Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972

Public Disclosure Commission

James Gutholm

About me

- CIO at the PDC for 7 years
- The Evergreen State College for 15 years
- Scrum Master 2006
- A trained Oceanographer (BS. TESC)

Technology is just a tool for doing interesting things that matter.

The value derived is what's important, and agile and SCRUM are all about delivering customer value.

The TL;DR

Agile requires a culture and commitment to a set of values. Everything else is just mechanics.

Frameworks or implementations

- Agile, no matter the implementation, is not just winging it.
- The mechanics are intentionally simple.
- You need to grow the culture to support it.
- People are drawn to succeed, and culture can be grown.

Two aspects of culture and values

- What we do (the mission)

- How we do it or how we would like to do it.

Public Disclosure Commission

Established by I-276 in 1972 to shine light on the money in politics and promote confidence in the political process.

~7 million records available to the public through our website.

~10,000 elected and appointed officials, lobbyists, political committees and public agencies.

PDC Strategic Plan

MISSION: Promote Confidence in the Political Process

A. Empower the public to "follow the money" in politics

1. Real-time access to reports, data, and compliance information.
2. Link entities for both analytics and information discovery.
3. Summary insights and visualizations.
4. Every data point available electronically.

B. Help regulated community achieve and maintain compliance

1. Customized, updated requirements and status.
2. Real-time interactive feedback.
3. Intelligent applications that spot common errors.
4. Quick-file on-the-fly.
5. Immediate, relevant and electronic communications.

C. Continue to build a better, more agile, and more responsive organization

1. Status at a glance.
2. Intuitive tools for filer assistance.
3. Analysis tools for investigations.
4. Consistent and readily available metrics.
5. Data-driven decision making.
6. Automated processing.

D. Encourage the public to be part of the process.

1. Subscribe to anything using the channel of your choice.
2. Cultivate a community through online tools that make participation easier.
3. Transparent processes and progress.
4. Connect people and the political process.

VISION: The PDC will lead the nation in fostering full disclosure of money in politics

Manifesto for Agile Software Development

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

- **Individuals and interactions** over processes and tools
- **Working software** over comprehensive documentation
- **Customer collaboration** over contract negotiation
- **Responding to change** over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.
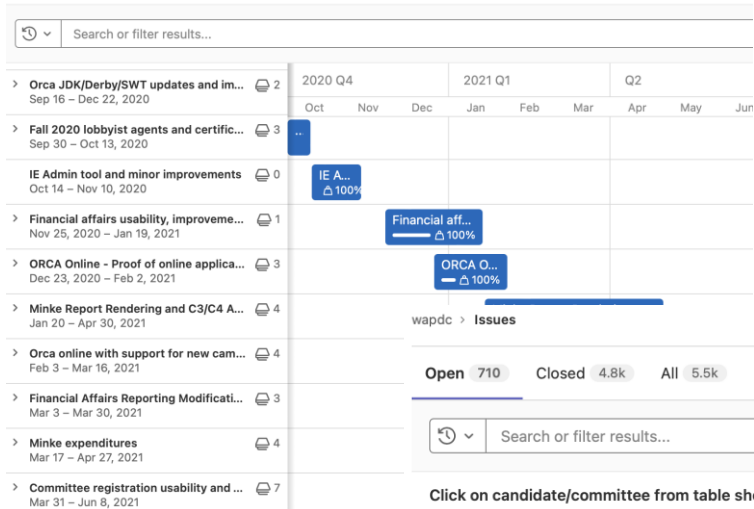
The Evergreen Evaluation processing system

- Detailed documentation
- Nothing 100% complete
- No chance of completing as specified

A chance to introduce a new way of thinking

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The SCRUM Team, Individuals and Interactions.

- Product owner
- Developers
- Scrum master

Stakeholders (review, not part of the team)

The SCRUM Team, Individuals and Interactions.

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"Working" software still requires documentation.

```php
<?php                                                                                    ⚠ 17 ✗

namespace WAPDC\Core\SendGrid;

use ...

/**
 * Class SendGrid
 *
 * This class is intended to be a wrapper around the SendGrid REST API.
 * This includes convenience methods such as allowing you to add a user using only their email address which requires
 * two REST calls. Co
 * The intent is that
 * essentially the or
 * to eventually make
 * existing wrapper m
 */
class SendGrid {

    /** @var   SendGrid
    private static $_in

    private $v3_url = "

    private $authorizat
```

```php
/**
 * Demonstrates that the function does not alter the content of a fragment that is not wrapped in
 * '<html><body>...</body></html>' so it's safe to call even if you don't know whether you received a full html
 * document or just a fragment.
 * @covers Utility::extractHtmlBody
 */
public function testExtractHtmlBodyPreservesFragment() {
    $expectedFragment = "<h1>Test Page</h1><p>This is a test</p>";
    $html = "<h1>Test Page</h1><p>This is a test</p>";

    $fragment = Utility::extractHtmlBody($html);
    self::assertEquals($expectedFragment, $fragment);
}

/**
 * Demonstrates that the inner content of the body tag is extracted.
 * @covers Utility::extractHtmlBody
 */
public function testExtractHtmlBody() {
```

Continuous integration & testing

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Bringing agile to the PDC.

- Never lose the opportunity of being "new"
- Listen for people's pain
- Find a small defined problem with a willing group of conspirators.
- Demonstrate quick success.

How does this come back to values and moral authority?

- The team needs a way to feel safe about good planning and decision making

- Success isn't always about delivering as promised

- Giving the team room to honestly reflect provides room for growth

- Be as willing to challenge yourself and hold yourself to the team values.

Just do something.

Something that is deliberate, well planned and aligned with the culture and values of what we do and how we do it. And be willing to see that fail anyway.

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QUESTIONS?