Goal Implementation Award Program

Final Report Narrative Questions

Complete the status report narrative questions below. After completing your narrative questions, save this document on your computer and then submit the document via your Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System account.

1. **Awardee Information**

   Organization Name: Chesapeake Conservancy
   Project Leader: Jeffrey Allenby
   Project Title: FY15 Public Access Project

2. **Project Summary**
   a. **Describe the status of the project and results achieved during this reporting period.**
   The API is built (completed!) and live at https://api.findyourchesapeake.com. The design of the site was chosen by Mike Land.

   The site has been transitioned to a 2GB production server with SSL certificate at Arcustech (purchased for one year) which is its final resting place. Procurement fees will come out of the project budget.

   The API has been integrated into both findyourchesapeake.com and paddlethepotomac.com, a site built for the National Park Service, and is being integrated into other "Paddle the…" websites. An additional data point (to be used for searches and filtering) was added by NPS for the "watershed" of each access location. NPS staff also finalized the related data.

   At this point, the API is considered completed, although there may still be a few tweaks based on users feedback.

3. **Program Narrative Questions**
   a. **Provide updates for any pieces of your project that were proposed to be developed during this reporting period. For example, if you needed a Quality Assurance Plan, provide updates on this or if you proposed to gather and analyze datasets, provide updates on the process.**
   During the project period, the API was finalized, which was initially delayed due to changes that had been requested by NPS to the FindYourChesapeake site. We will now publicize the fact that the API is available and will work with partners as it is integrated into other products.

   b. **Did you provide presentations and/or trainings?**
   There were no trainings during the project period.

   c. **Did your project have any significant changes to the scope of work, methods, or outcomes?**
   No

   d. **Do you have any substantial timeline or budget changes?**
   No

If you answered yes to c and/or d describe the changes here and <u>contact the Trust program manager, Hannah Martin, to discuss</u> at hmartin@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 x114.

4. **Project Evaluation and Lessons Learned**
   a. **Provide a written evaluation of this phase of the project and the method(s) used.**
      With the completion of this phase, the project is considered completed.

      While this overall project took longer than originally anticipated to complete, the API has been finished and integrations into multiple websites have been very successful. We experienced delays in almost every phase of the process, but not all of the delays have been the result of the project itself, most were due to changes in the parent site, which caused delays in the implementation of the API. Out of all three phases, the third phase was by far the most complex and had the greatest chance for deviations from the original project, but we were able to keep the project on track, if not exactly on time. Delays in the earlier phases were due to a number of factors, particularly management changes at the subcontractor, Washington College, which caused a miscommunication at the staff level about the timeline of the project, changes to the fields that were being collected, which delayed the development of the final database, and changes to the FindYourChesapeake website, which delayed the API implementation.

   b. **Discuss major changes that have occurred in the project and how those changes will impact the next project phase(s).**
      Aside from the timeline that was extended, there were no substantial changes that occurred.

   c. **Briefly describe any lessons learned, including challenges or potential roadblocks to future progress.**
      One of the largest lessons learned is that delays will always occur when trying to build a new product that is supposed to integrate into another product that is also evolving. We anticipated the build-out of the API to be fairly seamless with the FindYourChesapeake site, and did not foresee the delays that were required to finalize design changes on one product before adjusting the other.

   d. **How will you overcome these challenges during future projects?**
      One of the largest lessons learned through this project was the need for regular communication with subcontractors to ensure that they are staying on track. We had trusted our partners to let us know if any issues arose, but in the end we realized that changes in staffing can cause delays that no one knows about to communicate unless we are checking in on a regular basis.

For questions about your project or status report, contact the Trust program manager<u>, Hannah Martin, to discuss</u> at hmartin@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 x114.