IASA 2.0
Workshop #2

February 28, 2017
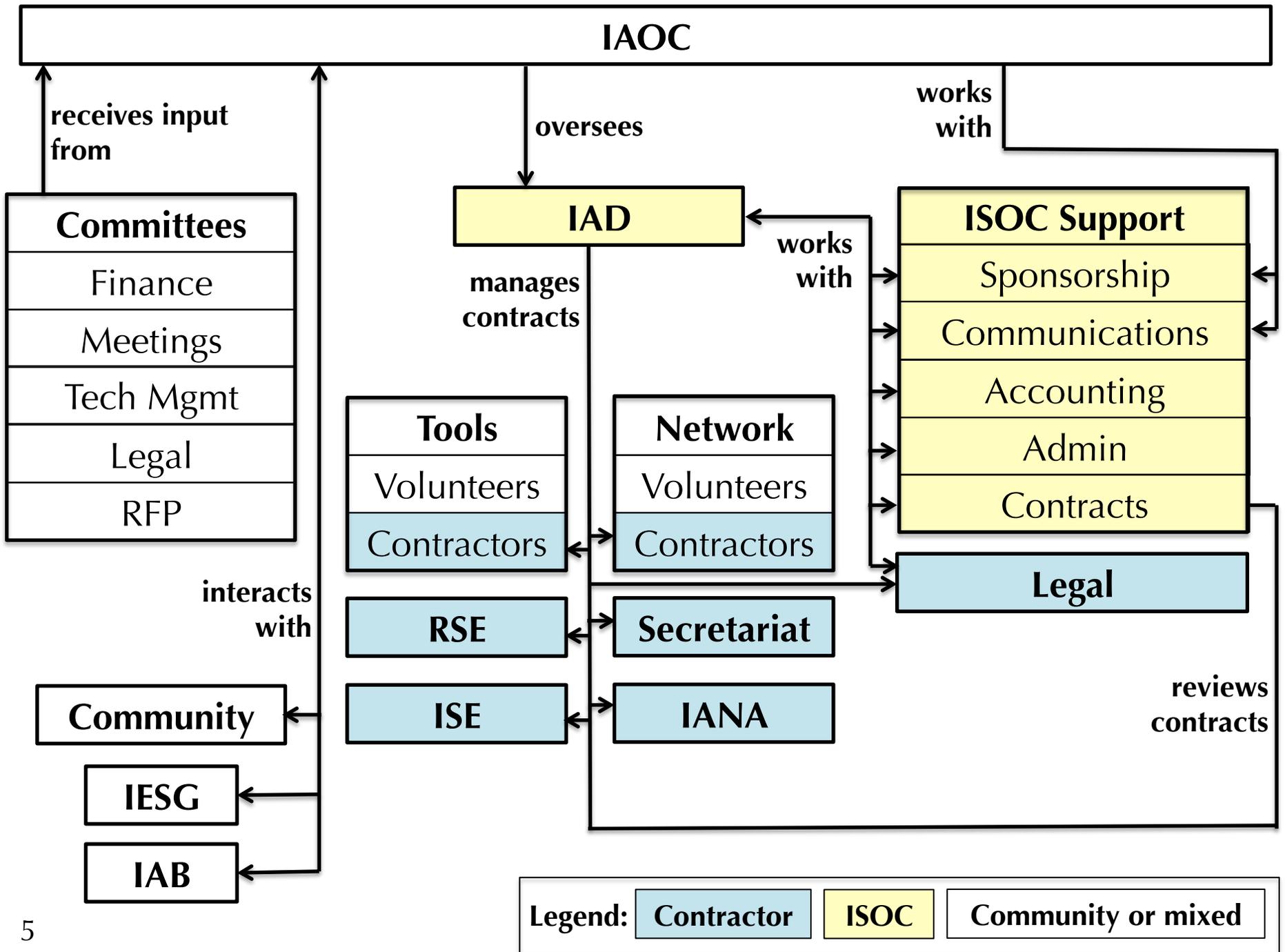
Logistics

- Workshop is being recorded.
- Jabber room: iasa20@jabber.ietf.org
- Mailing list: https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/iasa20
- Note-taking:
  - Workshop 1: http://etherpad.tools.ietf.org:9000/p/iasa20-workshop-1
  - Workshop 2: http://etherpad.tools.ietf.org:9000/p/iasa20-workshop-2

Background

Acronyms and Entities

- **IASA**: IETF Administrative Support Activity
  - An organized activity that provides administrative support for the IETF, the IAB and the IESG.
- **IAOC**: IETF Administrative Oversight Committee
  - A largely IETF-selected committee that oversees and directs IASA. Accountable to the IETF community.
- **IAD**: IETF Administrative Director
  - The sole staff member responsible for carrying out the work of the IASA. An ISOC employee.
- **IETF Trust**
  - Acquires, maintains, and licenses intellectual and other property used in connection with the administration of the IETF. Same composition as IAOC.

IAOC

receives input from

oversees

works with

Committees
- Finance
- Meetings
- Tech Mgmt
- Legal
- RFP

IAD

manages contracts

works with

ISOC Support
- Sponsorship
- Communications
- Accounting
- Admin
- Contracts

Tools
- Volunteers
- Contractors

Network
- Volunteers
- Contractors

Legal

interacts with

RSE

Secretariat

Community

ISE

IANA

reviews contracts

IESG

IAB

5

Legend: **Contractor** | **ISOC** | **Community or mixed**

Workshop goals

- Gain fuller understanding of:
    - Challenges and missed opportunities in current IASA
    - What is working well
    - Likely future needs
- Save solutioneering for a later time.

Agenda

- Introduction (10m)
- Staff and volunteer resource issues (10m)
- Transparency (10m)
- Structural issues between the IETF, the IAOC, ISOC, the IESG, and contractors (15m)
- Internal IAOC organizational issues (15m)
- Funding issues (20m)
- Parking lot / AOB (10m)

Staff and volunteer resource issues

- IAD workload is (much) more than a full-time job, but we have one staff person allocated to it.

- IASA tasks touch on a wider variety of topics and require more different kinds of expertise than 10 years ago (visa issues, local social/political/health issues, new modes of fundraising, etc.), but the job descriptions and skill sets of staff and volunteers do not always match these needs.

- Very few community members have the time, support, and interest to stand for the IAOC (or even participate in administrative discussions, unless something goes astray), and many who do are self-funding their work.

Transparency

- IAOC has typically been perceived to operate less transparently than what is the norm for IETF processes and other IETF leadership bodies.

- Lack of transparency has some roots in concerns about confidentiality of contract terms and business relationships.

- Requirements from the community about IAOC transparency expectations are not clear.

Structural issues between the IETF, the IAOC, ISOC, the IESG, and contractors

- The line between the IETF and ISOC is not organizationally clear-cut, which has led to issues around transparency, allocation of staff time and priorities, budgeting, and clarity of who is responsible for what.

- The respective roles of ISOC, the IETF chair, the IAOC, and the secretariat in representing the IETF to sponsors and donors and communicating with them are not clear.

- Having ISOC represent the IETF to sponsors and donors:
  - creates confusion about why the IETF does not represent itself,
  - yields questions about why ISOC does not instead increase its IETF support and how donations can be guaranteed to be dedicated to the IETF, and
  - can result in those soliciting sponsorships and donations having a lack of familiarity with IETF work.

Internal IAOC organizational issues

- The IAOC has 4 ex officio members (IETF Chair, IAB Chair, ISOC CEO, IAD (non-voting)), and 5 appointed members. One of 5 members is appointed by the ISOC Board of Trustees, and is traditionally expected not to stand for IAOC Chair. This yields:
    - A small pool from which to select the IAOC Chair
    - A small pool from which to select the IETF Trust Chair
    - Very few (2, by the time you've appointed Chairs) "worker bees" for the IAOC
- Requiring that the IAOC and the IETF Trust be constituted by the same group of people overloads the job responsibilities of both roles, narrows the pool of individuals willing and able to serve on the IAOC, and creates the potential for conflicts in cases where the creation of Trust policies requires IAOC oversight.
- Requiring that the IAB chair serve on the IAOC overloads the IAB Chair's job responsibilities and narrows the pool of people willing and able to serve as IAB Chair. The same may be true for the IETF Chair.

Funding issues

- Meeting fees are currently an important source of revenue, but remote participation and other factors may be responsible for declining in-person meeting attendance going forward. Even if fees were charged for remote participation, charging the same for remote and in-person attendance is unlikely to be a viable way to make up the difference.
- While there has been a lot of sponsor support for, e.g., meeting hosting, getting support for the full sponsorship program is not easy. The value to sponsors is not always obvious, the IETF community is sometimes critical or unappreciative, and the same sponsors get tapped again and again for many related but different opportunities.
- Relying heavily on meeting-based revenue is somewhat at odds with the fact that much of the IETF's work takes place outside of in-person meetings.
- The IETF is increasingly relying on professional services to support its activities, causing expenses to grow.

Parking lot / AOB