

UTAH TRANSPARENCY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

November 19, 2013
State Capitol Building
Room 415 – 3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Senator Deidre Henderson – Chair, Utah State Senate
John Reidhead – Vice Chair, Director, Division of Finance, Dept. of Administrative Services
Evan Curtis, Utah Governor’s Office of Management and Budget
Jonathan Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Utah State Legislature (absent)
Representative Steve Eliason, Utah State House of Representatives
Dave Fletcher, Utah Department of Technology Services (for Mark VanOrden)
Patricia Smith-Mansfield, Utah State Archivist
Gary Williams, City Attorney for Ogden City
Lex Hemphill, State Records Committee
Phillip Windley, Public Board Member
Jason Williams, Public Board Member

Note: The draft copy of the Consolidated Report of the Portal, Standards, and Priorities Working Groups, is attached with the minutes. The audio recording of the meeting is available on the Public Notice Website.

1. **Welcome:** Senator Henderson welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order.
2. **Review of November 7, 2013, meeting minutes.**

Gary Williams moved to adopt the minutes from the Transparency Advisory Board Meeting held on November 7, 2013. John Reidhead seconded the motion; all board members present voted to adopt the minutes, the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Finalized recommendations by working groups.**

Senator Henderson turned the time over to Dave Fletcher from The Dept. of Technology Services

Dave Fletcher was asked at the last meeting to provide some information about what was currently happening with open data, and if the portal that is being proposed would have an impact on open data.

Mr. Fletcher briefly reviewed some of the benefits of open data. The private sector benefits from mobile apps and the ability to get live data that is accurate from the government.

The public benefits with an increase of accountability, as well as open access and public research. Open data can reduce the number of GRAMA requests government agencies receive. He said there are a number of apps that are already available that provide information to the public.

He also reviewed some studies that have been done in Europe and Denmark where the app economy is generating millions of dollars. The US app economy is estimated to reach 160 billion dollars by 2017.

Mr. Fletcher presented the “Consolidated Report of the Portal, Standards, and Priorities Working Groups”.

Bob Woolley from DTS participated on all three committees, and he worked with the chairs of the committees to develop the draft consolidated report that was distributed to the board prior to this meeting.

Dave Fletcher said that the Portal Group would feature three primary components. This would enable citizens, the public, and government entities that would be accessing the portal, to go to a single url that would be easily recognized.

Everything would be on this portal or linked from this portal that has to do with open government data, including an interface that would provide a single point of entry for GRAMA requests. There would be a link to transparent.utah.gov and the data portal which would allow access to all kinds of data.

There would be a records search that gives people access to open records and preservations of the records. It would also provide access to the additional resources such as information about records officers across the state.

Mr. Fletcher said the consolidated report covers all three of the documents that were reviewed at the last meeting, and it focuses on the specific issues that are of most importance to each of the working groups.

Senator Henderson would like the report available to the public. She asked about the costs, and the recommendation of \$500,000 ongoing costs, and if the funding level was considerably less, what could be done.

Dave Fletcher explained that the cost would depend on how much the State wants to put into the portal. Some things have already been done, and they could continue to go down an incremental path and to the make improvements, but if they want a world class portal, they would need the tools that were presented in the report.

He said they could continue to improve the open.utah.gov website, but they do not have the manpower to work with agencies to make sure their data meets consistent standards. Archives has similar challenges working with agencies. This is not just a state problem, but a problem for local governments as well.

Senator Henderson is going to support the recommendation. She feels it is the way to go, but does not know how fast we will get there.

Senator Henderson would like the second to the last paragraph moved to the top of the report. It explains that Utah has established itself as a leader among the states in the way it utilizes technology to deliver services to citizens.

Patricia Smith-Mansfield said that the governmental entities they work with have developed systems for their own administrative use, but not with the end view of accessibility. They will have to change their electronic records information managements systems to be more accessible. In the end it would save money and there would be more transparency.

John Reidhead made some suggestions that need to be added to the report. On page 1, second paragraph of the report it talks about open.utah.gov. It doesn't define if that is a current website, or who administers the website. He feels that needs to be defined. On page 3 of the report under recommendations there is a reference to the Open Data Field Guide, that needs to be defined as to what that is based on. Page 5 at the bottom, where it says that State Archives would require the following, John suggests inserting after the word 'require' "*approximately \$250,000 per year for the*" following.

Mr. Reidhead addressed the recommendations on cost. He feels there are some recommendations that may be a phase to address in the future, such as visualization of maps and charts, as well as adding visualizations and infographics to the transparency website.

Mr. Fletcher feels that visualization makes it easier for people to understand the data.

Senator Henderson likes the idea of the overall vision, we may not get there within the year, but it is the vision of the portal and she likes the idea of having the overall vision included.

Jason Williams said the costs of visualization should not reduce or increase the costs much.

Mr. Williams stated that the board is attempting to justify additional expense to achieve increased accountability in transparency. They want to increase utilization of existing data, and then make an effort to show people what the data can be used for. He wonders if designating a website like data.utah.gov and making that website amazing would be enough. He feels the report needs to sell the recommendations to the Legislature.

Senator Henderson would like the report to be user friendly to the people they will be presenting it to. She would like the language to make sense to people who may not be technical people.

Representative Eliason asked if the State of Oregon would be willing to sell their architecture and programming. He also wondered if there are any negotiations that could be done with the vendor that Oregon bought their tool from.

Dave Fletcher said the majority of the costs they are looking at is for the tool Oregon uses. He does not feel that there would be any negotiations for the cost of the tool. He said they have a fairly standard rate.

4. Preparation of the report required by SB 283 to the Legislature and DAS Executive Director by November 30, 2013.

John Reidhead made a motion that he and Senator Henderson make final adjustments to the report, and when completed send it out to the Board.

There was no discussion to the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment.

Connor Boyack representing the Libertas Institute addressed the Board on the subject of visualization. He feels it makes more sense to give people a visualization tool, rather than graphics.

He said that the funding on this project is more important for citizens, than some of the funding that is given out.

5. Discuss date for next Board Meeting: Pending

Vice Chair, John Reidhead moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair, Senator Henderson adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.