

Notes from APLN Planning Session – June 27, 2011

Goals:

- Help shape the Calgary APLN to better serve the participants.
- To create a shared understanding of the role that the CAPLN plays in the leadership community and how best to fulfill that role.

Logistics:

- 3 Innovation games were played concurrently:
 - Spider Web
 - Purpose: to understand how CAPLN fits in with other leadership offerings
 - Questions explored:
 - What products / services / communities do you participate in or use to assist with leadership related questions or challenges?
 - How / when / where do you use these services?
 - How do they relate to CAPLN?
 - Shape the Product Tree
 - Purpose: Help shape the Calgary Chapter
 - Where are we taking the CAPLN?
 - What do we want to offer?
 - How do we fulfill our mandate?
 - Questions explored:
 - Review the foundational principles that currently support the growth of the tree. Are they still valid? – *tree roots*
 - What are people looking for (value) in CAPLN? – *tree trunk/branches*
 - i.e. networking, learning, sharing
 - How best to support these values? – *fruit or flowers on branches*
 - *Time dimension – next season / subsequent years*
 - Speed Boat
 - Purpose: To understand what people like / dislike about APLN
 - Questions explored:
 - What “propels” us to attend APLN?
 - What “anchors” us back from attending?
 - What is mandatory (life preserver) for APLN to exist?

- Participants:
 - 1 facilitator
 - 9 participants
 - 2 observers

Photos



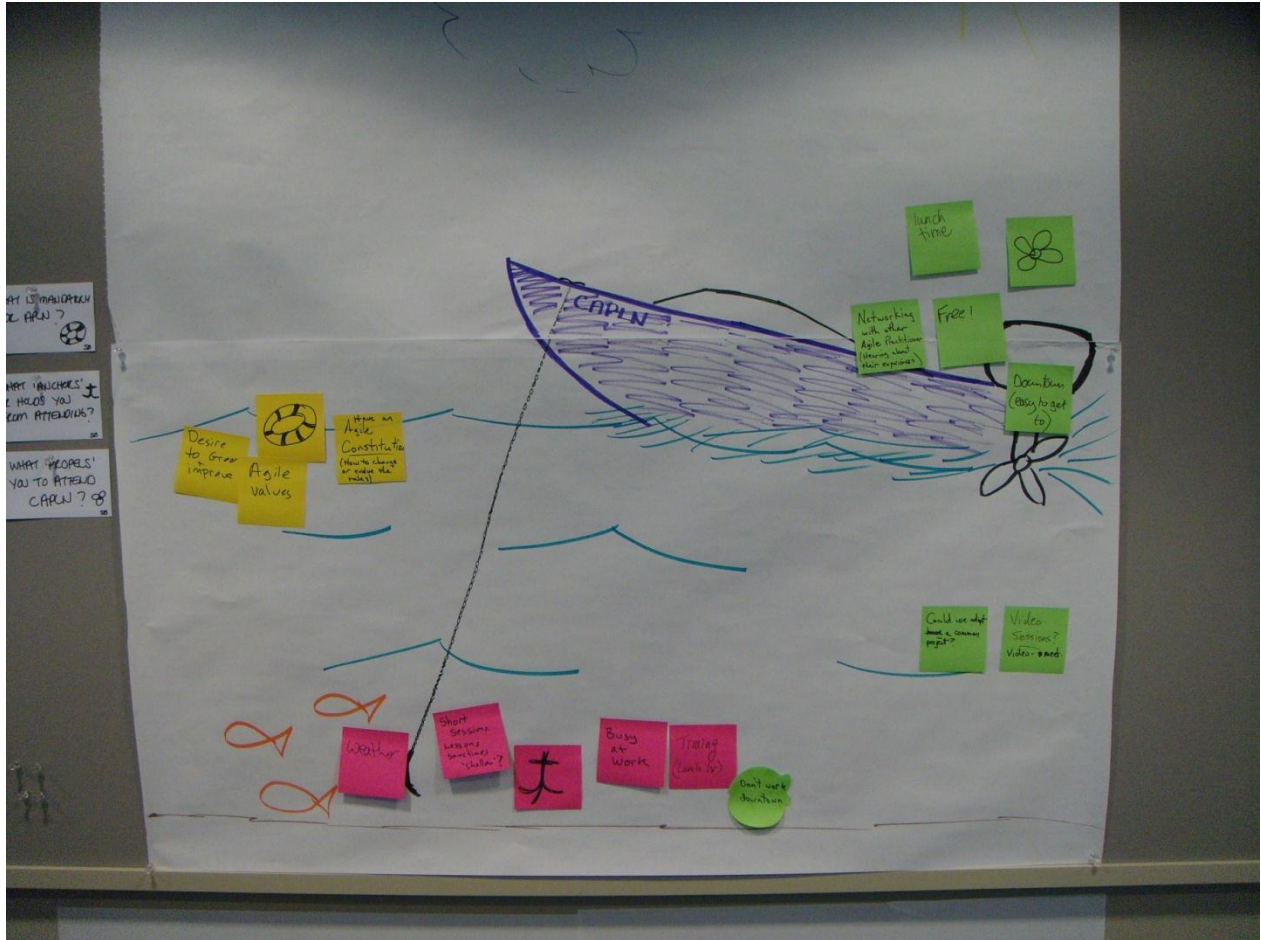
Results:

Spider Web



- Many organizations / tools utilized with limited relationships between (i.e. attendees are the only connection)
- What differentiates us? Face-to-face local discussions and learning and sharing

Speed Boat



Propellers:

- Lunch time
- Free
- Networking with other agile practitioners (hearing about their experiences)
- Downtown (easy to get to)

Anchors:

- Weather
- Short sessions – lessons sometimes “shallow”
- Busy at work
- Timing
- Don't work downtown

Life preservers:

- Desire to grow and improve
- Agile values
- Have an agile constitution (how to change or evolve the rules)

Suggestions:

- Videotape meetings?
- Could we adopt a "common project"?

Shape the product tree



Foundational principles:

- Lunch hour
- Wednesdays
- 6-8 meetings a season

- Free to attendees
- Corporate sponsorship to cover costs
- Speakers within Calgary community
- Volunteer moderators / organizers
- Various formats
- Websites with presentations

Values:

- Networking
- Learning
- Sharing
- Leadership

Sponsorship ideas:

- Ask Modis
- Member sponsor driver
- Sponsor recognition “badge”
- Sponsor “post ads” or announcements on website

Learning / Leadership:

- Topics:
 - Agile Organization
 - Shared Leadership
 - Lessons learned about adoption
 - Challenges and solutions on dispersed teams
 - Reporting status to management
 - Crossing chasm
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - Agile vs quality
 - New trends in agile
 - Planning agile projects – flexibility / scope
 - Sessions for new adoptees
- Suggestions:
 - Share expert speakers with other groups/cities
 - Support / help with one day conference (local)
 - After work focused topic – 2hrs
 - Earn PMI PDU’s / PDU claim instructions

Sharing:

- Keep members informed
- Sample projects – success & failure
- “Table topics”
- Experience sharing sessions (small groups)

Networking:

- More interactive sessions
- Agile coffee breaks
- How to expand the network
- Introductions at beginning of meeting
- CIPS
- Social Interaction
- Social networking (Linked In)
- Electronic forum (Linked In)
- Post meetings on CIPS
- Post-secondary (U of A, U of C, MRU, SAIT)
- Joint Session with CAMUG
- Joint Session with IIBA & PMI

Observer Notes:

- Networking:
 - Benefits for sponsors
 - Agile coffee breaks
 - Agile / PMI
 - On-line sessions (Discussion forum)
 - Breakfast meeting
 - Meet-up
 - Growth
 - Name tags (name cards)
- Topics:
 - Sessions introductory – ‘101’
 - Agile in startup
 - Most people don’t recognize CAPLN as part of global APLN network (discussion topic)
- After work events if want to dive more into something

Discussion :

Based on further planning with co-hosts (Mike G, Mike H, Janice A)

- Focused roles among co-hosts – external networking, internal networking, sponsorship, speakers
- Agile constitution – discussion at least, perhaps a session on this?
- PDUs a non-event now with self-directed learning – push out this on discussion group
- Key ‘reach-out’ organizations
 - PMI-SAC, IIBA, CIPS, CAMUG
 - joint session with PMI-SAC on what’s happening with agile and PM.
- Benefits to sponsors – what’s our value proposition and are we getting that out well enough?
- Online – LinkedIn group, cross-pollinating on different LinkedIn groups, Meetup as another
- Name tags – at least stickies and sharpies, graduating to reusable permanent tags
- Networking – breakfast format, coffee format, after work – perhaps we have different types of events in different times in different areas of the city? After work deep dives where time is less constrained
- Room layout – improve pre-session networking by not sitting immediately, mix and mingle from 11:30 to 12:00, then start session, poll attendees with topics on flip charts,
- More dialogue in sessions, less presentation and more open sharing of knowledge and experience; mixed format supported with formal network session, informal coffee sessions, two to three formal speakers, and one or two interactive dialogue / forum sessions
- LinkedIn group – follow up on sessions with presenters in group the following week
- Anyone interested in trying out capturing the sessions as webcasts?
- Pre-event slide loop with links to online CAPLN links, sponsor, other ideas perhaps from LinkedIn group
- Sponsors - having a couple of minutes at the beginning of the session to talk about themselves, might draw more sponsors outside of the networking events
- Able to post job postings on the LinkedIn group
- CAPLN badge for sponsors’ sites
- Topics
 - Agile organizations
 - Introductory “101”
 - Agile in startups
 - Agile in dispersed / virtual teams
 - Mining the Agile Conference 2011 for local speakers / topics

Next Steps:

- ✓ Consolidate results of planning meeting (Janice)
- LinkedIn group set up (including discussion forum, job posting / training forum), notifications to e-mail list that it's available (Mike H.)
- Publish to group key topics, key ideas both on web site and LinkedIn group (Mike G.)
- LinkedIn discussion topics (Mike G.):
 - How to apply for self directed PDU's
 - Agile constitution – why do we exist? Relationship to main organization.
- Start organizing networking social to kick off upcoming season. (Janice)

Three things new:

- LinkedIn group
- 11:30 mix and mingle / name tags
- Coffee meet-ups
- Increasing external exposure to other groups

Interested roles:

- Janice – internal networking, moderate
- Mike G – help moderate LinkedIn forums,
- Mike H – start the LinkedIn group, moderate
- ? – sponsors
- ? – speakers, topics