

Field Management TAG Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2002

Austin, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM. Those in attendance are listed below. This was the group's first meeting as the TAG was formed in December, 2001.

The TAG Procedures were reviewed. This is the first term for the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator so there were not any elections necessary. Kevin Fox will remain as the TAG Coordinator, and Steve Hall will remain as the Assistant Coordinator. Elections will be held at next year's meeting. There also were not any meeting minutes to approve as this was the group's first meeting.

The mission statement was reviewed and accepted without any changes. The mission statement is as follows:

To support and enhance AASHTO's Trns.port FieldManager suite of software by advising the Trns.port Users Group (TUG) and the Trns.port Task Force on decisions relating to direction, support and services required for effective management of construction projects in the field.

The TAG short range goals were reviewed and updated as follows:

- Serve as resource to the FieldManager / SiteManager Interface Project Technical Review Team (TRT).
- Address issues related to the development of FieldManager release 3.3.
- Address issues related to the development of new FieldNet release.
- Provide oversight for Contractor Performance Evaluation enhancement specifications.
- Provide oversight for Materials Basis of Acceptance enhancement specifications.
- Assess need for construction progress reporting.
- Assess need for warranty management functionality.
- Assess need for FieldManager/LIMS interface.

The TAG long range goals were reviewed and updated as follows:

- Ensure FieldManager continues to be upgraded and enhanced to effectively meet the users' needs.
- Develop recommendation for IDR attachment tools.
- Education of the AASHTO community as to available FieldManager products and the business functionality and benefits the software provides to users.

Info Tech gave an overview of the FieldManager release 3.2 upgrade which is scheduled for delivery in early December, 2002. The enhancement list and the list of error TMRs being addressed were reviewed. Highlights of the new release include:

- Contractor Read-Only Copy Of Contract function.
- Ability to print multiple reports from a list window.
- Copy IDR function.
- Improved FieldPad screen designs.
- Various performance improvements.

Info Tech gave an overview of the FieldManager release 3.3 upgrade. The delivery schedule is currently being worked and will be finalized shortly. The enhancement list and the list of error TMRs being addressed were reviewed. Highlights of the new release include:

- Oracle database option.
- Upgrade to PowerBuilder 8.
- Ability to assign multiple contractors to a single item.
- Ability to track quantities placed by contractor.
- Various new inquiries.

Info Tech gave an overview of the FieldNet enhancement project. The delivery schedule is currently being worked and will be finalized shortly. The enhancement list was reviewed and highlights include:

- Provide complete validation that files are correctly transferred between FieldManager, FieldBook & CAS.
- Provide a complete audit trail via web for files transferred between FieldManager, FieldBook & CAS.
- Provide strong encryption and security of data during transfer.
- Automatically send read-only copies of contracts to contractors.
- Provide infrastructure for future data transfers such as FieldManager / SiteManager interface.

Info Tech gave an overview of the FieldManager/SiteManager Interface project. The Trns.port Task Force has formed a Technical Review Team (TRT) to oversee the project. Delivery is planned for the 2003 FieldManager and SiteManager releases. Benefits of the interface include:

- Migration path for CAS states using FieldManager.
- Increased flexibility and options for construction management in the field.
- Allows DOTs using SiteManager to work more closely with local agencies and consultants using FieldManager.

FieldPad related issues were discussed. Platform issues were reviewed and the decision was made to continue to build FieldPad on Windows CE. Info Tech also gave an overview of the new FieldPad release planned for delivery in early December, 2002. The new release will include an improved screen design which is consistent with FieldManager / FieldBook.

The FieldManager Ballot Item list (36 items) was reviewed. Revisions were made to a four of the FieldManager ballot items as follows:

5929: Have an inquiry or report available for each pay estimate that would list all withheld items, either from automatic (overruns or material insufficiency) or manual changes within the item usage tab. Also add the ability for user's to enter comments for each withholding and include the new comments field on the inquiry/report.

5930: Add the ability to have a force account function to calculate the dollar amount for posting to Force Account items off of equipment and manpower costs.

5931: Add a flag (or a number) to the IDR Report if sketches (attachments) are associated with it. Also add a column for this flag to the IDRs list and IDR related inquires where appropriate.

5992: Update FieldManager locking mechanisms when running in client/server mode so multiple users can simultaneously update the same contract. Currently in release 3.1, only one user can update the same contract at one time.

One new ballot item was defined: add report template functionality to FieldManager.

The following ballot items were endorsed: 5037, 5923, 5924, 5925, 5928, 5929, 5930, 5931, 5932, 5933, 5935, 5936, 5937, 5938, 5992, 5993, 5994, 5995, 5996, 5997, 6435, 6456.

It was recommended that the following ballot items be removed: 5049, 6075, 6129, 6130, 6146.

The following were in attendance (apologizes to anyone missed or name is misspelled):

Loren Lemmen, MI
Kevin Fox, MI
Darryl Millar, ITI
Chris Bump, VT
David Castleberg, WI
Katie Klamann, ITI
Cliff Farr, MI

Gina Museal, ITI
Joe Phelan, ITI
Randy Knapp, MI
Andres Marin, ITI
Vincent Rodriguez, HDR
Sue Powers, MI
Mark Hinnebusch, ITI

With no other discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.