



November 2006

PMO SIG Local Interest Group Meeting - Minutes

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - Welcome to several new members to the SIG (Edmond).
2. Member Announcements
 - Job opportunities (within our companies, industries, etc.)
 - Welcome to several new members to the SIG.
 - The NYC Chapter held a free networking evening seminar (3 PDUs) that was attended by some Westchester members.
 - NYC Chapter has more focus on job opportunities than Westchester. They held a good networking event recently, characterized as being much like “speed dating”, where you get only a few minutes to conduct introductions and learn about the other party”.
 - Tools – Project, time management, specialty, ...
 - ITG Mercury Suite, a PM & timesheet application, was reviewed by Tony. He experienced some disconnection between the PM tool and the Timesheet.
 - Duff is working with the Borland products called “Tempo”, which is like Mercury.
 - GenSight.com is a portfolio management tool. There was a good presentation of this tool at the recent NYC meeting.
 - Articles of Interest
 - Gus mentioned that he is seeing more PM-related articles in Computer World as of late.
 - The PMI Library is a little known source of reading material that could be tapped.
 - The PMI website has a 24 x 7 Bookshelf of eBooks. Look in the “members” area of the Westchester web site.
 - Other meetings/seminars of interest
 - Breakfast Meetings may be convenient for those working in NYC.
3. Success (or Blunder) of the Month
 - No report.
4. Problem/Challenge of the Month
 - Disappearing resources... again. What to do? Need buy-in from upper management! They have to agree on the priority of your project to prevent this. Also, consider substituting resources that are, perhaps, not as knowledgeable or “senior” to get the work done.

Main Topic: Challenges of a Matrix Organization

- Does type of PMO matter?
 - Yes. Discussion on types of organizations (matrix or projectized) followed.
- What are the types of PMOs? Review.
- What, exactly, are the challenges?
 - Resource ownership



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- Scheduling & Prioritization
 - You, absolutely, need Resource Management buy-in! You will need their assistance (and cooperation) when it comes to scheduling and prioritization. Resources may be overloaded if expected to maintain project and “regular support” priorities. This may depend on size of organization.
 - As PMO Managers, what can we do about it?
 - Ensure that a strong governance organization is in place (steering committee, project review boards, etc.). You need an escalation structure. Also, processes. Processes can really help set direction and clarify responsibilities. The trick is not to go “overboard”, so that you end up with the “red tape” or “bureaucratic” labels.
 - Again, manage those relationships with your Resource Managers.

Other Topics

1. The topic planned for December is “Running Effective Meetings”, presented by Tony DelBusco.