

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 2:29 PM
To: 'E. Marden'; Peter Phillips; Bill Boland; Regiane Garcia
Subject: RE: Governance Committee - Updates

Thanks, Emily. I've inserted some comments in the text below.

Glad that you attended the GB-6 meeting. The reports I've received about GLIS and DivSeek discussions at GB-6 have been disturbing.

Peter

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From: E. Marden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Peter Phillips; Bill Boland; Bretting, Peter; Regiane Garcia
Subject: Governance Committee - Updates

Dear all,

Since we spoke I have had a number of conversations bearing on DivSeek governance and I think these are relevant to pass on.

1. I had an off-line conversation with Peter Wenzl (Crop Trust) and Ruth Bastow (Global Plant Council) about DivSeek. I floated the idea of an executive director who has operating capacity, separate from the JFU entities. Both came back separately with extreme enthusiasm. The Trust, in particular, seems to back this idea, as long as the ED is not located at the Treaty. Ruth wondered about setting up a separate legal entity.
2. I also had an offline conversation with Daniele (Treaty). He himself suggested that what was needed was an executive director, or secretariat at an organization that is not one of the current 4. He stated that he thought a separate legal entity would be a bad idea, but that a "secretariat" could be established at some willing organization with current (or other) organization seconded to help with the operations.

I think this is all very good for our proposal. **Agreed, those conversations do seem quite positive. Daniele is a welcome addition to the Treaty Secretariat staff.**

Peter/Bill – were you going to draft a framework along these lines, with backup examples? If not, I can take a stab at a vision; examples would still be very welcome. However, I would like to start circulating something relatively soon so that we can all comment and then prepare for a larger group.

Of note: I was in Rome for the Treaty Governing Body meeting. The Treaty out of the blue announced that the Global Information System is up and running and IRRI had 'deposited' all of its material in it. After initial surprise, it turns out that IRRI has simply agreed to be a part of the GLIS, but there is no such new entity at the moment. Further, there was a lot of chatter around the edges that this announcement seemed premature as there were still many questions about the terms on which information in the GLIS would be shared. In fact, these issues were widely commented on by contracting parties at the meeting. **Yes, the GLIS is really a "work-in-progress."** Describing it as **"up and running" was surely inaccurate and premature.**

Also, I had the opportunity to speak informally with a couple legal/policy people from the private sector. They are all quite interested in seeing where DivSeek goes. I floated the idea of having an open 'listening' meeting in January so that we could gauge their perspective and relevant issues. All were quite keen. They also let loose that their main concern would be that information in DivSeek could be subject to the Treaty's SMTA, which to their minds, would be untenable as applied to information. (I tend to agree with this. **As do I**). **DivSeek is a voluntary association of research institutions, completely independent of the ITPGRFA.**

I am going to send around a Doodle poll for the last two weeks of this month – please let me know if this timeframe does not work for you. **The last two weeks of October are fine for me. Thanks!**

Best regards,

Emily

On Sep 20, 2015, at 12:40 PM, Emily Marden [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear all,

Here is a teleconference number we can use for next week's call:

Dial in: [REDACTED]; Conference Code: [REDACTED]

This number only works in N. America - so let me know if you are travelling.

I am also attaching the following materials:

1. Agenda and Draft proposal for Governance (in order to generate discussion)
2. Summary of Terms of Reference for Governance Committee, arising from DivSeek Steering Committee Meeting
3. [TBD: background research/proposals on possible governance structures (not attached)]

I am also attaching the following to make sure we all have the relevant documents:

- DivSeek Charter
- DivSeek Draft Document "Operation of the Joint Facilitation Unit"
- Early Draft of Research of Arizona State University

On 11 September 2015 at 16:39, Emily Marden [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear all,

Let's plan for September 23, at 9 AM PST, 12 EST and 10 AM in Saskatchewan. Susan - you indeed do not need to be on the call, but we are happy to have you if you're available.

Please let me know the best telephone number to reach you at and I will fold people in.

An agenda will be distributed a few days beforehand.

Thank you!

Emily

On Sep 9, 2015, at 9:23 AM, Emily Marden [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear all:

I am hoping to have an initial first call with this group (and open to others as I/we try to gather additional expert members) to identify and address the issues raised by the DivSeek Steering Committee.

I will send around an agenda and outline of the issues before the call, as well as some proposals to discuss.

Please let me know if any of the proposed dates work. If not, we will push forward by another week or two.

Best regards,

Emily

You have initiated a poll "DivSeek Governance Committee" at Doodle.

The link to your poll is:

[REDACTED]

Share this link with all those who should cast their votes. Do not forget to cast your vote, too.

(If you did not initiate this poll, somebody must accidentally have used your e-mail address; simply ignore this e-mail, please.)

- Your Doodle Team

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<Whitepaper PGRFA Governance 09012015.pdf><Operation of the Joint Facilitation Unit.pdf><DivSeek+Charter.pdf><DivSeek_Second Progress Report_Final (1).pdf><Governance Committee Meeting Sept 23.docx>