

NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 1, 2006, 1:00 p.m.
Nebraska Department of Roads- Main Auditorium
1500 Nebraska Hwy 2, Lincoln
MINUTES

MEETING AGENDA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chaffin, Lash	*	League of Nebraska Municipalities
Cobb, Steve	*	State Surveyor
Erickson, John	*	Policy Research Office
Fox, Ray	*	USGS, Federal Agency Rep.
Henderson, Steve	*	Office of the CIO, IT Administrator
Langry, Jim	*	Lancaster County Engineers Office, NACO Rep.
Schonlau, Mike	*	Omaha/Douglas County, At-Large Rep.
Menke, Kim	*	Natural Resources District
Miyoshi, John	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Ogden, Jon	*	Dept. of Roads
Seifert, Larry	*	Howard County Commissioner, NACO Rep.
Stott, Duane	*	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Vaitkus, Milda	*	Conservation and Survey Division
Yamamoto, Paul	*	Dept. of Environmental Quality

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Brugger, Sudhir Ponnapan, Chris Chalmers, Cathy Lang, and Patrick O'Donnell

OTHERS PRESENT: John Beran, Erik Herbert, Salvador Barragan Ed Kelley, and Larry Zink

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE ATTENDEES

Mr. Lash, Vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. There was 10 members present at the time of roll. A quorum existed to conduct official business.

PUBLIC MEETINGS REGULATIONS AND POSTING OF THE SAME

It was noted that the public meetings regulation were posted and available for meeting attendees, as required by state statutes.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FROM ATTENDEES

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 6/8/06 MEETING

Mr. Ogden moved to approve the [minutes from 9/7/06 meeting](#) as presented. Mr. Miyoshi seconded. No corrections were offered and a [roll call of the members present passed the motion unanimously](#).

GIS-RELATED SHARED SERVICES ACTION ITEMS IN THE NITC STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Enterprise Coordination of Internet Map Servers. Mr. Zink reported that a Working Group, including several state agencies and local governments represented on the Steering Committee, continues to define the specifics of this initiative. A [Project Charter](#) has been drafted, revised, and approved.

Efforts are now focused on developing a more detailed delineation of the [project plan implementation steps](#). The plan is evolving somewhat, as this further delineation of specific implementation steps progresses. Initially it was proposed to acquire at least three dedicated servers for the data viewing, a DBMS, and a data repository. The current proposal is to, at least initially, work with the Office of the CIO to utilize its SQL Server production environment and its data storage capabilities (there will be costs associated with utilizing these services), to acquire a server and ESRI ArcServer 9.2 software for the data viewer. This would allow us more flexibility to utilize existing resources and evolve the system as it undergoes initial development.

Given the lack of dedicated funding for this project, the initial thinking was to try to undertake the initial implementation phase(s) using only in-kind services. Current thinking is that while in-kind services is probably a practical approach for arranging each agency-specific connections and protocols to an enterprise system, it is of questionable practicality for developing the enterprise portion of GIS programming and server configuration, and the SQL server component. Current thinking is to further define the specifics of a pilot project, and the technical services requirement of that pilot project, and then solicit funding to support a pilot project effort. Mr. Henderson noted that the concept would be to define a pilot project such that it would have a fairly clear completion point. The pilot project would have sufficient breath, such that when it was completed, we would have a demonstrable product, around which we could define and "sell" a model for on-going funding support for further development and maintenance. Mr. Henderson indicated that he wanted to be clear at the outset, that such an approach, which involves utilizing the resources of the Office of the CIO, will of necessity ultimately require the development of some mechanism for users to fund those services, since the Office of the CIO is essentially a cost-recovery agency.

Mr. Zink inquired of the committee members present if there were any concerns about how this project was evolving, specifically in regards to utilizing the Office of CIO for a SQL server environment and a data repository, utilizing ESRI ArcServer as the underlying GIS software component, and soliciting funding for technical resources to support a pilot project effort. There was some follow up questions, but no specific concerns were expressed regarding this direction for the project.

Mr. Henderson, arrived during the previous discussion and assumed the responsibilities of meeting Chair for the rest of the meeting.

Report on Street Centerline Address Work (NDOR, NPSC, State Patrol)

This is an initiative of the Office of the CIO, Department of Roads, and the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) for a statewide computerized dispatch system.

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Zink reported that the Office of the CIO is entering into a contract (on behalf of the State Patrol) with GIS Workshop to assemble, reformat, and integrate the best available street centerline/address data for a State Patrol Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that will be used by the State Patrol, the Fire Marshall and Game and Parks Commission officers. Where available (approximately 30 counties) data developed under the Public Service Commission E911 Enhancement program will be used. Locally produced data will also be integrated from Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster Counties. At this time, the rest of the state will be populated with updated Census TIGER centerline data (with the address numbers removed because of reliability concerns). Mr. Henderson noted that this is perceived by all parties as an interim step required to meet short-term needs, while longer-term enterprise solutions to the need for a comprehensive statewide street centerline/address database are developed.

[Metadata and Geospatial Data Catalogue Campaign](#). Mr. Zink indicated that this was an agenda item to basically serve as a reminder that the end of 2006 was the timeline goal that the Steering Committee established for agencies to comply with the NITC-adopted metadata standard that requires the documentation of state funded geospatial data with formal metadata. Mr. Zink noted that the actual NITC standard called for completion one-year from NITC adoption of the standard, which was in September 2005, but the Steering Committee has set the end of 2006 as a goal. Mr. Zink noted

that a metadata training session was scheduled and 24 folks participated. It is now up to the various agencies to commit the resources of their technical folks to get the job done. Mr. Zink asked for agencies' support for this effort and indicated that if he could be of any further assistance to please ask.

IMAGERY INITIATIVES

[Nebraska-Iowa Regional Orthoimagery Consortium \(NI-ROC\) 2007](#)

Mr. Schonlau provided the Committee with an update on the NI-ROC project. Mr. Schonlau noted that GE-MJ Hardin, of Kansas City, was selected as the vendor out of eight applicants and that final contract negotiations are now underway. The completion date for the imagery project is scheduled for October 2007. The project will cover over 7,500 square miles of imagery and includes an eight county contiguous area around Omaha-Lincoln-Council Bluffs and a non-contiguous area that includes three additional counties and four cities. The imagery will be a mix of 6 and 12-inch, leaf-off, color and b/w imagery. The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) is providing the administrative structure for this collaborative effort. Mr. Zink thanked Mr. Schonlau for this leadership in this effort and noted that the [map](#) that was linked to the agenda did not include the City of Columbus, which was added after the RFP was distributed.

[Surdex Offer of 2006 1-meter Imagery](#)

Mr. Zink reported that he had been approached at the National States Geographic Information Council meeting with an offer by the Surdex corporation to sell to the State of Nebraska 2006-based, 1-meter, color, leaf-on, statewide imagery for \$50,000. Mr. Zink noted that a link to the advance agenda had provided excerpts from an exchange of emails between himself and a Surdex representative further outlining details of the product and offer. Mr. Zink reported that it was his understanding that Surdex was the vendor for the 2006 FSA-USDA 2-meter imagery acquisition. On its own initiative, Surdex reportedly flew the flight at a lower altitude sufficient to actually collect imagery suitable for 1-meter resolution DOQs, but as per its contract it only delivered 2-meter data to FSA. Surdex is now seeking to market the higher resolution data. Mr. Zink also noted that it was his understanding that the NRCS-USDA currently has a contract with Surdex to produce and deliver statewide 1-meter, color-infrared DOQs from this same data. Mr. Zink noted that the proposed \$50,000 price compares very favorably to costs discussed earlier by the Committee of a potential partnership with the FSA to acquire 1-meter statewide imagery in 2008 (5-year cycle). The suggestion 1/3 partnership cost for the State of Nebraska was \$380,000. Mr. Zink reported that he had discussed this offer with Nebraska FSA folks and they did not indicate that it would necessarily be a problem for them in 2008.

Mr. Zink reported that he had made some initial inquiries of state agencies about the potential for financial support for such an acquisition. He reported that while he does not yet have a commitment for the full \$50,000, a few key agencies (such as NDOR) have indicated they would be supportive. Mr. Zink's question was does the Committee support proceeding with efforts to acquire this data.

There was general support for proceeding with acquisition of this data. The one area of concern was to clarify any licensing and/or distribution restrictions. Some agencies were interested in the data even if it could not be distributed beyond state agencies, but most indicated that if the data could not be in the public domain, or at the very least have a sunset provision for when it could be in the public domain, it would be a problem for them. There was also a question raised as to the format of the DOQs, full TIFF DOQs or compressed JPEGs. Full TIFF was preferred. The question was also raised about the desired map projection for the data. Mr. Zink noted that if we wanted it in two different projects, the costs would raise to \$55,000. Mr. Zink indicated that from past decisions, most state and local users preferred the State Plane projection and we also had UTM when federal agencies contributed to the effort. Mr. Zink inquired if anyone on the Committee wanted the data projected in UTM coordinates. No one indicated such a desire.

Mr. Ogden moved and Mr. Yamamoto seconded that the GIS Steering Committee supported efforts by Mr. Zink and the Office of the CIO to move forward with efforts to acquire statewide, 1-meter, color, leaf-on, DOQs, based on 2006 imagery, from the Surdex Corp, assuming that outstanding questions

related to licensing/public domain issues and delivery format can be favorably resolved. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

[FSA 1-meter Imagery 2008](#). Mr. Zink indicated that this was an item on the agenda in case any further discussion or action was desired following a decision on the Surdex imagery offer. Mr. Zink noted that a purchase of statewide, 2006 1-meter, color, leaf-on imagery from Surdex will make the case for a partnership with FSA on 2008 1-meter imagery much less compelling. Mr. Zink noted once again that he had communicated with Nebraska FSA leadership about the Surdex offer and that they had not express a concern about the State moving forward in response to the offer.

[Imagery for the Nation Endorsement](#)

Mr. Zink provided the Committee with a brief background on the Imagery for the Nation proposal. The concept was originally developed, and is being promoted by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). As has been experienced here in Nebraska, nationwide there is a widespread need for regular periodic updates of aerial imagery. In response to this need, there is currently a wide array of state, federal, and local initiatives to acquire updated imagery in various forms and resolutions. In some cases, these initiatives are coordinated for a given area, but coordinated efforts are unfortunately the exception, not the norm and therefore there is a high degree of overlap and duplication of effort. The Imagery for the Nation proposal calls for the federal government to take the lead in funding and organizing regular updates of standardized imagery products. The proposal, as currently framed, would allow state and local entities to contribute additional funding to upgrade or enhance those standardized products. Mr. Zink shared with the Committee an [analysis](#) he had developed for how the various component of the proposal might impact the various counties and cities of Nebraska due to varying population density. At this point, the Imagery for the Nation is not in legislative form, but instead a conceptual proposal for which feedback and support are being solicited to show the need and support for federal legislation in this area. To show this support, state geographic information coordinating councils are being asked to pass resolutions indicating their support. Mr. Zink had linked to the advance agenda a draft resolution for the Steering Committee's consideration. Following discussion by the Committee, Mr. Miyoshi moved and Mr. Langtry seconded a motion to pass the draft resolution expressing support for the Imagery for the Nation proposal, with the final draft sentence being modified to stop after the wording, "statewide stakeholders". The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

NEBRASKA LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION

[LB 565 - NEBRASKA LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM PROGRAM ACT - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?](#)

Mr. Zink noted that at the last meeting of the GIS Steering Committee he was encouraged to convene a meeting of the key stakeholders in the Nebraska land record modernization effort to discuss and make recommendations for the best course of action on this initiative relative to the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Zink reported that such a meeting was held and it included participants from NACO, Dept. of Property Assessment and Taxation, Governor Policy Research Office, NRDs, Office of the CIO, and the GIS/LIS Association. That group noted that there will be a relatively new legislative body and that its agenda will be pretty full with initiatives already underway, and therefore the group recommended that no new legislative initiative on land record modernization should be pursued at this time. It suggested that the land record information standards recently adopted by the NITC be reviewed and promoted to local governments. The group also suggested that opportunities be explored for outlining and explaining land record modernization needs to new state senators.

NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 5-7TH IN OMAHA

Mr. Zink reported that NACO is scheduled to hold its Annual Conference in Omaha on December 5-7th and he had been approached about having an exhibitor booth for the Steering Committee and the Conference. Mr. Zink noted that the booth costs was \$175 for a governmental, non-profit organization and that for the past several years the Committee has had a booth at the NACO Conference. Mr.

Schonlau moved and Mr. Fox seconded the motion that the Steering Committee once again have a booth at the NACO conference and authorized the payment of the \$175 for that booth. The motion carried by an unanimous voice vote.

CIO ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES DISCUSSION – STRAW POLL RESULTS.

Mr. Zink noted that at the last Steering Committee meeting, there was a discussion regarding the possible use of some of the Office of the CIO's discretionary project funding for some enterprise-level GIS initiatives. Mr. Henderson had asked for the Steering Committee's sense of priorities for the use of such funding. The discussion that followed did not provide a clear sense of priorities and so it was decided to conduct an email straw poll and also to invited Committee members to participate in an ad hoc group to review those straw poll findings. A [summary of the straw poll results](#) were available as a link to the advance agenda. Mr. Zink noted that from his perspective, there was a fairly close priority grouping of the top three initiatives: 1) street centerline, 2) orthoimagery, and 3) data exchange network. However, within that grouping, the street centerline database was given the highest priority. Mr. Zink also noted that the feedback he received from the ad hoc priorities group seemed to agree with that assessment.

Mr. Henderson thanked those who had responded to the straw poll and asked those members of the Committee present whether they were comfortable with this rough sense of priorities. Mr. Schonlau expressed concern that if the Public Service Commission was pursuing the street centerline/address work, he didn't want what limited funds that might be available to the Steering Committee to be used to duplicate or replace PSC funding. Mr. Schonlau advocated a higher priority be given to the Data Exchange Network. Mr. Henderson indicated that while there is a fair amount of PSC funding applied to the street centerline/address work, there are also some very significant gaps in that effort. Mr. Henderson indicated that it would probably be in an effort to fill those gaps where CIO funding might be applied. There were other comments made regarding the key role that the Data Exchange Network might serve in meeting many of the Steering Committee's other priorities. There was also a discussion of the merits of LIDAR, particularly in light of the Surdex imagery offer. Mr. Henderson indicated that the Office of the CIO would consider these priorities as it looks at possible funding allocations.

ANNUAL REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Zink noted that at the last meeting of the Steering Committee decided for 2006 to just do an update based on the existing Strategic Plan for the 2006 report and look at doing a major rewrite of the Strategic Plan in 2007. Mr. Zink indicated that he had initially planned to provide the Steering Committee with an overview of what he saw being in that 2006 report, but given the latest of the hour, he would propose that we pass on that until the January meeting. The group supported that approach.

FGDC NSDI PLANNING GRANT??

Mr. Zink reported that it is likely that the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will be offering a grant (up to \$50,000) for the purpose of facilitating state-level enterprise planning for realizing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Mr. Zink noted that the Steering Committee has indicated that it thinks it is timely for a major rewrite of our Strategic Plan in 2007. Mr. Zink raised the question as to whether the Committee wanted him to pursue this grant opportunity. Mr. Zink indicated that he had mixed thoughts on the merits of pursuing this grant. On the one hand, it is likely that if we were to get this grant, we could hire a consultant to help us with this project, which would likely result in a Strategic Plan that might have more credibility because of the consultant's reputation. On the other hand, it will take quite a bit of his time to write the grant, write and review RFP submissions, get the consultant up to speed, and then write grant reports to the FGDC. All of these efforts would take away from his time to actually work with groups on rewriting a new Strategic Plan and other Steering Committee priorities. Mr. Zink also noted that there will only be 10 grant awards and that there is a 50% match requirement.

Following discussion, the Committee decided that it was comfortable with Mr. Henderson and Mr. Zink making a decision on the merits of pursuing or not this FGDC grant opportunity.

REPORT ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

No reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Zink noted that there are apparently some outstanding issues that are holding up a reauthorization of the ESRI Master Purchase Agreement. This is of particular concern because a new version of ArcGIS 9.2 is due to be released in the near future. The impact of this on existing software maintenance agreements, and consequently on the no-cost receipt of software upgrades is not clear. Mr. Zink also noted that apparently Google Earth is beginning to raise the issue with some agencies in other states about their free use of their Google Earth product. Google Earth is apparently free for personal use, but not commercial/state agency use. Agencies might want to explore this issue within their agency.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The next GIS Steering Committee meeting, will be held on **Thursday, January 4th**.

Vote Tallies for November 1, 2006 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting

	Roll Call	#1 Minutes	#2 Surdex	#3 Imagery for Nation	#4 NACO booth	#5	#6	#7
DAS - Steve Henderson (Lori McClurg)	A/P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, Paul Yamamoto (Mike Linder)	P	+	V	V	V	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila, Les Howard, Milda Vaitkus	P	+	O	O	O	.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett, Sudhir Ponnapan (Rex Amack)	A	.	I	I	I	.	.	.
NRC - Kim Menke , Rex Gittins (Ann Bleed)	A/P	+	C	C	C	.	.	.
PRO - John Erickson (Lauren Hill)	A/P	.	E	E	E	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang , Bob Martin, Rob Christian	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - Jon Ogden , Steve Brown (John Craig)	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Steve Cobb , John Beran	P	+	V	V	V	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell	A	.	O	O	O	.	.	.
Ray Fox	P	+	T	T	T	.	.	.
John Miyoshi , Chris Poole	P	+	E	E	E	.	.	.
Mark Brugger	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Seifert	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell, Jim Langtry	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre, Mike Schonlau	A/P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
HHSS: Chris Chalmers	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	10-P 14-P	11 - +	.	.	.	.	.	.

"P"=present, "A"=absent, "+"=voting for, "-"=voting against, "NV"=not voting