

# OSGeo Oceania Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes

10 May 2024

Present: Elisa, John, Alex, Dorothy, Ewen, Jonah, Raf (part) Alan (part)

Apologies: Renee

## Agenda/minutes

### Action review

- COMPLETE
  - John: reply to FOSS4G Europe and politely decline sponsorship
  - John: follow up with board by email re: NFP income tax exempt status lodgement requirement
  - John: send email to COG re: support & cc Elisa
  - John, Elisa: review options within 7 days and look for a clear pathway to resolving NZ GST
  - Alan: contact ASIC to get Director ID number
- IN PROGRESS
  - Raf: contact ASIC to get Director ID number
  - Renee: review the election process
- TO DO
  - Alex: create appropriate access for ODC SC once agreed
    - we offered Google Drive space - haven't heard whether they agree
  - Ewen, John: involve the newly formed Comms group re webinar with GCA
    - Ewen will follow up when he can
  - Raf: write proposal for External Relationships committee
  - Ewen: bring website "resources" page idea to Comms WG
  - Ewen: follow up membership discussion, for discussion at next board meeting

### New actions

- Elisa: contact the ODC Steering Council again to confirm re: Google Drive

### Global FOSS4G 2025

- The Auckland Local Organising Committee (LOC) has submitted a request to endorse their proposal for hosting the global FOSS4G 2025 in Auckland. Find it [here](#). The proposal is due on Monday 15th so we need to decide whether we endorse.
- Alex is reminded he's declared a conflict of interest, asked if he should excuse himself from this discussion as his participation may influence the outcome. After inputs from the chair, Alex decides to stay but not participate in the discussion.
- John is asked to share his perspective, and takes a few minutes to lay it out:
  - very impressive proposal! well done to the LOC.
  - context

- we're asked to guarantee a budget much larger than our bank balance
    - conference surplus is bulk of OSGeo Oceania and OSGeo budgets, determines future Oceania & global community investment
  - outlook for FOSS4G 2025 is unknown, we've heard a range of perspectives
    - mostly from the LOC, understandably optimistic
    - last night Ewen started a [list of risks](#) but we haven't discussed them
    - Cameron Shorter (chair of FOSS4G Sydney 2009)
      - we have the ability to do it
      - FOSS4G 2009 barely broke even at the last minute
      - suggests to plan for the size of FOSS4G Oceania plus ~20% (ie 175-300 people)
  - my break even analysis: based on LOC budgets, considering fixed vs variable per-person costs: if nothing goes wrong, break even is ~230 total attendance; if we take cost of TGP into account, it's ~290
  - useful to consider Auckland 2023, results were below expectations:
    - forecast 100-400 attendees, actual 143, paid 99 - at low end of projections
    - forecast 28-64k surplus - actual 10k
  - OO's current position
    - FY 2023-2024 expecting a large loss ~\$12k (excl early Hobart expenses)
    - Hobart outcome may improve next year's position but too early to know
    - need to resolve 2023 GST issue with IRD
  - summary
    - impact of loss/low surplus would be large globally and regionally, we could even go bankrupt
    - uncertainty - budget may be too optimistic re: attendees
    - our financial & regulatory positions are uncertain
    - given uncertainty and our position, I don't think we should place this bet
    - we shouldn't count on being bailed out if things go wrong; perhaps OSGeo could be the financial backer?
- Others share their concerns and perspectives:
  - travel may be difficult - post-COVID, travel budgets have been cut
  - concerns about costs, particularly the dinner
  - cost of travel to NZ may increase
  - Pacific economies are struggling - people may not be able to attend
  - will depend on how we do in Hobart but we don't know yet
  - opportunity cost - what will we have to give up to do this?
- Alex points out we have a risk register - to review and mitigate risks
- Asked if we could do a remote dial-in option for the conference for people who can't make it in person. Alex says it's plausible.
- Positive sentiments:
  - community spirit
  - May result in an increase in movement to local conferences
- Q: Possible to ask OSGeo to be the backer instead of OO? Alex: risk of losing money is basically zero, the bigger risk is that we split the community and upset those who have worked on this.

- Q: How would the community be split? Alex: If OO chooses not to support, the LOC would have to find support elsewhere, so OO would not participate.
- Some discussion about whether providing "fiscal sponsorship" and seed money means we're financially liable. Not totally clear. Alex provided a definition of fiscal sponsorship, one definition is *"Fiscal sponsorship refers to the practice of non-profit organizations offering their legal and tax-exempt status to groups—typically projects—engaged in activities related to the sponsoring organization's mission. It typically involves a fee-based contractual arrangement between a project and an established non-profit."*
- Due to time, we need to decide.
- Motion 1: The board commits to providing fiscal sponsorship for the local organising committee for FOSS4G 2025, including accepting financial liability and a commitment to seed funding. Alex moves, Jonah seconds.
  - Alex abstains
  - Eli, Jonah, Dorothy, Ewen, Alan in favour.
  - Raf and John not in favour.
- Motion 2: The board endorses the proposal and budget to be submitted to OSGeo. Eli moves, Jonah seconds.
  - Alex abstains
  - Eli, Dorothy, Jonah, Alan, Ewen in favour
  - Raf and John not in favour.
- Motion 3: The board commits to providing \$25 k NZD in seed funding to the LOC
  - Motion not required due to motion 1 succeeding.
- Motion 4: The board will not commit TGP funding now, but will reconsider at a later date. Eli moves, Dorothy seconds.
  - Alex abstains
  - All others in favour

## FOSS4G SotM Oceania 2024

- TGP budget review following OSGeo decision not to sponsor it
  - context: we asked OSGeo for AUD \$5k but their annual TGP budget is already exhausted
  - there hasn't been any decision on OO TGP budget - need to move on this quickly to provide clarity
- Other updates from Alex:
  - We have one registration!
  - We have ~6 logo competition entries, and that closes today
  - It's time to start contacting sponsors directly
  - Met with UTAS and had a great conversation with a couple of geospatial lecturers/leaders there. They are happy to help us seek student volunteers.

## Other business

- NZ GST: Greg didn't have a chance to visit the IRD office. He has sent them a message regarding GST registration - we are waiting to hear back. We've asked him to make Elisa the authorised person on the IRD account so we can access it directly.

- ASIC fees notice lists previous board members. Renee has been looped in by Jonah and Alex. We need to ensure we're up to date with ASIC.
- GCA MOU draft should be sent to us next week (Alex spoke to Tony Wheeler this week at Locate).

## Out of time, deferred

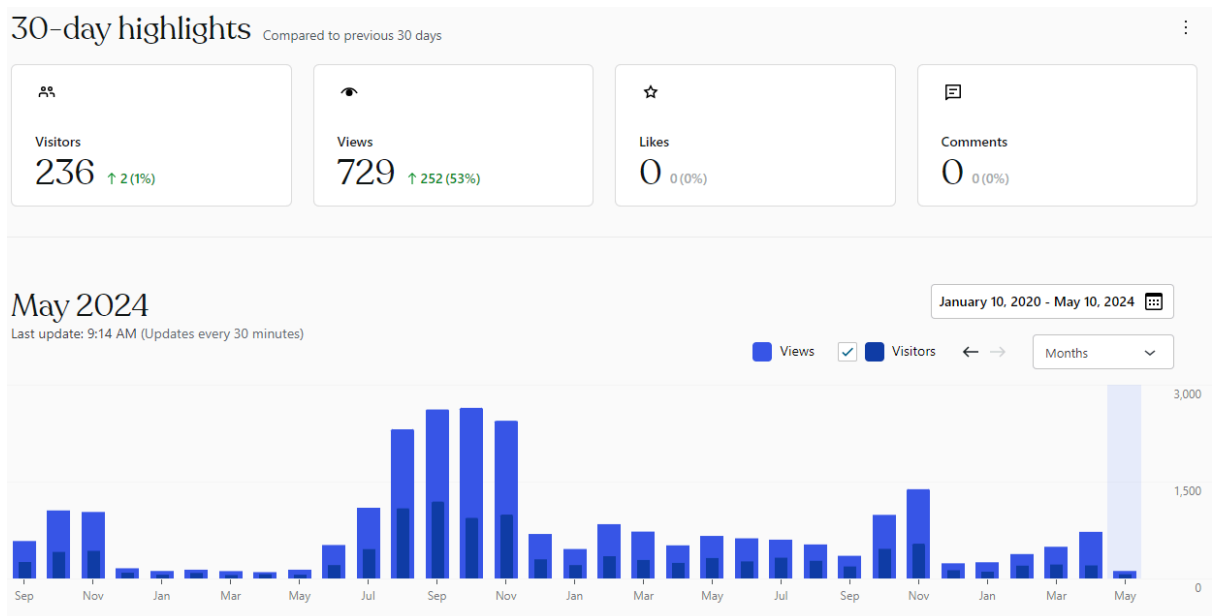
- OSMF Advisory Board: discussion based on community feedback
- OGS relationship: brief updates
- PGRSC letter of acknowledgment of sponsorship and possible collaboration
- OKR for Engagement - moved to June meeting.

## Finance Committee

- FY2025 budget
- Xero - NFP discount may be available
  - Requirement is either
    - The organisation's charity or trust registration number
    - A copy of a certificate or government issued letter that confirms the organisation's not-for-profit status
- Management Report
  - <https://reporting.xero.com/!MrhX/v1/Published/12032695>

## Communications Working Group

- Stats
  - Website



- Twitter: 493 followers
- Facebook

**Page overview** Last 28 days

**Discovery**








Post reach	59
Post engagement	8
New Page likes	7
New Page followers	7

**Interactions**

Reactions	6
Comments	0
Shares	0
Photo views	0
Link clicks	1

**Other**

Hide all posts	0
Unfollows	0

	Tickets are now on sale for the FOSS4G SotM Oceania Conference to be held in Hobart, Tasmania from 5 to 8 November, 2024. Our registration page is now up and running so you can book your tickets to attend here: <a href="https://ti.to/osgeo-oceania/foss4g-sotm-oceania-2024">https://ti.to/osgeo-oceania/foss4g-sotm-oceania-2024</a>	Post reach: 45	Engagement: 9
	FOSS4G SotM Oceania Conference 2024	Post reach: 22	Engagement: --
	Upcoming event of interest to GIS users in PNG	Post reach: 26	Engagement: 3
	More congratulations are in order, our Travel Grant recipient and amazing woman in GIS Lanieta Rokotuiwakaya Livia and our incredible Em Hain are two of the Leaders of the year in the Open Mapping Women Awards 2024!	Post reach: 240	Engagement: 127
	Congratulations to our two Grant Committee members Carrol Chan and Elisa Pi Puccioni for this amazing achievement!	Post reach: 40	Engagement: 9
	Hakseok (congratulations) to the G - SIG Timor-Leste team!	Post reach: 56	Engagement: 15
	Dear Oceania open geospatial community, We (the OSGeo Oceania Board) are revitalising the Communications Working Group (the "CWG"), and we need several volunteers to join us and help with tasks like: ...providing technical support ...writing, proofreading, and delivering content ...managing our web, social media, instant messaging, and other channe...	Post reach: 58	Engagement: 2

- LinkedIn: 398 Total followers 120
- Youtube: 633 subscribers 239 videos

## Grants committee

- Grant testimonials for website
- First Microgrant of the year received and approved