

**OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ELECTIONS COMMISSION
*City and County of San Francisco***

Christopher Jerdonek, Chair
Larry Bafundo, Vice Chair
Carl Hage
Roan Kattouw
Tony Wasserman



Don Chan, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

**Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC) of
the San Francisco Elections Commission**

Thursday, January 18, 2018

6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 421

**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San
Francisco, California 94102**

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Jerdonek called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Present: Members Hage, Kattouw. Member Wasserman arrived at 6:36 PM. Member Bafundo was excused absent. Also present: Secretary Don Chan

2. General Public Comment

Mr. Jim Soper mentioned his effort in Sacramento attempting to lobby funds for elections systems, and noted that AB.688, which was stalled in legislature last year, seems to be in the Governor's budget in the amount of \$134 million, on a 1:1 match, and encouraged the Committee to be alert to it. Chair Jerdonek asked if funds were available for development or just existing systems. Mr. Soper thought they were, but did not have specifics. Member Hage commented that it would be good to advocate that monies be "shared" across jurisdictions, where software developed in one municipality could be utilized throughout the state.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chair Jerdonek said that all relevant edits have been made and appear to be in order. Member Hage moved to approve the Dec. 14, 2017 meeting minutes. Member Kattouw seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 3-0.

4. Member Reports

Chair Jerdonek reported that the Committee's report to the Commission was submitted to the Commission yesterday. He also mentioned his two speaking engagements (mentioned in the Commission full meeting). He also met with Slalom and reviewed a draft version of their report to be submitted next week.

Referring to Member Hage's documents (in agenda packet), he said Member Hage should decide

which sections of the Committee's document those patches belong. He noted one addressed the glossary, but others relate to different sections. These can be discussed in the appropriate agenda items.

Member Hage noted that one link he provided comes from the Secretary of State's office, is a digest of all relevant election laws that voting officials need to know. It is California Code and copyrighted but sold to a private printer so has to be bought from the printer.

Member Kattouw reported that his proposal for LibrePlanet has been accepted so he will be speaking at that event. He also read the SF Poll worker handbook, which was very informative.

Public Comment

None

5. Administration

Chair Jerdonek asked if the Committee has a scheduled meeting for the next month, and Secretary Chan said that the Committee is confirmed for the 2nd Thursday of each month from February through December.

Member Kattouw said he was available to attend the Commission meeting for Feb 21.

Chair Jerdonek reported that he made the changes to the Committee's website as discussed in previous meetings, where changes will be annotated as "edited at (this) meeting". The repository that houses the source files for recommendations was separated out into repository for the code for building those files and one for storing the build files. This will simplify the management of those files.

Member Hage attempted to build the site using the documentation and encountered issues. There was a short discussion on what could be done to make it easier to implement a build. Chair Jerdonek said he would write it up and Member Hage can try it out.

The discussion moved to the question of how much you should rely on system installed versions of OS vs more recent code that is open source, and compatibility issues that can arise from it.

Member Hage gave an example of Open Count where it needs the developer's version to be installed. Chair Jerdonek said he'll do the build script so that Python 3.5 can be used. He also mentioned that he put up the members' bios on the website.

6. Project Background and Terminology

Discussions on Items #6 through #9 are based on documents submitted by Member Hage (see agenda packet). The glossary includes definitions of terms copied from the California Code (didn't know what copyright status it is, but he can either quote it directly--with annotation-- or add a link to it). He felt it was desirable to have the same definitions as the Secretary of State (e.g. paper cast vote record, ballot card, voter verified paper audit trail).

Member Wasserman arrived at 6:36 PM.

It was felt Member Hage should make a quote with attribution, Sec 3.4.4 bottom page 1, Member Hage added in "other open source voting projects", T-Vote, and Vote Box. He put in link to "low error voting interface" (used by Prime III).

Member Kattouw moved to accept the changes proposed by Member Hage. Chair Jerdonek seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Member Hage mentioned two things he's working on: putting Prime III on the website. He'll send an email to Chair Jerdonek and wait for clarification from the City Attorney regarding running it. He also was going to test out Open Count (but there are some issues that need to be dealt with to get it working).

Public Comment

None.

7. Project Management and Procurement

(Member Wasserman mentioned that he might attend the US Digital Service presentation at Stanford tomorrow morning.) He then explained that his document (in agenda packet) was not intended to be complete and detailed, just major points. Member Hage asked if an elections department could be a user story. There was a discussion and suggestion that a description of Agile be added in the background section.

Member Kattouw felt the language in the document implied that each of the situations was appropriate for a sprint, but he thought they would be too large for that. He offered, "The implementation team would typically break down each user story into smaller stories as needed and handle one of those in a sprint."

The term for a registered voter voting remotely was further clarified. There was a discussion regarding making examples more specific vs general categories. Chair Jerdonek suggested "for each of the situations representing voter, Department staff, and other activities."

Chair Jerdonek suggested terminology for Vote Centers (or early voting stations).

These changes would be put in Project Management right after "...the Department should align itself with other efforts within the City to use Agile procurement..." Member Hage moved to approve Member Wasserman's suggestions, with amendments from the discussion. Member Kattouw seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

After the vote, there was a discussion regarding Agile in government. Member Wasserman mentioned two examples of government using Agile in project management, but did not know of ones where it was used in procurement. He asked if that was something the committee should address. Chair Jerdonek felt it was. The committee is still awaiting materials from Jesse Posilkin. Member Wasserman will reach out to a couple of former USDS employees to see if he can get any more information on Agile in procurement.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Soper said he would be cautious of the definition of the term mobile accessible voter.

8. Equipment Decisions and Implementation Plan

Member Hage noted changes to document "CH181701" on page 4, as discussed in a previous meeting. He explicitly specified audit support, (e.g. Colorado RLA) and ballot batch management (what

process to use in scanning and safekeeping the ballots in an audit).

Member Wasserman proposed to use the term “device” as a more general term that would include many forms of computing devices that essentially are computers (eg, tablet, smart phone that can perform computing functions). This could be added to the glossary as well.

Continuing, Member Hage mentioned two things a ballot picture interpreter should be able to do be able to (identify the base printing and watermark, take it out so that any other marks can be identified and also output ambiguous and extraneous marks and highlight ballots needing adjudication). On another point, he said that when producing a result there should also be a computer readable version.

Chair Jerdonek raised the question of how this component (auditing system) needs to interface with the other components of the election system.

Member Kattouw commented on “audit support software” that randomly generated numbers usually involve a dice roll. To be more general, use the term “save manually generated random input (e.g. dice roll) for precinct or ballot selection.”

Member Wasserman asked if there were standards (one output format that would fit multiple municipalities’ needs). Member Hage said that there was no one set of standards but output would be pretty close to what is needed.

Chair Jerdonek pointed to p.5 two fifths the way down where it says “... [or] to support home printed remote accessible...” and suggested replacing [or] with [as well as], or [and possibly]. There was a short discussion regarding whether the remote accessible vote needs to be automatically scan-able.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Soper said, regarding random selection of precincts for an audit, there is not enough attention paid to chain of custody.

Member Hage replied that he had addressed that issue (but not in great detail) in his section on ballot batch management. There were comments on the committee that what Member Hage had written regarding audits were for one type of audit, and that there are several types, so that it was not desirable to have all audits be going through a single software component. A short discussion ensued about the processes used in an audit.

Chair Jerdonek suggested “Ballot tabulation audit support” instead of just “audit support” for this section. At the end of the description paragraph, state “more general types of audits like auditing the chain of custody is outside the scope of this component.” Member Kattouw moved to approve the changes. Member Wasserman seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Regarding his other document, Member Hage took key decisions and broke them into sets of individual questions with pros & cons. He took out some blocks that Chair Jerdonek had written and put them into individual choices, e.g. , “Will Voting Centers be used for early or election day voting.” “Should precinct, polling and vote centers use the same paper ballot as vote by mail?” He read the rest of the “headers” in his document.

Chair Jerdonek referred to the statement 5.3.1.3 regarding voting machines in polling places being used by all or just select individuals, and said to be careful how it is phrased since all voters are entitled to use the machines if they so choose (the Commission passed a resolution making it a requirement to let all voters know of this). There was a discussion regarding the use of that vs

machine produced ballots and which would be the primary path used. The central question was whether people would be allowed to hand mark their ballots or not. They also discussed the different character of printers (imprinter) at the polling place and how ballots are produced and dealt with. Member Wasserman raised the topic of scanning technology and what the committee wants to say about it.

Member Hage had to leave at 8:00 PM. It was decided to postpone action on this topic till a full committee was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Soper said that the vote center rules say that everyone gets vote by mail ballots. [His other comments were not clearly audible]

9. Committee Recommendations

Chair Jerdonek said it would be worth getting commitments to flush more things out. Member Kattouw said he would find what he had looked at before to bring forth next time. Chair Jerdonek said that the topic of open hardware and secure boots and signing software have been discussion topics that need fuller work on.

Member Wasserman asked how expansive did the committee want to get on open source; how far in making recommendations: e.g. Recommending making daily builds available. He commented that there could be discussion regarding keeping the code being developed under wraps until completed and then revealed vs. having it publicly open throughout the development process.

Chair Jerdonek commented that there hasn't been much said about what the City should do for interaction with the community and the software, e.g. how they could help in using and testing the software.

Public Comment

None

10. Topics for future discussion

Slalom's report

Suggestions on the budget process

Invite Slalom to report/discuss

Organize a panel discussion with government officials

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

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