

# State of Montana Project Management Advisory Workgroup (SMPMAW)

Response to SITSD request

## **Review of issue**

Back in January 2018 The Legislative Audit Division reported the results on an audit for Governance Practices for Information Technology Investments. Some Department of Administration responses to recommendations stated in the audit report stated they were going to work with SMPMAW group to expand on the reporting of IT Investments (Recommendation 8:Response A) and define/document criteria and corrective action process for underperforming investments (Recommendation 9:Response D).

Due to the audit and responses, April Grady (CFO, SITSD) submitted a request to the SMPMAW to define the following items:

- Determine consistent criteria for a project corrective action plan when the project will not meet original targets.
- A plan for the agency to avoid re-baselining by the agency unless approved by the ITB.
- Monitoring of Red or yellow statuses in projects
- Project Reviews or timelines, milestones, and expectations for the agency(s) to improve.
- Methods to avoid corrective action decisions being made at the agency level & instill consistency across the enterprise.

## **SMPMAW Recommendation**

After reviewing the DOA audit and request from April Grady, the SMPMAW is proposing to re-initialize the monthly SMPMAW meetings, starting in July and would last for one and a half hours. This monthly meeting can be used by agencies to review any issues with any state agency or enterprise projects. Projects requiring LFC reporting would made a priority for assistance. The workgroup will also perform a review and recommended changes each of the status indicators to the ITB and LFC based upon current project management standards.

The SMPMAW is a workgroup comprised of IT Managers and project managers working together to improve projects and project management in the state. Because agency employees are not reimbursed for attending the meetings, SMPMAW can't expect members to spend additional time outside of the monthly meeting to assist the agency unless the agency, SITSD, DOA, or the LFC reimburses employee's agency to spend time on the project.

Also, SMPMAW does not have authority to govern any State sponsored project. We believe agencies are ultimately responsible for the success of their projects and using the SMPMAW as a resource would be highly encouraged, yet completely voluntary.

Thank you,

Greg Smith  
SMPMAW Chair