

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - February 19, 1998

Present were (* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	State Information Technology Coordinator
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resources Commission
Randy Behounek	Sarpy County Surveyor's Office
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Lash Chaffin	League of Municipalities
* Dick Genrich	Department of Roads
* Val Goodman	Legislative Research
* Les Howard	Conservation & Survey Division
Erik Hubl	Lancaster County Assessor's Office
* Terry Kubicek	Natural Resources Commission
* Tom Lamberson	Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Langtry	Lancaster County Engineer's Office
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte NRD
Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Boyd Ready	Central NE Public Power Irrigation District
Scott E. Richert	Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Steve Schafer	DAS-Intergovernmental Data Services
Ethel Skinner	Property Tax Division
* Duane Stott	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
Stu Sutherland	Professional Surveyor's Association
* Perry Wigley	Conservation & Survey Division
* Larry Worrell	Lancaster County Surveyor
Paul Yamamoto	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Committee

NOTICE OF MEETING: A public notice of the meeting, pursuant to Section 84-1411 R.R. S. 1943, was published in the Lincoln Journal-Star on 2/12/98.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chairperson Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. and requested a call of the roll. Eight duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

MINUTES: Vice Chair Lash Chaffin requested approval for the January minutes. Larry Worrell moved for the minutes of the January 16, 1998 Steering Committee meeting to be approved as distributed. Dick Genrich seconded the motion. As no discussion was desired, Larry Zink called roll and the motion passed.

REPORT FROM INTERIM PLANNING COMMITTEE: John Miyoshi reported that the Planning Committee, consisting of himself, Erik Hubl and Dennis Wilson, met on February 5, 1998. John reported that the Planning Committee had developed a proposed set of refined the goals and objectives, based on the rough goals identified by the GIS Steering Committee in its planning retreat in January. John asked if he needed to read through the report step by step, or what action the Steering Committee wanted to take. Larry Zink suggested that if the committee was planning on adopting these goals and objectives he thought it was important to at least go through them and briefly discuss them prior to adoption. Lash requested a brief reading. John then presented the following goals and objectives, as refined by the Planning Committee, and proposed for adoption by the Steering Committee as its long-range goals and objectives.

DATABASE GOAL. Actively coordinate the development, maintenance, and distribution of priority statewide digital geospatial databases.

Objectives

1. Identify priority databases.
2. Create a subcommittee for each priority database, which is charged with reporting to the Steering Committee on the following areas relative to each designated priority database.
 - a. an assessment of the current status of each designated database, relative to the perceived short and intermediate-term needs;
 - b. an exploration of issues such as the range of likely users, current database completeness, accuracy, and the adequacy of current standards.

CURRENT STATISTICS,

- c. recommendations for how any necessary database development efforts should be undertaken, including possible responsible agencies and funding; and
 - d. recommendations related to database management issues, such as maintenance, integration, and distribution.
3. Adopt an action plan for the development, maintenance, and/or distribution of each priority database.
 4. Oversee the implementation of the action plan for each priority database and update and revise as necessary.

LAND RECORDS GOAL. The promotion and facilitation of local government land record modernization and GIS development.

Objectives

1. Complete the PLSS Pilot Project and its report.
2. Develop plan for the expansion of this PLSS Pilot Project concept to other counties or statewide expansion.
3. Develop Standards for Local Government Multipurpose Land Information Systems.
4. Build private and public organizational support for funding of local government land record modernization initiatives.
5. Encourage the leadership of the Property Tax Division in assisting the local governments with their land record modernization efforts.
6. Support the passage of the Nebraska Plane Coordinate System Act [LB 483].

EDUCATION GOAL. Strengthen the GIS Education Subcommittee and its overall educational program activities.

Objectives

1. Recruit at least three Steering Committee members to be actively involved with the Education Subcommittee, plus additional outside involvement.
2. Adopt a multi-year education plan developed by the Education Subcommittee.
3. Provide support, encouragement, and leadership to plan and implement a 1999 Nebraska GIS Symposium.
4. Continue the Nebraska GIS Update Newsletter.
5. Continue to educate government officials and representatives on the benefits of GIS.

FINANCIAL GOAL. Increase financial support for the GIS Steering Committee goals and programs.

Objectives

1. Develop a plan for securing legislative financial support for the GIS Steering Committee goals and programs.
2. Develop a plan for obtaining grants and private sector support financial support for the GIS Steering Committee goals and programs.

STRUCTURE AND PROCESS GOAL. Evaluate the GIS Steering Committee's operational process and structure.

Objectives

1. Select a committee to lead the GIS Steering Committee through a process of designing effective processes and organizational structures to meet its goals and objectives.

Following the presentation of the proposed goals and objectives by John Miyoshi, Lash asked if there were any questions regarding the report either for John or for Erik, who was also present from the Planning Committee. John raised the question of what action the Steering Committee wanted to take regarding the goals and objectives at this time. Larry Zink suggested that unless there were concerns about the proposed goals and objectives that the Steering Committee should move to formally adopt them, since up to this point the Steering Committee had not taken formal action on the results of its planning session. Les Howard moved to accept the goals and objectives as proposed by the Planning Committee and Lash seconded the motion. Lash called for discussion on the motion. Terry Kubicek wondered if action had already been taken on the goals at the meeting following the retreat. Larry noted that the Steering Committee had decided the goals needed refinement in its January meeting and thus had been given to the interim planning committee for that purpose.

Erik Hubl suggested that if people felt the need, the motion could be tabled until a larger body of the Steering Committee was present. John Miyoshi pointed out that copies of the proposed goals and objectives had been sent out before the meeting in an attempt to speed the process. Terry moved to table the motion. Lash asked if there was a second to Terry's motion and there being none, it died for lack of a second. Returning to the motion to approve the proposed goals and objectives, further discussion continued.

It was suggested that acceptance of the goals and objectives is not as critical as action. For the Steering Committee to be effective, it needs to take action rather than remain focused on refining goals. John Miyoshi agreed, stating that the critical early piece is the structure and process goal. He would like to have a committee appointed to begin immediately to work on that goal. Larry Zink suggested that before the Steering Committee adopted the proposed goals and objectives, it was important to note that the Planning Committee discussed how they would require the Steering Committee to commit to some serious committee organizational work and following through. Lash submitted that the Steering Committee as a whole needed to think more seriously about structure and process goals. He suggested the executive committee in the next two meetings work to figure out who should be in charge of it. John reiterated that a subcommittee was called for and indicated three people work well together as a group. Lash called for any further discussion then asked Larry to call the role to vote on the motion to adopt the goals and objectives as refined by the Interim Planning Committee. The motion passed (*see vote 2*).

Lash asked if there was any further discussion on the subject. John Miyoshi proposed that a subcommittee be selected to work on the structure and process goal, whether it was the executive committee or a special committee. He further stated that Erik Hubl had come up with a list of potential committees that might be called for to realize the goals and objectives. Lash called for any volunteers for the operational process and structure subcommittee. No volunteers came forward, hence Lash moved that the executive committee temporarily fill that role until someone volunteered and that they further had the authority to appoint a permanent subcommittee. John wanted to know who is on the executive committee at present. Lash replied Jim Brown, Dayle Williamson, Lash Chaffin, Dennis Burling, and Jon Ogden. John mentioned that the executive committee might have to volunteer someone. The motion was seconded by Rod Armstrong and Larry Zink called the roll. The motion did not pass, receiving only seven of required eight votes (*see vote 3*). John Miyoshi observed that the chairman then had the authority to appoint a committee. Lash stated that he would have a committee appointed by the next meeting.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FOR MULTI-PURPOSE LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Erik Hubl reported that no virtually no edits had been suggested on the first two draft sections. He stated he would like to take this opportunity to ask if there were any comments. He also commented that the draft sections were now available via the Internet for anyone who had a web browser and was also available in a word '95 format for download. He continued by mentioning that the committee was hard at work on the next section, base mapping. The committee had invited Brian Dunnigan, Natural Resource Commission, to help write the base map section, focusing on the details of scale and accuracy. The committee also completed a draft copy of a glossary of terms, and has started working on the next section, "Cadastral Data". Erik then invited questions. Larry Zink mentioned that he and Steve Schafer had been discussing ways of assisting the advisory committee in moving ahead with their work, particularly because of the interest of the Property Tax Division and the possibility of having some regulations by the end of the year. The idea they have been exploring is to have a graduate student work with them. No job description has been written yet, but it does seem feasible and Larry believes they have a possible avenue of funding. Larry asked for any concerns, suggestions or leads on good graduate students. John Miyoshi inquired whether the job would be advertised via the Internet. Larry had not thought about doing so, planning to utilize the University of Nebraska resources.

PLSS PILOT PROJECT UPDATE: Larry Zink gave the report in the absence of Jim Brown. Jim had asked Larry to follow up and contact people in his absence, which Larry had recently completed. Adams County has input all the original survey information. They have been using the state surveyors' GPS equipment primarily but have also been taking advantage of vendor demonstrations. They have collected almost all their GPS control data, far beyond the original minimum of two corners per township. After Adams County, the performance tapers off. Hall County has about two thirds of their original survey data input. Hall County already had their GPS control in place from other projects they had done. Larry estimated Dawson County was about halfway finished and Merrick County has barely begun. Larry expects at least three counties to finish the project by the end of May and have the data ready for conversion into ArcInfo, but has doubts about Merrick County finishing. Larry Zink continued by stating that if this project is going to spread statewide, then the Steering Committee should be aware that someone needs to be available to provide follow up to ensure progress. This will be even more critical in the counties that do not have a full time surveyor.

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION INITIATIVE AND GIS: Lash requested an update on this legislative initiative from Rod Armstrong. Rod stated that initiative is proceeding on two tracks, one is the legislation, and the other is the structures that were put in place by executive order. The hearing for the bill was last Wednesday and Rod felt it went very well. There were a couple of opponents, but Rod did not feel they were particularly well informed. By and large, support was very strong. The recommendations adopted by the Steering Committee along with a cover letter by Lash were presented and were included in the amendments that Sen. Hillman proposed for the bill. The appropriations committee will take up the issue in executive session next Monday and Senator Hillman will advocate for adding the Steering Committee recommendations into the proposal. Funding for the Steering Committee operations may not be in appropriations bill which is attached to LB 924. That may be considered as part of the larger budget bill, but Senator Hillman does intend to proceed with it. Rod believes that the prospects of something passing are good, but the real question is to what extent things will be retained in the bill. He finished by saying that everything the committee recommended is now in front of the appropriations committee. The question of what the overall price tag of the initiative is was raised. Rod responded that it was just under \$3 million for the first year.

The information technology commission that was set up by executive order has met once and will meet again on March 20. At this point they are mainly updating work that has been previously done. One issue they are discussing is that the DAS division communications has been working with the Department of Roads on a proposal for a fiber trunk down the interstate right of way.

There are three councils in the proposed legislation, the Information Resources Cabinet which is the government council will be meeting again a week from Monday. Their principal focus currently is looking at state services or products for which a transaction takes place. For example, you pay to get a birth certificate, you cannot get it online at this point. They are trying to select a few 'quick wins' and to work with the state records board to get those things moving forward. Rod anticipates that before the year is out there will be a request for a presentation from the GIS Steering Committee as to what they have been doing with the IRC because that is the link.

The Education Council has been formed but has not met yet. They plan to meet in the beginning of March.

The Community Council has met once. They will be meeting again a week from Friday.

John Miyoshi asked if there had been a lot of questions from the appropriations committee to Senator Hillman. Rod said there had not been a lot of questions, but he anticipated that there would be once people delved deeper into the proposal. He has not met anyone who has not liked the concept put forward, but he expects that once things get going there will be more questions. Larry Zink wondered if it would be functional for the goals and objectives adopted by the Steering Committee to be forwarded to the government council. Rod agreed that would be a good idea.

FRAMEWORK DATA SURVEY: Larry Zink stated that due to the departure of the department secretary, the survey has been not yet been sent out. He is still hoping to mail out the surveys to the various counties and state agencies that are doing any kind of GIS or geospatial work this month. Also, some selected federal groups, all the NRD's, the telephone company, gas companies, irrigation districts who seem to be doing GIS work will receive the survey. The intent is to find out what they are doing relative to core framework database development. The idea ultimately is to coordinate standards and figure out how to integrate the information.

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS: Les Howard reported that Jim had not asked him to pass anything along regarding the GIS newsletter. Larry Zink said that Jim Merchant was in the process of putting another newsletter together. Articles received yesterday would be timely. Jon Ogden mentioned that if Jim Merchant was planning on having Roads print the newsletter then they needed to expect a week lead-time in getting the newsletter out.

Regarding the Nebraska GIS symposium for 1999, Larry Zink reported that Jim Merchant contacted the Cornhusker Hotel. They identified two possible dates available; April 26-28 or May 11-13. Based on that information, Larry Zink indicated that Jim has put together a rough symposium schedule for discussion. Also, Larry Worrell and Jim Brown have had preliminary discussions with the Professional Surveyors Association (PSAN) regarding their interests. Larry Worrell said that PSAN would co-sponsor the symposium and financially underwrite it. Any of the dates would be all right with them, but Larry Worrell recommended the May date. Larry Zink concluded that the most critical action to be taken now was to get back to the Cornhusker to reserve a date. Larry Zink noted that previously, an ad hoc committee was formed to take charge of the symposium and it was never considered an actual subcommittee of the Steering Committee. Larry Zink indicated that this structure allowed it to move faster than a formal subcommittee of the Steering Committee. Larry Zink wanted to know if the Steering Committee was interested in staying with that format and if there was a preference on the date. He also welcomed any comments or discussion regarding Jim's proposal. Lash suggested that unless there was a strong feeling regarding the dates, Jim Merchant and Larry Worrell decide on the dates as they did last time. Larry Zink asked if the Steering Committee was comfortable with the loose structure suggested by Lash. He further requested a commitment of energy and interest into making the symposium happen. Lash concluded that due to a lack of objections, Larry Worrell and Jim Merchant would be in charge of contacting the Cornhusker again. Larry Zink asked if the lack of objections also indicated a willingness to cosponsor the event, as it would likely take a fair amount of his time. John Miyoshi stated his belief that that was understood.

INTERNET PRESENCE: Larry Zink explained that there has been a fair amount of urging from certain areas to make the minutes, agendas, reports, etc. available through the internet. He has put some time the past month into doing that as a part of the developing an Intergovernmental Data Service Division's web presence. It is not fully integrated into the official GIS Steering Committee's web page hosted by CSD, but that is planned. Larry Zink has created a coordinators page which will provide a means for ongoing links to minutes, agendas, reports etc. from the GIS Steering Committee Home Page. He asked if there were any concerns about placing information up on the Internet and if there was a felt need to have draft documents cleared through the GIS Steering Committee prior to putting them up on the Internet.

Larry also requested feedback regarding the idea reducing paper mailings of minutes and agendas by doing only one mailing per meeting. Someone else suggested the possibility of totally eliminating the paper mailings. Rod Armstrong said that they had virtually eliminated mailings in the IRC. The only paper mailed was to people without Internet access. He brings a few extra copies of the minutes and agenda to the meetings. John Miyoshi suggested that perhaps anyone who wanted to continue to receive documents in a hard copy format should contact Larry Zink. There was positive feedback regarding that idea. John Miyoshi added that an attachment to the email notification containing the minutes or agenda might be a good idea. Another suggestion was to email the link. Larry Zink said that there were currently over one hundred people who were on the GIS minutes mailing list. He hoped that this might be a way to pare down the list by making it available online. Lash asked if there was a legal problem with there being no paper copies. Duane said it was just different. John Miyoshi pointed out that there was a hard copy available. Lash recalled that there was an executive order to reduce mailings. John Miyoshi suggested that Larry Zink send out a questionnaire with the next mailing of the minutes to get email addresses for those who do not wish to receive further paper copies. Larry welcomed any suggestions regarding additions to the report page. Lash requested that future meeting dates be listed on the web page.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES AND AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES:

Digital Raster Graphics. Perry Wigley, CSD, began by explaining that the Conservation and Survey Division has been the state designated ESIC (Earth Science Information Center) for many years. As such, they do things like sell topographical maps, many of the U.S. geological survey map products, historical maps, etc. In the October newsletter, it was noted that the Digital Raster Graphics (DRGs) were completed for Nebraska. These are basically scans of the USGS topographic maps and you can buy them from the USGS. The Conservation and Survey Division has an agreement with the USGS to make the DRGs available for little or no fee. They will ultimately be available on their

web site or on disk and can be acquired for the cost of materials. Les Howard stated that they hope to have all the DRG's up within the next two or three weeks. The Conservation and Survey Division will be adding other products in the coming months. The USGS wants these products to get out and was eager to participate with the CSD in providing the maps free.

DOQ Status Report Terry Kubicek handed out copies of the status of DOQ's. He stated that they continued on schedule and underbudget, pushing into the second phase. The status is available on the NRC homepage. The NRC is engaged in a co-venture with the CSD and NRCS to compile/recompile soils of the state, and Terry passed around a map detailing the current soil survey digitizing status. During the first year, there were approximately 11 counties completed. By the end of the second year, there should be an additional 14 counties. Erik Hubl raised a question as to the status of the Lancaster County soils data. Terry was unsure. He stated there were too many variables to tell. He was hoping to have it within the next 30-45 days. Terry mentioned that they are starting to get requests from farmers and ranchers for DOQ maps. Also, requests from Coop's are coming in. The Coop's are calling for information to pass to their crop consultants to track spraying, irrigation, crop yields. Independent crop consulting companies are asking for data relevant to multi-county areas mostly in Central Nebraska, a heavily irrigated area. John Miyoshi asked if the NRC was charging anything for their data. Terry said they charge only for the CD Roms if they have to buy them.

OTHER BUSINESS: Larry Zink reported that he had conveyed to Darrell the lack of interest here in funding the NAPP flights. Darrell mentioned that the people he had corresponded with regarding the flights wanted to know if there was any interest in the time that these flights were done. The traditional time that these flights are flown is mid February through April. There is a feeling that in Nebraska, particularly in the West, it is possible to do the flights in late summer, due to a lack of leaf cover. No interest was expressed in having the flights done in late summer.

Larry Zink reported that at the previous meeting, he had handed out an outline of the National Association of Public Administration report on Federal Geographic Information Coordination and their recommendations for revisions. Larry noted that the FGDC has expressed its interest in feedback from the states. Larry Zink raised the question of whether the Steering Committee was interested and/or was willing to take the time to respond. Larry Zink clarified that they were looking at various federal agencies that have roles in geographic information, some possible consolidation, whether the FGDC, a federal body, should be expanded into a national coordinating body in order to involve the states, local governments and private industry. The study was funded by four federal agencies and given to the National Association of Public Administration to conduct. Larry suggested that some of the proposed organizational restructuring would be more inclusive of the states, local and private sectors. Larry concluded from the discussion that there was little or no interest in the Steering Committee taking the time to review the recommends and giving any feedback, and that therefore it should not be placed on the March agenda.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is March 12, 1998, there will be a GIS Forum that day, featuring Lincoln/Lancaster County GIS prior to the Steering Committee meeting.

Vote Tallies for 2/19/98 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting								
	Roll call	Minutes #1	Goals & Obj. #2	Exec. Cmte. Struct/Proc #3	#4	#6	#7	#8
DAS - Rod Armstrong	A/P	.	+	+	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard	P	+	+	NV	.	.	.	.
NRC - Dayle Williamson Terry Kubicek	P	+	NV	NV	.	.	.	.
PRO - Yvonne Norton- Leung	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - Dick Genrich Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LRD - Val Goodman	A/P	.	+	NV	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinwiddie	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Dennis Wilson	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	8-P / 10-P	8 +	9 + 1 NV	7 + 3 NV	.	.	.	.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, March 12, 1998 at 1:00 pm**