Project Management Tools

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For

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**Go to the source, the Project Management Institute (PMI)® Practice Standard for Work Breakdown Structures, and review the established quality standards for a good WBS. Based on what you read, describe WBS quality issues that stand out to you.**

Quality Sub-Principle 2 (4.2.2) speaks on a subject that is important to me, I like to have enough information on a subject matter before I jump into something and then must redo something. I really do not want to have too much information either. One of the bullets explains about having “sufficient detail for communicating all work”, perfect wording. Enough information should be in the WBS to minimize misunderstanding of the WBS, this will help everyone understand the project scope and their part of the project deliverables.

In this same Sub-Principle, there is some thought explained about accountability. In one of our project groups our project manager inserted a RACI and sign-up sheet for who would volunteer for certain sections of our project. In this way, they were not being bossy and each person could do what he/she was comfortable doing. We divided up the work and brought it back together, each having done the job very well. What was nice was that it flowed well, the complete process. Having the RACI and sign-up sheet was a means of being accountable for that work. I have had some projects where that kind of performance was not volunteered or forthcoming. I liked the accountability part of this quality Sub-Principle.

I noticed that there is something about the WBS which allows the project manager some control over the work package, due to the project may be large so the WBS can be complex or complicated if it is needed. More complex projects could have different elements added to the WBS, things like integration, procurement, supply chain management, documentation, and training. These elements may be a requirement for that project, so there should be a work package for that element, and someone should be accountable for that event(s). These items are the quality issues which stand out to me as I read the PMI Practice Standard for the WBS.

Reference:

PMI. (2006). Practice Standard for Work Breakdown Structures, Second Edition. Project

Management Institute. Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.