

DRAFT
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
Meeting Report
December 23, 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	
Ed Giroux	RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	X	
Maggie Janik	Office of Higher 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
Charlie Schifino	University of Rhode Island	X	
Phil Silva	For Department of Labor and Training		X
A.T. Wall	RI Department of Corrections	X	
James Willis	Secretary of State's Office		X
Don Wolfe	Member-at-Large	X	
William Wray	Citizens Financial Group	X	
Other Attendees	Affiliation		
Howard Boksenbaum	DoIT-RI Department of Administration		
Carol Ciotola	DoIT-RI Department of Administration		
Karen Mellor	OLIS-Library Programs, RI Department of Administration		
Thomas Viall	RI.gov		

Action Items—

- With respect to the use of search engines, T. Viall is currently researching this matter and will present a White Paper to the PRC with findings and recommendations as to future direction.
- The FCC allows for nine Rhode Island seats on its committee. Currently, one seat is filled. H. Boksenbaum will check into this matter and advise on the procedure to follow to fill the remaining eight seats.
- A list of scheduled meeting dates for the Board for 2005 will be distributed to the membership.

Motions Approved—None

Approval of the November 18, 2004. Meeting Report—The November 18 Meeting Report was distributed and accepted by the membership, but could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Updates: IT Architecture Team/Web Data Sharing Committee—T. Collins remarked that the Architecture Team is progressing; some of the fundamental pieces are in place. He noted that servers are being standardized and that IBM Blade servers have been purchased through DLT. An agreement is almost in place to fund a storage area network for the Capital Hill campus. Fiber has been installed at this location, but not yet connected, for use in critical backups. The Web Sharing Committee is

working with municipalities to syndicate data content between localities and the State. A demonstration of RSS and data sharing will be held in January.

Portal Review Committee (PRC) Report—H. Boksenbaum reported on the following: (1) The Committee recommended approval of URI's Online RAM Account Deposits Via Credit Card application. The Scope document was distributed for review.

- W. Wray asked if the status of accounts could be obtained through the vendor. H. Boksenbaum explained that currently there is no back-end tie. Because this process involves a third-party entity that is not interested in performing the required work to accept this interface, presently students can only obtain account status in person. T. Viall noted that in time this application will be expanded. C. Schifino named a tie in of alumni accounts as another area for expansion of this application.
- T. Collins asked how this application would save time in administrative work. T. Viall explained that administrative staff would be relieved of the substantial number of phone calls received during this period. T. Viall noted that a manual step would remain when interfacing to process the money received.
- TC asked how the \$3 fee was derived. T. Viall explained that RI.gov made comparisons with other applications of this size that included convenience fees. It also worked with URI Dining Services to arrive at this figure.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the IRMB was not able to take action on this application.

(2) T. Viall distributed and provided highlights of the General Manager's Report. In developing V3, the new version of the portal, it was discovered that the search engines used for the portal, as well as for many state agency websites, were inadequate. Many agencies are now requesting individual search engines for sole use on their sites. He is currently researching this matter and will present a White Paper to the PRC with findings and recommendations as to future direction. H. Boksenbaum announced that the IRMB would receive a demonstration of V3 prior to its launching in April.

Fiscal Fitness Program IT Activities—T. Collins reported that project plans are being refined for inclusion in a Fiscal Year 2006 budget submission.

Communications Working Group (CWG) Report—H. Boksenbaum highlighted the following: (1) An agreement between the Town of Narragansett and Motorola is in place. A \$3 millions grant from the Division of Homeland Security has been secured to interconnect towns in Washington County with 800 MHz radios. The Towns of Warwick and West Warwick also have grant money for use in populating those towns' fire and police departments with 800 MHz radios. A coalition of towns in northern Rhode Island also received a substantial grant from the Division of Homeland Security to bring chiefs, marshals and state courts onto the same system. This provides for an interoperable overlay for the entire state, except Aquidneck Island. (2) Responses to the second RFP (re-bid) for a vendor to conduct a comprehensive ten-year communications plan have been received but not yet evaluated. (3) All frequencies requested for the Washington County project were granted, and seven of the sixteen frequencies requested by the City of Providence were granted. Before frequencies can be used, adjoining states must confirm that these frequencies will not interfere with those respective states' current frequencies. (4) The FCC allows Rhode Island to fill nine seats on that committee—currently, only one is filled. He will check into this matter and advise on how the procedure to follow to fill those other seats.

Set 2005 Meeting Schedule—Based on the results of a survey taken with respect to the Board's meeting schedule, T. Collins announced that meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. A list of scheduled meeting dates for 2005 will be distributed to the membership.

News and Announcements from the Board—(1) R. McKay noted the City of Warwick's need for an electronic tax system. Since it is not economical for a vendor to write a tax system for just one City, he asked if it would be possible for the state to issue an RFP for a statewide tax system for use by all

communities. He explained that the system could address many different types of tangible municipal taxes. Though R. McKay felt that there were many commonalities among taxes throughout communities, E. Giroux pointed out that there were unique taxes within each community as well, but agreed that it is time to begin to consolidate and consider a statewide tax system. Parameters could be configured to allow for the same interface to be used by all communities to tie into the system.

Discussion focused on whether or not to mandate participation. R. McKay opted to mandate participation, whereas, E. Giroux suggested a consortium approach to produce a centralized system. He cited several examples to show how this approach in the past resulted in success for municipalities. H. Boksenbaum suggested involving the RINET-Muni Users Group for requirements gathering and discussion. T. Collins noted that since state authority is not needed to proceed, he suggested that the state sponsor an RFP to manage the procurement of a vendor or a qualified set of vendors. E. Giroux suggested asking the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns to assist; however, H. Boksenbaum felt RINET to be a better fit, given the way in which they formed its own consortium. D. Wolfe noted that there is not much talent in IT organizations within communities, and many municipalities are at the mercy of software vendors. He favored the opportunity to push this application statewide. H. Boksenbaum offered to bring this matter to the next RINET-Muni meeting on January 27; but noting that there is no official role for the state, he instead suggested contacted members via e-mail on this matter. It was agreed that H. Boksenbaum would contact RINET members in this regard.

(2) T. Collins announced that he would be leaving his position effective January 21. He explained that fundamental disagreements with the Director of Administration resulted in her decision to replace him. He expressed his hope that the next CIO would have the leadership quality needed to keep moving forward with the work that has begun. Copies of his letter of resignation to the Director were distributed to the membership.

- W. Wray voiced his disappointment in hearing this news and asked about the areas of disagreement. T. Collins cited two areas in particular: In the strategy area, the DoIT organization established a role for IT business partners. This group would serve in a customer relationship role and would be accountable to agency directors to identify the IT needs in those agencies. They would also be accountable to DoIT to ensure that resources are sought to meet those needs. On the operations side, this group would focus on agency priorities while reviewing how to accomplish the goals. Most companies have such an applications infrastructure group that report to the CIO. The Director fundamentally disagreed with the need to have visible IT personnel in every agency. The second area involved the Oracle statewide financial system. Oracle sessions began in August to discuss how best to move ahead using this system. In October those meetings ended, and three consultants from Oracle began working to assist the state to prepare ten business cases. It would be imperative that state financial personnel take ownership of these business cases. For this reason, someone from each agency was chosen to make these presentations to the Director. The Director was not pleased with agency staff taking this role. He felt that this was the process needed to get the buy-in needed from agencies. She disagreed and felt that the vendor should present these business cases. In the end it was a successful meeting with agency personnel presenting, and all did an excellent job. However, these examples denote the frustrations of this relationship.
- R. McKay asked about what would need to be done to have the CIO report to the Governor instead of the Director of Administration.

T. Collins characterized his time with the state to be a tremendous experience. He enjoyed the work and feels good about what has been accomplished. He voiced his appreciation for the Board's support and noted that he would keep a close eye on the progress of the state's IT initiatives. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Next Meeting—Thursday, January 20, 2005, at 3 p.m. in Conference Room “C” (2d floor), DOA.

Adjournment—T. Collins adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. with a wish for Happy Holidays.