

## GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 6/14/95

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:15 a.m. by the Vice Chair, Lash Chaffin.

Present were (\* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	Governor's Policy Research Office
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resource Commission
* Jim Brown	State Surveyor's Office
Ron Bruder	SAIC - AIM
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Lash Chaffin	League of Municipalities
Rob Christian	Saunders County
* Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
Bill Doyle	SAIC
Geir Friisoe	Dept. of Agriculture
Doug Garrison	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jamie Green	Dept. of Agriculture
* Les Howard	Conservation and Survey Division
Eric Hubl	Lancaster County Assessors Office
* Terry Kubicek	Natural Resources Commission
Mark Kuzila	Conservation and Survey Division - UNL
Jim Lacy	CALMIT - UNL
Tom Lamberson	Department of Environmental Quality
* Jim Langtry	Lancaster County Engineer's Office
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte NRD
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Betty Patzleff	Saunders County Assessor
Scott Richert	Game and Parks Commission
Stan Schmidt	Dept. of Agriculture
* Duane Stott	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
Connie Watson	SAIC
* Dennis Wilson	City of Omaha
Paul Yamamoto	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Cmte.

**NOTICE OF MEETING.** A public notice of the meeting pursuant to Section 84-1411 R.R.S. 1943, was published in the Omaha World Herald on June 7, 1995.

**ROLL CALL.** Vice Chair Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 am and requested that Larry Z. call the roll. Twelve duly authorized representatives were present and therefore a quorum was present to conduct business. Rod Armstrong and John Miyoshi arrived shortly after the roll call

**MINUTES.** Jim B. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the minutes of the May 17, 1995 GIS Str. Cmte. meeting be approved as circulated. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote # 1 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

**DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COUNTY SOILS SURVEYS.** Natural Resources Commission. Terry K. presented NRC's perspective on digitizing Nebraska soil surveys to meet SURRGO standards. Terry K. handed out a map showing the state of digital soils data for Nebraska counties, as of December 1993. Terry K. noted that for the 61 counties shown on the map as having completed digital soils, this county soils data was raster data (2 acre cells) and therefore did not meet SURRGO standards for vector data. Terry noted that currently there are no Nebraska county soil surveys completed to meet SURRGO standards. Terry also passed out and discussed a handout showing the processing steps for creating a digital soils product once the soil lines have been recompiled onto a stable-base ortho product (orthotopos or orthophotos).

Recompilation. Blaine D. observed that it was his understanding that a major roadblock to creating SURRGO soils data was the step of hand drawing (recompiling) the existing soil map lines onto a stable-based ortho product. Blaine D. asked Terry K. how he saw this being accomplished. Terry K. indicated that NRC has on staff a person trained by NRCS (Josh Lear), who could recompile the soil lines directly or supervise others on the NRC staff doing this work. Terry K. noted that NRC was willing to redirect at least five full-time staff members (3 - Comprehensive Planning and 2 - Data Bank) to this effort. Terry K. also observed that he felt that they could accomplish the overall recompiling and digitizing effort, for the entire state, within three years.

Larry Z. noted that the current rough estimates for recompiling and digitizing the county soils data amounted to an approximate total of 36 employee-years (NRCS estimated it would take approximately 31 employee-years to compile all of the soil lines onto stable-based ortho products and NRC staff estimates for digitizing and labeling those recompiled lines for all of the state amounted to approximately 5.3 employee-years). Larry Z. also observed that in addition to these large scale resource and time demanding tasks, the NRC was also proposing to develop DOQQs for the entire state during the same time period, with the same resources. Terry K. restated his belief that it could all be done over an approximate three year time frame. Terry K. noted that the production of DOQQs could be coordinated with the counties ready for remapping or recompiling. Terry K. also noted that in addition to redirecting NRC resources, NRC was hoping to arrange for a redirection of Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) staff to recompilation efforts, and would also like to arrange for NRCS support by means of assigning NRCS staff to work with the NRC on the effort. Mark Kuzila shared with the Str. Cmte. that CSD was willing to work with NRC to redirect some CSD staff to this effort, however, he also cautioned that there was already in place significant commitments for those staff resources in terms of contracts with local governments to update existing soil surveys.

DOQQs versus Orthotopos. Larry Z. shared his observation that in their earlier presentations, both the NRCS and CSD had indicated that they were inclined to use orthotopos for recompilation of soil surveys, except for those 14 counties that they felt need to be remapped. Larry Z. asked Terry K. if he was correct in his understanding that NRC was proposing to produce and use DOQQs for recompiling the soil surveys for the entire state and if this difference in approach had been resolved with the other two agencies. Terry K. indicated that it was the intention of NRC to use DOQQs for the entire state and indicated that he felt this could be worked out with the other two agencies. Mark Kuzila noted that CSD was not opposed to using DOQQs, if they were available, but had proposed using orthotopos because of availability and costs. Blaine D. asked about the differences in availability and costs between orthotopos and DOQQs. It was noted that orthotopos are currently available for about \$65 per quad. Terry K. indicated that NRC hoped to demonstrate through its Lancaster County DOQQ pilot project that it could also substantially reduce the costs and time lag for DOQQ production. *DOQQs if ordered through USGS have a one to two year time lag and the state's 50% cost share is between \$400 to \$500 per DOQQ. There are over 5,700 quarter quads in Nebraska.* Terry K. also indicated that he felt it was important to be uniform across the state in terms of the base used for

compiling soils data. Terry also noted the other multiple uses for DOQQs once they have been produced and are therefore available.

Terry K. was asked if NRC anticipated requesting and therefore would want the Str. Cmte.'s support for additional budget authority or appropriations for either the soils recompilation and digitizing, or the DOQQ production for the entire state. Terry K. responded that he did not anticipate that and felt that it could be done by redirecting existing staff and resources over a roughly three year time frame.

Terry K. was also asked if, at this time, any agreement or overall understanding, with or without the details, had been reached with the other two primary agencies (NRCS and CSD) as to how the soils data was to be recompiled and digitized. Terry K indicated that there was no agreement yet, but that he felt it was close. Terry K. noted that the three agencies were planning to meet again later in June. Rod A. stated his assumption that when such an agreement or memorandum of understanding was reached, Terry K. would bring it before the Str. Cmte. Terry K. indicated that he would certainly do so. The Str. Cmte. thanked Terry K. for sharing NRC's perspective on how digital, vector county soils data could be produced for the state and indicated an interest in updates on joint planning efforts between the three agencies.

**UPDATE ON CADASTRE/PLSS TASK FORCE.** Larry Z. reported that the Task Force held its second meeting on the Tuesday, just before the Str. Cmte. meeting. Larry Z. noted that the group is working on a definition of a PLS base map and a property parcel base map. The group is seeking to outline general approaches for the development of each spatial database, with the intent of presenting those general directions to the Str. Cmte. at its July meeting. Larry Z. also reported that the group has begun to seriously discuss the probable need for additional funding resources to facilitate the development of this digital spatial data. Larry Z. noted that the representatives of local government are being asked to seriously explore that issue with their networks to see if there is or will likely be support for this type of initiative. Someone on the Str. Cmte. asked if the group was talking about mandating standards. Larry Z. indicated that there seemed to be pretty strong support from the local government representatives for the need for standards. Jim B. noted that there also seemed to be a general support for the idea of a local government mapping department. Jim B. also noted that it was clear that there are areas of the state in which we need to look at a regional approach to the development of the data.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION AND GIS DEVELOPMENT AND A MAJOR EDUCATIONAL EFFORT FOCUSED ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES.** Larry Z. noted that these were two of the other items that were given priority at the Str. Cmte.'s planning retreat in January. From the discussion of these items at the last meeting, it was suggested that they be placed on the agenda for this meeting and that one idea to consider was having the local government representatives form a task force around these issues. There was general agreement that this should be an important area of focus, however there was not many idea for how we should proceed. The tie-in with the PLS/Property Parcel Task Force work was noted and supported. Larry Z. noted that the upcoming GIS Symposium was targeted primarily to this audience. Blaine D. noted the availability of a considerable amount of data and resources for some counties to get started. Larry Z. suggested that a very helpful tool would be a demo illustrating the possibilities at the local government level. Someone suggested that a good demo might be able to be developed using ArcView2 and the data that comes with it. Blaine D. suggested the possibility of using the Internet more to reach out and educate public officials. It was suggested that additional GIS information, including potentially the Str. Cmte. minutes should be placed on the Internet. Jon O. suggested the possibility of placing it on the NRC system. It was noted that many of the current educational activities sponsored by the Str. Cmte. reach only the already interested or committed folks.

Jim B. suggested that the Education Subcmte. be asked to reassess what it was doing and how we might better reach public officials. Larry Z. noted that currently the Education Subcmte. consisted only of Jim Merchant and himself.

The idea of arranging for, or attending regional meetings of county officials was suggested. Terry K. suggested the idea of inviting Jack Mills, NACO, to a Str. Cmte. meeting to discuss how best to develop a dialogue and educate public officials on GIS. Jon O. and Rod A. supported this idea. Larry Z. mentioned that Cliff Welsh had offered to try to arrange a presentation by the Str. Cmte. at one of NACO's board meetings. It was decided to invite Jack to the next Str. Cmte. meeting to discuss how the Str. Cmte. might best reach out to County Commissioners.

**GPS COORDINATION.** Because there was just a short period before breaking for lunch, we jumped down the agenda and Jim B. gave a brief report on the status of the GPS Base Station proposal. Jim B. noted that the Legislature had passed, and it was not vetoed, the proposal to fund the development of a statewide network of three GPS base stations. These base stations will be targeted primarily at providing additional spatial accuracy and promoting compatibility of hand-held GPS units. Jim B. noted that in the coming months he will be moving forward to develop this network. Jim B. noted that this effort could also include discussion/negotiations with private vendors to provide this GPS reference service. Jim indicated that the first base station would probably be set up in Lincoln (hopefully by the end of August), with the next one in the Scottsbluff/Gering area, and the final station in the Broken Bow area. Jim B. noted that if any agency is interested in the possibility of cooperating to upgrade any of these stations to provide enhanced GPS information for survey-quality GPS operations, they should be talking with him soon.

**GIS REVIEW SUBCMTE.** GPS Policy Revisited. Rod A. noted that because of the number of GPS purchase requests that were being referred to the GIS Review Subcmte. for review, it was felt to be necessary to further examine this area to see what the Str. Cmte. might do to respond to the Legislature's concern about the need for oversight and coordination in the purchase and use of GPS technology. Rod A. noted that he had developed an initial draft of a GPS Policy Statement calling for the State Surveyor to take further initiatives to provide information sharing and coordination in the purchase and use of GPS technology. Rod A. also noted that the GIS Review Subcmte. had discussed and suggested modifications to his initial draft. Rod presented the revised draft to the Str. Cmte. for consideration.

Dennis B. suggested language clarifying why the Str. Cmte. was continuing to review the hand-held GPS units instead of just the survey-quality GPS units. Terry K. suggested changes in section 2 which would more clearly make the connection between GPS use and agency objectives. Terry K. also suggested that wording should be included to promote GPS information sharing. Jim B. supported the idea of GPS information sharing, but noted that with the GPS base stations coming on, and NGS backing away from publishing established marks, he thought that it would probably be best to address that as a separate policy statement. It was decided to just make a reference to information sharing in this policy statement. Jon O. suggested that references to GPS hardware be changed to GPS technology. Following this discussion, the Str. Cmte. broke for lunch and Rod A. and Larry Z. were charged with incorporating the suggestions and concerns raised in the discussion into a revised draft policy statement. When the Str. Cmte. reconvened at 12:30 from lunch, Terry K. moved, Jim B. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. adopt the revised policy statement on GPS Coordination (*revised language below*). The motion passed unanimously (*see vote # 2, on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

**GIS REVIEW SUBCMTE. NRC's and NGPC's Purchase Requests.** Since the representatives from the Dept. of Agriculture had not yet arrived to discuss a proposed common water quality database, the Str. Cmte. moved on to consider recommendations by the GIS Review Subcmte. Since the last GIS Str. Cmte. meeting, DAS had referred three purchase requests to the Str. Cmte. for review. Two of the three involved GPS equipment. Larry Z. reported that the Review Subcmte. meet to discuss these items and following their discussion of the GPS Coordination Policy Statement, voted to recommend approval of the three purchase requests. Two were from the Game and Parks. Purchase request #1198 is for \$17,323 and for a Dell notebook computer, three GPS receiver/datalogger, and related hardware and software. Purchase request #1199 is for \$19,297 and for a Zenith workstation, a 21" monitor, additional storage, a digitizing table and related hardware and software. The third purchase request # 733 is from NRC and is for \$58,240 for a LEICA GPS System 300 consisting of two survey-quality GPS hardware units. Jim B. moved, Terry K. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. recommend approval of the Game and Parks purchase requests #1198 and #1199 and the NRC's purchase request #733. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote #3, on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

**DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER QUALITY DATABASE.** Larry Z. introduced this topic by noting that the Dept. of Agriculture had contacted him to inform the Str. Cmte. of their planned effort to development a common database on water quality issues as part of the Nebraska Pesticide Act, which was related to the Federal Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIRA). Terry K. gave a brief overview of his understanding of DOA's plans and noted that possibility of the database being housed on NRC's system. Dennis B. noted that one of the questions to be addressed was the possible need to store, or integrate the database into EPA's "STORET" database.

This discussion was deferred and revisited when the representatives of the Dept. of Agriculture (Stan Schmidt, Geir Friisoe, and Jamie Green) arrived. Geir F. noted that the Nebraska Pesticide Act directed the DOA to include other agencies in their planning. He noted that it's their intention to utilize the existing standards and expertise of existing agencies. Part of their efforts are directed toward developing a state management plan for water quality. Geir F. noted that current efforts will be focusing more on groundwater than surface water. Geir F. also noted that Jamie G. is coordinating a committee working on a draft ground water management plan. As part of that plan, DOA envisions the development of a central database from the various agencies' data on water quality issues. Jamie noted that NRC was a possible repository of this central database. Jamie reported that it was still very early in this process, and that this communication with the GIS Str. Cmte. was mainly to give a "heads up" to the various agencies that this was going on. Larry Z. asked which agencies the DOA foresaw as being involved in this effort and Jamie listed the following: DOA, DEQ, NRC, DOH, DWR, CSD, NRDs, and USGS.

In the interim, prior to DOA representatives arriving, the Str. Cmte. had discussed efforts to facilitate a common water well ID system (see below). It was suggested to the DOA representatives that these two initiatives should, at a minimum, be coordinated and possibly be part of the same process which could look at common water well IDs, combined or indexed databases, and connectivity issues.

**UPDATE ON FEDERAL GEOSPATIAL COORDINATION EFFORTS AND POSSIBLE GIS STR. CMTE. RELATIONSHIPS.** Larry Z. noted that at the last Str. Cmte. meeting he had asked about the possible interest of the Str. Cmte. in exploring this area. The Str. Cmte. had supported his exploration of the possibilities. Larry Z. passed out an April 1995 version of a concept paper entitled "Development of a National Digital Geospatial Data Framework". Larry noted this was the "final version" of an earlier draft he had sent out with last month's minutes. Larry reported that this paper outlines concepts for how local, state and federal agencies might work together to coordinate the development and sharing of geospatial data and he urged members to review the concepts outlined in

the paper. Larry Z. reported that from his preliminary investigation, he felt that there were at least two roles and/or initiatives which the Str. Cmte. should explore in the areas of developing cooperative agreements with the FGDC. One is a concept whereby the GIS Str. Cmte. would become a recognized "Cooperating Group" with the FGDC, which seems primarily to be means for developing communication channels and limited technical assistance from FGDC. The other is exploring the possibility of becoming a recognized "Area Integrator", or coordinator for certain types of geospatial data for a given "area". Larry Z. passed out a letter from Nancy Tosta, FGDC Staff Director, expressing the interest of FGDC in exploring the concepts with the Nebraska GIS Str. Cmte. (*attached*). Following a brief discussion, the Str. Cmte. urged Larry Z. to continue to explore possible relationships with the FGDC.

**COMMON WATER WELL IDS.** Larry Z. reported that he recently became aware of two initiatives by two different state agencies (NRC and DOH) to use GPS technology to establish the location of large number (approximately 1700) of water wells. Larry Z. reported that this gave a new urgency to the idea of developing a common water well identification system, which would greatly facilitate the sharing of water well related data between agencies. Larry reported that he had informed the DWR about these initiatives and they had requested the Str. Cmte.'s assistance in an interagency effort to develop an common water well identification system. Larry Z. reported that he had also briefly discussed this matter with Steve Schafer, chair of NIDCAC and Director of the Intergovernmental Data Services Division of DAS (future home of GIS Coordinator's position). Larry Z. reported that Steve was supportive of Larry's involvement, "if he had the time." Larry Z. asked the Str. Cmte. whether they were supportive of him applying some of his time to this effort. Jim B. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. directs Larry Z. to facilitate the initiation of an interagency process to develop a shared identification system for water wells, with the understanding that Larry Z. will not be involved in the long-term implementation of such a system. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote #4, on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

**FUTURE MEETING DATES.** Rod called the Str. Cmte.'s attention to the proposed meeting dates that Larry Z. had sent out with the minutes of the last meeting. These dates consisted of the third Wednesday, July 1995 through June 1996. It was noted that the February 21, 1996 date was during the GIS Symposium, but it was decided to leave it that way in case a meeting was needed during the Symposium. Since no one stated any significant problems with those proposed meeting dates for the next twelve months, they were informally adopted as future meeting dates. (*Larry's Note: Since the Str. Cmte. meeting, difficulties have become apparent with three of the dates. Sept. 20, 1995 is the last day of the NSGIC Annual Meeting; and on March 20, 1996 and April 17, 1996 space is not available in the East Campus Union. Will the following changes work for folks: Sept. 27, 1995, March 13, 1996 and April 11, 1996?*)

**STR. CMTE. MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES.** Terry K. reported that NRC is currently working on Internet connectivity proposals for the following NRDs: Lower Loup, Upper Elkhorn, and Nemaha.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 1995.

**TO DO LIST:**

- Larry Z. - invite Jack Mills of NACO to the next Str. Cmte. meeting.
- Larry Z. - continue to explore the possibilities of a relationship(s) with the FGDC.
- Larry Z. - will help initiate an interagency process to develop a shared water well identification system.

GIS Steering Committee  
VOTING RECORD

Date 6/14/95

Attendance Minutes  
GPS Policy  
GIS Review  
Water Well  
IPs

		#1	#2	#3	#4						
DAS - Steve Henderson	A										
DEQ - <u>Dennis Burling</u> - Tom Lamberson	P	+	+	+	+						
CSD - Perry Wigley <u>Les Howard</u> , Jim Merchant	P	+									
NRC - Dayle Williamson <u>Terry Kubicek</u>	P	+	+	+	+						
PRO - Rod Armstrong	<del>A</del>		+	+	+						
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	+						
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	+						
LRD - Laura Valenziano	A										
John Miyoshi	A/P		+	+	+						
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	+	+	+	+						
Cliff Welsh	A										
Larry Worrell <u>Jim Langtry</u>	P	+	+	+	+						
Lash Chaffin	P	+		+	+						
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	+						
Dennis Wilson	P	+	+	+	+						
TOTALS	$\frac{10-P}{12-P}$	10(+)	10(+)	11(+)	11(+)						

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