes will be presented to the Board for review. He reported, too, that Robert Chandler is the new regional manager for NEI. He met T. Collins and H. Boksenbaum and it is hoped that he will attend a future Portal Review Committee meeting and/or Board meeting.

**Fiscal Fitness Program IT Activities**—T. Collins reported that the Project Management Office has been implemented. PMO training, as well as several support tools, are being offered to project managers to improve chances for successful projects. Several projects have launched that included collaborative relationships with agencies. Also, standards are now in effect to hold vendors accountable for their work. Fiscal Fitness is moving into its implementation phase. Staff after having received PMO training, produced a number of planned-out projects, and is now starting to monitor project activity.

**Communications Working Group (CWG) Report**—T. Collins reported that three responses were received from the RFP to bid on the development of a ten-year communications plan for the State, including voice, data, broadband, video conferencing, public safety and emergency management. An evaluation team is reviewing these proposals, with an award expected in the next couple of weeks. Once the team makes its determination, the recommendation will be presented to the Architecture/Engineering/Consultant Services Selection Committee in December, with announcement of the award anticipated in January.

**News and Announcements from the Board**—R. McKay informed the Board that the City of Warwick plans to fully upgrade its network, including IPV6 (which uses an expanded Internet address) in the next fiscal year. The upgrade will resolve security issues, etc., however, the City is concerned that access might be prohibited to others as a result. In this regard, he asked how this upgrade would affect the State. T. Collins replied that though he would need to review this matter further, he expects that there are capabilities within the protocol to address translations for those not yet using IPV6. He will present this issue as an agenda item at the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting. He will also ask J. Berard to review this issue with his network staff. Early in 2005 efforts to develop a statewide, government-wide IT multi-year plan will begin, and long-term needs will be reviewed.

R. McKay asked how T. Collins felt about the fact that there does not appear to be capital funding for state IT initiatives. T. Collins explained that there are capital funds for the replacement of the Johnston Computer Center. He then cited the need to become engaged with the Senate Finance Committee and the Budget Office. That is part of the reason for the multi-year plan, to assess all systems within the State, as well as its critical hardware. A review of criticality versus age of systems will be made to ensure that the State is functionally adequate and to identify strategies for upgrades and/or replacements. This process may show that the State has a growing problem in terms of aging systems that fulfill critical functions in the management of the state or that provide services. By the end of this fiscal year, he plans to prepare a report that assesses the State's capabilities and needs. It will show that the State will need to increase its IT funding significantly over the foreseeable future, as well as the consequences of not providing these funds, which could result in increased failures and not being able to provide services using the existing technology.

T. Collins distributed and reviewed a draft of the Annual Report on Information Technology. It is the obligation of the CIO to present this report to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He will plan to finalize this report for submittal by the end of the month. J. Willis asked how the \$150,000 in savings through spam-blocking technologies was quantified. T. Collins explained that this was a Fiscal Fitness item quantified through user productivity numbers. P. Silva noted that the number used is a conservative one, since savings were actually projected at a higher amount.

**Next Meeting**—Thursday, November October 21, 2004, at 3 p.m. in Conference Room "A" (2d floor) of the Department of Administration Building.

**Adjournment**—T. Collins adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.