Open 3P SCB meeting minutes

Date: 26th November 2024
Time: 09.00-10.00 BST
Location: Zoom

Present

Julian Tait (JT) - Chair, Sophie Walker (SW), Tommy Shaw (TS), Steve Morgan (SM) - part-meeting, Frances Dickman (FD) - part-meeting, Ana Garcia (AG), Tom Passmore, DSHB – Technical Support, (TSu)

1. Introductions

No new introductions were necessary

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Lucy Knight (LK)

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the previous SCB meeting were accepted.

4. Register of interests

Updates to the register of interests were noted:

- SW is no longer a director of Recon Squared (company no longer exists)
- FD has completed the BRCGS project
- SW and JT noted completion of involvement with WBCSD Working Group on PDX standard

ACTION 4.1. JT to update register of interests with noted changes

5. Board elections

a. Adoption of board election procedure

DECISION 5.a.1. Board election procedure document was presented and agreed by all members present.

b. Board election process

The following process was undertaken:

- SW was nominated and approved to oversee the election procedure
- Current board members (excluding JT and AG) formally resigned

Nominations and voting occurred for:

- Lucy Knight (nominated and approved)
- Frances Dickman (nominated and approved)
- Tommy Shaw (nominated and approved)
- Sophie Walker (nominated and approved)
- Steve Morgan (nominated and approved)

DECISION 5.b.1. All nominated members were successfully elected to the board

ACTION 5.1. JT to develop board specification document for recruitment.

ACTION 5.2. Board members to identify and alert potential candidates about recruitment opportunities.

6. Updates on actions from the last meeting

JT noted several outstanding actions due to capacity constraints within the organisation. These would be addressed as part of Agenda Item 9 sustainability discussion

7. Update on the standard developments from the DSHB

- TSu reported that no official update to the standard had been made since the last board meeting. However, significant thinking has occurred around:
- Ensuring future updates minimise breaking changes
- Consideration of moving claims into a relationship list structure, similar to measurements
- Exploration of incorporating RDF triples to enhance flexibility and international compatibility

Discussion centred on the balance between technical sophistication and usability, particularly regarding:

- The challenge of maintaining Excel compatibility while improving data architecture
- The need to support both simple implementations and more complex data structures
- The importance of making the standard accessible to packaging technologists while supporting advanced data requirements

8. Risk Register

Discussion was abbreviated due to time constraints. Noted that the register remains incomplete but work is ongoing. TS offered additional support for development in the coming year

9. Open 3P update and sustainability discussion

Extended discussion on the sustainability and funding of Open 3P maintenance and development

Key points discussed:

- Current funding situation is unsustainable, with ODM and Dsposal bearing majority of costs
- Estimated £250,000 per year needed for sustainable operation
- Multiple funding approaches considered:
    - Membership/sponsorship models
    - Commercial licensing for profit-making implementations
    - Support from major industry players
    - Potential involvement from WBCSD and other international organisations

Challenges identified:

- Balancing open standard principles with sustainable funding
- Difficulty in converting industry support into financial commitment
- Need to maintain trust while implementing funding model
- Complexity of engaging with compliance schemes

Potential solutions proposed:

- Tiered access model with basic standard remaining open
- Paid access to Excel implementation tools
- Industry membership scheme
- Targeted approach to key beneficiaries like SAP, WPO

ACTION 9.1. Board to explore specific funding mechanisms and approach potential supporters

ACTION 9.2. Develop clear value proposition for industry participation

ACTION 9.3. Develop approach strategy for WBCSD members identified as potential supporters

ACTION 9.4. Create detailed proposal for tiered access model that maintains open standard principles

10. AOB

No additional business was raised

11. SCB meeting dates

Future meetings scheduled for:

- 25th February 2025, 09.15-10.15
- 27th May 2025, time TBC
- 26th August 2025, time TBC
- 25th November 2025, time TBC

Note: Future meeting times to be confirmed once new international board members are appointed

12. Actions arising:

Register of interests

ACTION 4.1. JT to update register of interests with noted changes

Board recruitment

ACTION 5.1. JT to develop board specification document for recruitment

ACTION 5.2. Board members to identify and alert potential candidates about recruitment opportunities

Sustainability

ACTION 9.1. Board to explore specific funding mechanisms and approach potential supporters

ACTION 9.2. Develop clear value proposition for industry participation

ACTION 9.3. Develop approach strategy for WBCSD members identified as potential supporters

ACTION 9.4. Create detailed proposal for tiered access model that maintains open standard principles