

**OFA XWG Meeting
February 8, 2017
11am Mountain**

1. Roll Call:

Board Members:

At-Large / Bob Noseworthy
Broadcom / Eddie Wai
Cray/Paul Grun
HPE / Andy Riebs
Huawei / Daqi Ren
IBM / Bernard Metzler
Intel / Divya Kolar
Jump Trading / Christoph Lameter
LANL / Susan Coulter
LLNL / Matt Leininger
Mellanox / Gilad Shainer
NetApp / David Dale
Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley
Oracle / David Brean
RedHat / Doug Ledford
Sandia / Mike Aguilar

Also present:

LANL/Jesse Martinez
Mellanox/Bill Lee
OFA/Jim Ryan
Intel/Paul Bowden
LANL/Parks Fields
Intel/Bob Woodruff

2. Approve XWG minutes from 2/1

- A motion to approved the minutes from 1 February was made by: Divya Kolar (Intel). The motion was seconded by Paul Grun (Cray). The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Mission / Purpose discussion

- The XWG continued a detailed discussion designed to lead the XWG/Board toward consensus about the OFA's current mission.
- This discussion, when concluded, is expected to be the near-culmination of the project to re-structure the OFA's Bylaws.
- The process agreed to by the XWG is to hold detailed, interactive discussions on the four elements that comprise a good mission statement which are:
 - What is that we do?
 - Who is it for?

- How does the OFA do what it does?
 - What is the value of what the OFA does?
- **This meeting focused on a discussion of what the OFA does and how do we do it.** We discussed:
 - Whether the OFA still develops APIs – OFA still does this work, although it no longer focuses on the Verbs API, which is now largely in the Open Community
 - Funding models
 - The former “OpenSFS model” isn’t relevant to us since the conditions that led to the creation of that organization no longer exist. Roughly, OpenSFS was formed to prevent the dissipation of a valuable body of knowledge.
 - The model of relying on volunteer coders remains relevant and consistent with open source methods.
 - Hiring contractors to work on specific projects isn’t necessarily out of scope, but there are questions about determining which projects to undertake and which members would contribute funding.
 - Explored the idea (described by Doug Ledford) of serving as a project management and clearinghouse to undertake certain projects for which public funding is available.
 - The question of the OFA engaging in specification activity was broached, but without sufficient time to address it.
 - **The current iteration of the strawman answer of what the OFA does and how the OFA does it, provides us with:** *We drive technology by fostering open source software development. Are we performing the task of? Incubation, collaboration, evangelization?*
 - **The current iteration of the strawman answer provides us with:** *Our value is that we accelerate the development and adoption of fabric technologies to enable portable solutions. Alternatively: We support the development of open source software for networking.*
 - **The discussion is expected to continue in following XWG/Board meetings – all XWG and Board members are encouraged to make it a point to attend and participate.**