

AGILE MIDLANDS - SEPT 2018

SEVEN SUGGESTIONS FOR NOW!

PURPOSE

- Convince you to add one “thing” to the top of your To-Do List
- One pretty darn use thing...

ONE



DO THE BASICS OF SCRUM

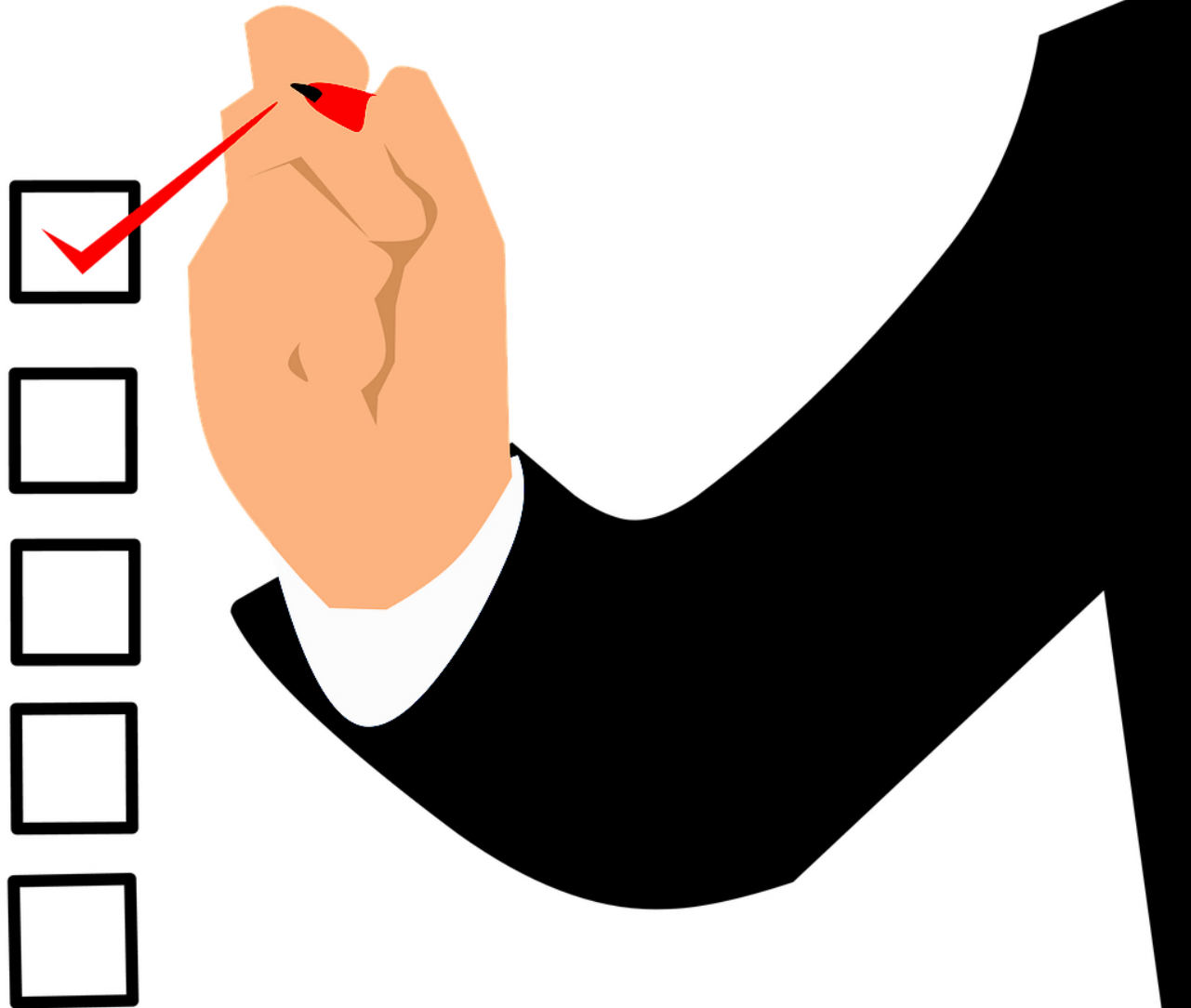
- Have you done it yet for one team?
- Do we need more than just Scrum? Of course, but start with the basics.
- What are the basics?
- Can you commit to trying to make that happen soon?
- Will you at least call “half-baked Scrum” by its name?

POLL EVERYWHERE

SOME BASICS

- Full time team of 7. No SPOF.
- Dedicated SM and PO.
- PO is attacking inspiration, clarity of requirements (DOR) and 80-20.
- SM is doubling Velocity in first 6 months by fixing impediments.
- Team has a challenging goal that requires that they work together.
- Team is using all meetings and artifacts, and is committed to success together.
- Managers help fix some impediments.

TWO



TOP 20 IMPEDIMENT LIST

- Slide by Joe in Jeff Sutherland's course
- Prioritized.
- Honest.
- Includes things team members can improve on.

MORE ON TOP 20

- Mitigations can be implemented in 2 weeks or less.
(Slice and dice)
- Positive impact starts within 2 weeks.
- SM plus others “work the list.” It’s always changing.

THREE



SET A GOAL

- Set a goal and a date
- Work toward it.

THE GOAL

- Higher happiness and fun
- Double velocity in 6 months
- Double BV per SP in 6 months
- Fewer hours (40?)
- Higher quality
- Saying, **"I never want to leave this Scrum Team."**

FOUR



CONSIDER SCALING OPTIONS

SCALING IS A GOOD IDEA — ?

- What does this idea mean?
- Scaling is better compared to what?

WHERE'S THE PROOF?

- Scaling with "Agile" is better than Waterfall with the same "FTEs" (full time equivalent person-power)... is that the proof?
- What should be the proof, and where is the evidence?

CONSIDER OPTIONS WHEN SCALING

- We need to define scaling.
- Get everyone to consider the options *every* time.

SCALING DEFINED

- There are many definitions of scaling.
- For my purposes now, it is 3 teams working on one “spaghetti” new product (high-is coupling and cohesion).
- This requires very high communication and coordination across all 3 teams.

OPTION 1

- “New to Scrum” Team
 - Then: team sucks
 - Then: PB sucks
 - Then: done-done sucks
-
- “Let’s scale that!” No, never.
 - How long?

OPTION 2

- Divide and Conquer
- Much easier to manage
- Much easier to get success

OPTION 3

- Consider the Dream Team
- Consider the "Best of" Team

- Cheaper (some)
- Better? Probably

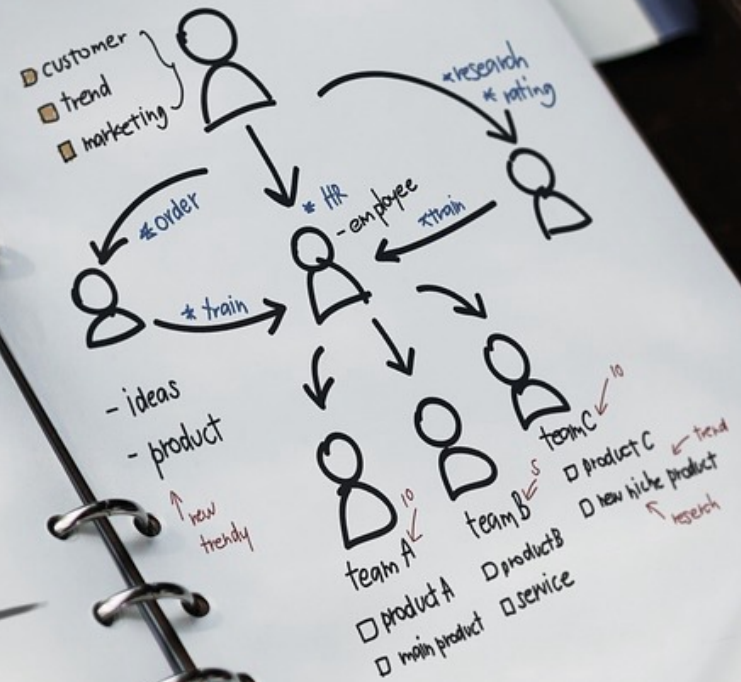
OPTION 4

- Consider taking a Scrum Team from X to 3X in Velocity.
- Get a great SM.
- Give them \$300,000 to fix impediments.
- Get management to support fixing impediments pronto.
- Better and easier? Probably.

AT LEAST CONSIDER EACH TIME

- Consider
- Experiment
- Compare fairly
- Let the results guide you

FIVE



SCALE LESS (OR SCALE DOWN)

- KISS. *“Do the simplest thing that could possibly work and then test.”* —Ward Cunningham.
- Don't bring a knife to a gun fight; give the Scrum Teams all the basics as a Scrum Team. All!
- Only use the most essential scaling patterns for your situation.

SIX



WITH AGILE TRANSFORMATION, USE SCRUM

- When doing Agile Transformation, have the Agile Transformation Team use Scrum
- Have the Executive Action Team use Scrum
- Side notes: Scrum@Scale and “Open Space Agility Handbook” (Mezick)

SEVEN



DEPTH OVER BREADTH

- In Agile Transformation, you should focus on depth (is each Agile doing and getting significant success, and more success)...
- ...more than breadth (more half-baked Agile teams).

ALWAYS RIGHT?

- Is that advice always right? I am not sure.
- Is the question (depth vs. breadth) thought about enough? Never!!! (ok, seldom)
- You must figure out HOW to discuss it and make a better decision.

CLOSING



3 QUESTIONS

- Were these suggestions useful? (Yes/No)
- If so, can you commit to taking action on at least ONE of them now?
- Which one do you want to act on first? (Poll Everywhere).

JOE LITTLE

- Certified Scrum Trainer (CST) and Agile Coach
- Co-trained 8 times with Jeff Sutherland
- MBA
- jhlittle@leanagiletraining.com
- LeanAgileTraining.com/blog/
- linkedin.com/in/joelittle/