

Minutes of Board meeting 2016-06-06 via GoToMeeting

Present: Pascal Lesage (PL), Richard Wood (RW), Bo Weidema (BW), Andreas Citroth (AC),
Llorenç Mila-i-Canals (LMC)
Minutes: BW

1) Constitution of the Board

Following the General Assembly and the election of LMC, it is time for re-constituting the Board. It was decided that BW and RW will continue as Chair and Vice-chair, respectively. For the post of treasurer it was decided to co-opt Jannick Schmidt from 2.-0 LCA consultants. No concerns were expressed about the possible conflicts of interests in having the main sponsor as treasurer.

2) Employment of Executive Director and staff via in-kind sponsorship and priorities for work to be done

BW reported that the only response to our call for in-kind sponsoring of staff for BONSAI was the one already mentioned at the General Assembly, namely the offer from 2.-0 LCA consultants to place Michele de Rosa for a 1 year period for the position as Executive Director at 60% of full time, and Stefano Merciai as technical staff for 40% of full time, starting from November 1st 2016. Michele de Rosa will start making a work plan between now and his taking over the new position, and will attend the Board meetings from now on.

BW outlined the work priorities for Michele de Rosa as on the one hand to network and push the volunteer developer community to provide a beta-version of the database as soon as possible and on the other hand to fund raise for BONSAI with a particular focus on better framing the business case for users of the BONSAI product so that they can see a benefit from sponsoring the development and making his own position self-sustained. In this context, AC mentioned the Product Environmental Footprint project of the European Commission as a good test-bench where the BONSAI product could provide a better solution than the black-box average benchmark product datasets that are currently being called for.

3) State of technical development – recent news

It was decided that PL will participate as BONSAI's representative in the upcoming workshop of the Ocelot project (<https://ocelot.space/>). BONSAI will pay for the flight ticket only. This is seen as a good option for initiating the work plan of the BONSAI Product Systems Algorithm Working Group. AC mentioned that the Ocelot project in some ways are overlapping with his OpenLCA project on providing an open description of theecoinvent linking rules, a description that BW have earlier contributed to with comments. AC promised to share the current state of his documentation, which will be especially useful for PL in preparation of the Ocelot workshop.

AC mentioned that Marie de Saxcé (MS) had made a presentation at the May 2016 SETAC conference in Nantes of the outcome of the BONSAI workshop in September 2015. This presentation will be forwarded to the Board together with the minutes. AC was concerned that MS had used the term “open source data” where it may have been more appropriate to talk of “open



access” since the term “open source” implies access to and right to modify the original raw data. BW commented that the BONSAI concept indeed intends to make the original raw data openly available, so that both terms may be appropriate, but agreed that it is important to be precise in the terms we use and the messages we send.

BW informed of the new start-up company everycs.com and their “makersite” (<http://makersite.org/>), which in their descriptions mirror a lot of the BONSAI ideas, although it is not completely clear how open their database will be. The persons behind the company include the former CEO and CTO of Thinkstep, and they have asked BW if BONSAI would endorse their project. BW describes the project as the most interesting that he had seen for a long time, and mentioned it as an example that there are people who believe in the business case for a BONSAI-type database. According to BW, the crucial thing to clarify is what parts of data and software should be placed under an independent NGO like BONSAI and what parts can be placed within a commercial company, without endangering the openness and thereby the willingness of people to contribute. It was decided that BW should ask everycs for a presentation for the BONSAI Board.

The meeting ended with the suggestion of BW that the next ordinary meeting of the Board should be in the first half of September. BW will send out a doodle for this and the following meeting dates with approximately two months intervals.