**ICUC Committee Conference Call: January 27, 2015**

**Participants**

Jim Latimer (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Kathryn Parlee (EC) and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Basic App Discussion**

Participants braved Snowstorm Juno to discuss the ESIP App (and unreasonable need of people to buy bread and milk during snow storms). The group had been asked to review the apps suggested by team members. Susan Russell-Robinson and Jim Latimer were not able to access most of the apps as they were not available for Android smart phones. ***(Important: ICUC App must be available for iphones and Androids).***

Other comments:

* Picture Post: No one was able to access.
* iNaturalist: Christine was able to review. She like the user’s guide and the fact that the app allows for community feedback and therefore conversation. Also allows users to search for observations and create "projects" with a common purpose. Allows sign in with Facebook. ***(Important: Also discussed last call that the ICUC app should allow sign in through various mechanisms).***
* Project Noah: Allows you to join "missions" and earn patches. Easy spotting button to submit photo. Allows users to see what other organisms or plants have been spotted close to their location (in "Field Guide").
* Lapka: Christine mentioned that the interface more "artsy" than science feeling. However, it just drops you into the program without tutorial. Christine wondered how long a user would try a new app without direction before giving up on it. She guess less than the amount of time that people will try to use a new webpage (estimated at 30 seconds).
* Netamo: Also has a beautiful interface. Susan mentioned that the Netamo webpage does a good job of marketing why someone might use the app (to monitor air quality near their child, etc).
* Instant Wild: It appears that the images are submitted through organizations. Susan pointed out that there is a support page available for the app (<http://www.edgeofexistence.org/>). The team members on the call discussed how a 4-5 step tutorial is needed. Susan pointed out that a video wouldn’t work as the tutorial needs to be accessible to all users (including deaf users).
* iBats: Susan liked how this app has an associated Facebook page and user’s are encouraged to revisit through the Facebook page and Flicker.
* SoilWeb: This app did come for both iphone and Android but none of the team members particularly liked the feel of the app. ***(Important: The ICUC app should be really easy to use AND have an artistic or designed feel).***

**2. St. Mary’s University – app**

The group also discussed an app developed by Oliver Woods (Wet Pro). This app does involve a wrapping function which would make it available through multiple devices. Kathryn Parlee has obtained the password so that member of the ICUC team can view the app. Kathryn mentioned that the app was created through three phases. The first phase involved creating a database (we have that). The second phase involved creating a webpage (we have that). The third phase was the actual app development. Christine wondered if Oliver would share the request for proposals they used in the third phase. She would like to see what the team should put into the proposal. Kathryn said she would follow up with this question and ask if Oliver might join in some of these calls ***(Action needed: Kathryn will follow up with these items).*** Kathryn also mentioned that the St. Mary’s team really liked the company they worked with (<http://tesera.com/>). Christine wondered if the app developer did the design or would ESIP need to connect with Peggy Issenman (does the design for our fact sheets and helped create the ESIP logo). Kathryn thought that Tesera did the design for the St. Mary’s app. Jim mentioned that he likes the Wet Pro app logo.

**3. Other ICUC Concerns**

The group also discussed how helpful having a support page for the app would be. This support page could provide lots of content (such as app blogging) and lead users to the Monitoring Map itself or journals covering the app.

**4. Next Steps**

Christine stated that she would like to have a follow-up call in the first week or two of February. The group agreed to work with the St. Mary’s Wet Pro app as a focus for the discussion (*passcode: cbm*).