



# FMMI in the NEWS

Financial Management Modernization Initiative

Issue #1 - November 2008



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## Welcome to *FMMI in the News*

Welcome to the first issue of *FMMI in the News*. This newsletter will serve as a central source of information to Agency and Staff Office leadership and points of contact (POCs) on all things related to the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI). Included will be summaries of key meetings and decisions made through the Corporate Design phase, updates through the Build and Test phases, and important information to prepare for the first deployment of FMMI in October 2009.

While the current focus of the newsletter is to provide information to the Agency and Staff Office leadership and POCs, please share this newsletter with other interested parties in your Agency as appropriate. Beginning in 2009, the FMMI team will begin providing Deployment 1 Agency and Staff Office end user specific communications.

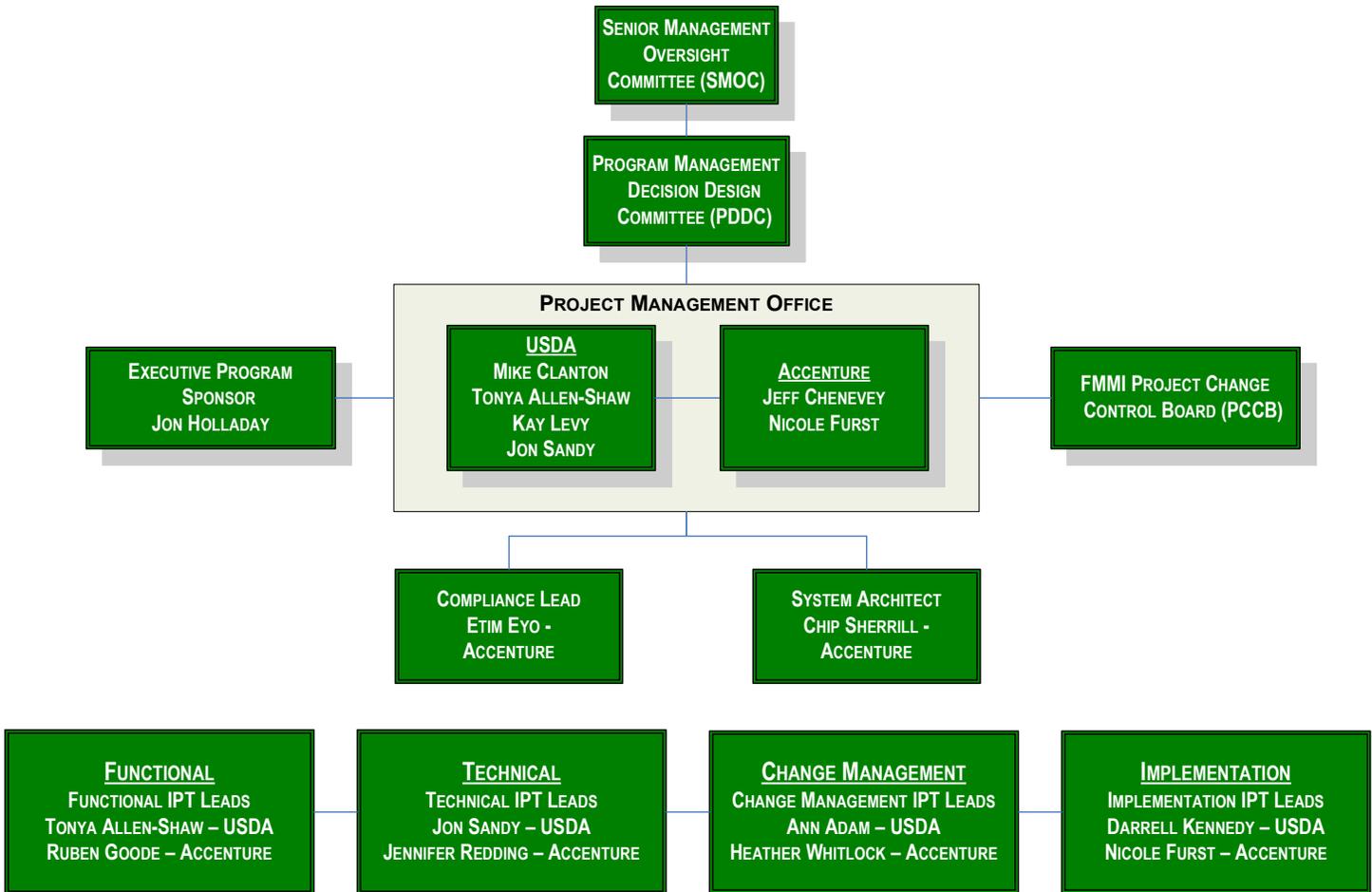
To ensure *FMMI in the News* is relevant to you and your Agency or Staff Office, please let us know what you would like to hear. Send feedback, comments and suggestions to the FMMI Mailbox at [FMMI@usda.gov](mailto:FMMI@usda.gov).

## A Word from our Executive Sponsor Jon Holladay, Deputy CFO

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Agency and Department Staff who have invested time and effort thus far participating in the requirements validation, as well as the design and corporate configuration workshops for the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) project. FMMI is a project that will replace USDA's Corporate Financial Management Systems (CFMS), including program financial systems, with an integrated, real time system SAP ERP 2005. This is a broad reaching initiative that impacts every Agency and Staff Office in the department. To make FMMI a successful project with meaningful results to USDA, it is imperative for our Agencies and Staff Offices to take an active role in the design and implementation of the system. The goal is to have a single instance of the system with consistent policies and procedures across the Department. This means there will be some amount of change for everyone. Some of the changes you may not like or completely agree with but keep in mind the bigger picture of what is best for the entire Department.

I have seen the hard work of the Agency and Staff Office representatives at the Design Working Group Sessions. You are engaged and having the exact kinds of conversations we need to iron out these critical design decisions. I applaud your commitment and dedication to the process. Continue to keep an open mind, get input from others to expand how you see things, and then collaborate with others to innovate and improve what we do and how we do it.

## The FMMI Project Team



**Jeni Halpern** – General Ledger, Fund Balance with Treasury  
**Lucy Luo** – Funds Management  
**Connie Stanchec** – Receivables Management  
**Jim Temple** – Cost Management  
**Charlie Burns** – Accounts Payable, Requisitioning & Purchasing  
**Lori Terry** – Funds Management  
**Mark Ralabate** – General Ledger, Fund Balance with Treasury, Requisition & Purchasing  
**Shreekar Ranade** – Cost Management, Receivables Management

**Karol Sanders** – Conversion  
**David Gonzalez** - Interface  
**Steven Eagle** – Technical Architecture  
**Aimee Riley** – Security  
**Rodney Payne** - Reports  
**Matt OBrion** – Technical Architecture & Portal  
**John Velez** – Reports, Interfaces, Conversions, Extensions, Forms, Workflow (RICEFW)

**Jennifer Holmes** – Communication & Sponsorship  
**Christine Machado** – Training & Organization Alignment

**Jim Kubera** – Deployment Planning



## FMMI Agency/Staff Office Points of Contact

Mission	Agency / Staff Office	Acronym	FMMI Point of Contact (POC)
<b>Research, Education and Economics (REE)</b>	Agricultural Research Service (includes National Agricultural Library)	ARS (NAL)	Michelle Garner
	Cooperative State Research, Education, & Extension Service	CSREES	
	Economic Research Service	ERS	
	National Agricultural Statistics Service	NASS	
<b>Food Safety</b>	Food Safety and Inspection Service	FSIS	Jewel Brockington
<b>Farm/Foreign Ag</b>	Foreign Agricultural Service	FAS	Ethel Anderson
	Farm Service Agency	FSA / CCC	
	Risk Management Agency	RMA	Shanda Sanders
<b>Marketing &amp; Regulatory Programs</b>	Agricultural Marketing Service	AMS	Connie Barnes
	Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Admin	GIPSA	Connie Barnes
	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	APHIS	Barbara Thompson
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Environment</b>	Forest Service	FS	Tanya Sharratt
	Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS	Chris Calhoun
<b>Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services</b>	Food and Nutrition Service (includes Center for Nutrition Policy and Program)	FNS (CNPP)	Larry Blim
<b>Rural Development</b>	Rural Development	RD	Melissa Carter
			Richard Buddemeyer
<b>Staff Offices</b>	Departmental Administration	DASO	Carlton (Ray) Carlyle
	Working Capital Fund	WCF	Chris Cutitto
	Office of the Chief Information Officer	OCIO	Stephen Ettien
	Office of the Inspector General	OIG	Lisa Johnson Carmen Ingram

## FMMI Objective and Goals

The objective of FMMI is to improve financial management performance by efficiently providing USDA agencies with a modern, core financial management system that both complies with Federal accounting and systems standards and provides maximum support to the USDA mission. FMMI goals include:

- **Support USDA Mission:** To support the departmental mission, USDA officials require high-quality financial and performance information to make and implement effective policy, management, stewardship, and program decisions. The implementation, operations and maintenance of certified, technologically advanced, and reliable financial systems will contribute to USDA's mission, strategic goals, and objectives.
- **Meet Legislative and Management Mandates:** FMMI will enable USDA to meet its fiduciary responsibilities, including accountability for U.S. tax dollars, and to comply with several legislative and regulatory mandates.
- **Integration with Existing and Emerging E-Government Initiatives:** FMMI will enable USDA to integrate with E-Government initiatives (e.g., eGovernment Travel, Payroll, Grants.gov, & E-Loans).
- **Address Legacy System Support and Material Weaknesses:** USDA legacy accounting system for administrative funds is no longer supported by the vendor, and USDA must address material weaknesses in agency-specific program fund general ledger systems.

## FMMI Corporate Design

The FMMI team is currently scheduled to develop the corporate design from July 2008 through January 2009. Regardless of when FMMI will be deployed to your Agency/Staff Office, your participation in the corporate design is critical to developing an enterprise-wide solution that delivers standardization, integrates leading finance and accounting practices, and complies with federal and USDA requirements.

This common corporate design becomes the framework for common business processes in USDA by gathering and integrating the process requirements early in the project. We will develop the approach through a series of design working groups and Conference Room Pilots (CRPs) (i.e., prototype or proof of concept) covering the major functional areas. The objective of the CRPs is for the project team to demonstrate the "To-Be" processes developed in the design working group sessions, confirm the requirements and gaps, and solicit feedback from the subject matter experts. We will also develop an understanding and confirmation of requirements and build consensus on the approaches needed to meet business, compliance, and stakeholder needs.

The FMMI team requires participation and support from across USDA to design the enterprise financial system and define and develop corporate interfaces.

## Conference Room Pilots

A Conference Room Pilot is a preliminary design approach or "proof of concept" that allows the FMMI project team to view the software package in a controlled environment. The CRP is the first demonstration of the "To-Be" processes configured based on the requirements. The CRP involves executing business process scenarios developed during the Design Working Group Sessions. In addition, the CRP activities help to drive out the effort required to implement the packaged software for FMMI.

Throughout the duration of the Design phase, the Functional team will conduct three Conference Room Pilots. The team conducted CRP #1 during the week of September 15, 2008. The scope of CRP #1 included demonstrating Master Data Processes. The primary purpose of CRP #1 was to prototype the key master data records for each FMMI module, as well as viewing the configured organizational hierarchy elements.

CRP #2, conducted October 27-31, focused on Transactional Data Processes. CRP #3 is currently scheduled for December 15-19 and will focus on Integrated/Periodic Data Process overviews, such as monthly and year end closes and financial statement generation.

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*"To-Be" processes are reviewed and confirmed in Design Working Group Sessions. Design decisions are previewed in Conference Room Pilots.*

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*There are several components of the Design Phase:*

- Master Data*
- Transactional Data Processes*
- Integrated/Periodic Data Processes*

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## Data Cleaning Guidance

In the next couple months, the FMMI Team will be coordinating with Agency representatives to initiate implementation activities in preparation for the first phase of testing scheduled for May 2009. One critical task will be to clean data to ensure that the data stored in FFIS is ready to be extracted and uploaded into FMMI. FMMI will be distributing further communications on data cleaning and other implementation activities. However, keep in mind some of the following leading practices and important points to consider about data cleaning:

- Clean and complete data is crucial for a smooth transition to FMMI. Remember the phrase "garbage in, garbage out".
- Start taking action now to clean up data in order to minimize the amount of cleaning that will be needed later. For example:
  - Close outstanding open activities where future activity is not expected.
  - Reconcile balances between systems where similar data exists in multiple systems.
- Doing what one can to understand the data in the legacy systems, and very carefully following the procedures to prepare the data will pay off. It is not easy to go back and fix data once the conversion has taken place.

Specific guidelines will be distributed soon for data cleaning activities. Please direct any questions and comments to [FMMI@usda.gov](mailto:FMMI@usda.gov).

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## Interface Workshops

Members of the FMMI Project Team conducted Interface Design Workshops at the National Finance Center (NFC) in New Orleans September 22-25. They met with resource owners to discuss interfaces on SmartPay, GovTrip, TRVL, Payroll, and FSDW. The workshops continued in Washington D.C. September 30 - October 1, with discussions on IAS, IPP, and CPAIS. These sessions were informative and a key step to understanding the various interface components needed to design FMMI.

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*The FMMI Project Team has been holding meetings with SmartPay, GovTrip, TRVL, Payroll, FSDW, IAS, IPP and CPAIS to discuss interfaces with FMMI.*

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