

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee
1:00 PM, Wednesday, July 9, 2003
Main Auditorium, Nebraska Department of Roads

Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2003

Present were (authorized to vote *):

Mahendra Bansal	*	Department of Natural Resources
Alan Beiermann	*	Nebraska Public Power District
Rose Braun		Department of Roads
Jim Brown	*	State Surveyor
Steve Cacioppo	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Lash Chaffin	*	League of Municipalities
Larry Dix		Nebraska Association of County Officials
John Erickson	*	Governor's Policy Research
Stephen Frederick	*	Health and Human Services
Dick Genrich	*	Department of Roads
Erik Hubl		Lancaster County Assessor/Register of Deeds
Ed Kelley		Department of Roads
Mark Kuzila	*	Conservation and Survey Division
Robert Martin	*	Department of Property Assessment & Taxation
Scott McIntyre	*	City of Omaha
Steve Rathje		Department of Natural Resources
Steve Schafer	*	Chief Information Officer
Duane Stott	*	Scottsbluff County
Karisa Vlasek		University of Nebraska-Omaha, NASA Space Grant/EPSCOR
Larry Zink		GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

Watershed Boundary Database Working Group
Land Records Modernization Study
Interagency Ongoing Operational Support
GIS/LIS Association
Agency Reports

GIS and Homeland Security and Bioterrorism
Street Centerline/Address Database
Geospatial Data Sharing Initiatives
Mid-West ArcUser Group Conference
Voting Record

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 Thursday, July 2, 2003.

ROLL CALL: Vice chairperson Duane Stott called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 PM. There were ten duly authorized members present therefore a quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF 5/15/03 MINUTES: Lash Chaffin moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Paul Yamamoto seconded. The motion passed (see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet).

WATERSHED BOUNDARY DATABASE (WBD) WORKING GROUP: This is the initiative primarily sponsored by the NRCS to redefine and further refine the watershed boundaries. The Nebraska Hydrographic workgroup was reconvened and the decision made that if the federal government had resources available to address this issue, other agencies within the state wanted to participate.

Resource allocation has not yet been determined and further action will depend on that.

GIS AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND BIO-TERRORISM UPDATE: CALMIT is contracting with HHS and NEMA in the areas of homeland security and bio-terrorism to pull some data together, do some training, and complete a needs assessment. Progress has been slow. CALMIT has hired a person to work with specifically with NEMA and one to work with HHS.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION STUDY:

Draft Land Records Modernization Study Report and Recommendations (a 23-page pdf-formated report)

Draft Program Governance Insert. (This insert on a draft Program Governance model was inadvertently let out of the above proposal. It should be inserted beginning on page 18)

This project must be complete by the end of July as that is the cutoff point for funding. Following Bill Holland's presentation of the draft version of the Land Records Modernization Study Report at the symposium and the last Steering Committee meeting, Larry solicited feedback. There was consensus that the needs aspect of the report needed to be stressed more and Bill reworked that portion. The other feedback, Larry received was some concern about the proposed organizational structure, how that will look, and how closely it will be tied to the PAT. There were a lot of disparate ideas about how to fix the problem but Larry was unable to provide any consensus for Bill and that is something that needs to be determined prior to the final submission of the report.

Briefly, the first part of the report includes a statement of the problem and a review of needs assessment. The assessment revealed a fairly low level of computerized mapping in the State of Nebraska. 21 counties have it, 25 counties are seriously considering using it and most of the automation consists of CAMA, computer aided map assessment. The needs assessment also revealed that there is a considerable amount of money being spent by local government across the state to develop geographic and land information system data.

The next section addresses state government interests along with a detailed list of state agencies interested in GIS followed by a section detailing the specific drivers for modernization in Nebraska. Those drivers include the status of automation and modernization, legal vulnerability, homeland security, and economics.

The final proposal is based on the meshing of two initiatives, the GISSC initiative to develop a digital geospatial cadastre for parcels and land ownership and Property Assessment and Taxations's desire to build a statewide interoperable assessment database and system. The Conceptual Spatial Data Model is based on the premise that the money made available for basic land record cadastral mapping will be made available to local government to use on developing digital spatial data. If the base layers have already been developed, the money will be made available for the development of other eligible layers.

The area of the report most in need of work is the organization section. The main question being how to structure the proposal, both in terms of governance and funding.

Funding

Two suggestions are made in the proposal as potential sources of funding. One is an increase in the document stamp tax. Currently that tax is \$1.75 per \$1000. A .50 increase would result in a gain of approximately 2 million dollars to be used as grants in aid. The second suggestion is an increase in the recording fees. During the last session, there was a bill in legislature sponsored by the Register of Deeds proposing an increase in the recording fees from the current \$5 per page to \$10 per page. That increase would result in the receipt of \$1.257 million to be distributed among the counties, with \$838,000 to be allocated to the grant fund and nearly \$210,000 earmarked for the Records Management Cash Fund for administration. The proposal included in the Land Record Modernization Study is not proposing to divert this new funding for Register of Deeds, but rather to propose an additional increase in the fees and dedicate them to a Land Information Systems Program.

Local Governance

There is a great disparity in the available resources existing in Nebraska, which will require any proposal to be very flexible. At the same time, there are some basic elements that need to be included.

- Minimum standards are necessary to allow local government to get the best value for their money and to facilitate the process of piecing data from various counties together.
- There must be a single point of contact in every county.
- The organizational structure adopted should have the sanction of the governing body.

- Financial incentives will be available.

Statewide Governance

Organizational Considerations

There are many questions to be answered with respect to the governance model such as who will be the primary sponsor and/or administrative home for a statewide land information system? There is an ongoing need for policy and strategy development to meet a huge variety of needs as well as a need for ongoing coordination at multiple levels. Priorities must be established along with a means of resolving disputes, and ongoing communication and marketing, and standards development. These are all issues that need to be addressed when developing the final organizational model.

Operational Model

Issues to be considered with respect to the operational model is program administration, staff direction and oversight, budget development and planning, system administration, data custodianship and project management.

As the proposal is currently drafted, the administration of the overall program, including financial management oversight, project coordination and direction of the GIS coordinator will be the responsibility of Property Assessment and Taxation. The GIS Steering Committee will be responsible for policy formulation, priority setting, budget development, project oversight, GIS Stds development, grants in aid and financial oversight.

Bill Holland needs feedback from GISSC about what the proposal should reflect in terms of administrative structure from the GISSC's perspective.

Comments

Scott McIntyre said that basically this is really about money and who has authority to raise and spend that money. At this time, there is a major difference between the land records status of the rural counties and that of the urban counties. While Douglas County's contribution of the four million dollars to be raised by the proposed tax increases will be a fairly significant amount, a good part of those funds will be used to subsidize the rural counties. Due to budget issues across the state, that proposal is likely to be met with some resistance from the urban counties.

Erik Hubl agreed that some marketing would need to be done to sell the concept of subsidizing the smaller counties to the bigger counties. Another area that will need to be addressed is resistance among county assessors to meeting standards.

Larry pointed out that the need for technical assistance in the counties has been discussed a number of times. It may make sense for the counties to form a regional grouping and contract out for data development. Scott added that if an umbrella organization to help organize counties may also wind up being the contractor for the counties although there will be counties not interested in developing the technology. Bill Holland recommends not structuring something such that state government does the work for local governments. Project management and oversight by state government is fine but for state government to do the actual work not a good idea.

Lash Chaffin asked about the nature of the final study, whether it is for internal Steering Committee use or if it is meant to be a report issued from the Steering Committee to the public. Jim Brown said that the final report will belong to the Steering Committee to do with as they see fit. Initially Jim thought that the report would provide a lot more answers than it has turned out to do. Jim also noted that in hindsight, his expectations in that regard were probably not realistic. He was hoping to be able to submit the final report to the Legislature as a solution to the problem of land records modernization but final solutions are not in these draft reports. Bill's report does a fair job detailing the needs but there is no formal plan for physical implementation. Jim recommended pulling the structure recommendations section because there is no consensus on this part, no idea who is to do the work, collect the money, set the standards, etc. In addition, there are major issues among counties that are already online and producing the greatest revenue and those with no technology, little revenue and great need. The only thing from this section that there is consensus about is that money is necessary to do the work. The best course of action would be to take what is good from the report and work out the remaining details among the Steering Committee members at a later date. There is only a week left and no way to resolve it in that period of time.

Larry Dix from NACO said that there have always been issues with larger counties subsidizing smaller counties. LB232, introduced by the Register of Deeds, was to be used specifically for records management with no provision made for using funds for data development and GIS. If that initiative is passed, it will be virtually impossible to raise the \$5 doc fee \$5 for records management and then another \$5 for GIS data development. The initiative was tabled during the last

legislative session pending input from the Steering Committee. Subsequently, there has been some tentative interest expressed by the Governor's office in doing something with land records modernization and in further defining the relationship between the NITC and the GIS Steering Committee. John Erickson said that was the reason he wanted to get the report published and distributed before too much happened in the Legislature. John agreed that the report and recommendations provide a good starting point for discussions with the Legislature if the diagram and specific references to which agency will be responsible for what are removed.

Larry Dix indicated that NACO could support the concept, standards and GIS component of the proposal but expressed concern about the final outcome if the proposal is heavily based on funds and no funds are provided. NACO could not lobby for the proposal as it stands and Larry Dix agreed that the report should be given to the Legislature without the final structure section.

There was a question about whether there would be any value to developing only part of the parcels in the state or if the data would only be useful if 100% were completed. The answer is that all data development is useable and as a county's parcel data is completed, it is highly useful, mainly on the county level.

Steve Schafer asked what work is left to finish the report based on the terms of the RFP. Larry Zink said that the remaining steps include putting the state profile and data into one report. Steve asked why the report is considered short and whether it meets our expectations or not. Larry responded that he felt the Study committee, including himself, had hoped that Bill would be able to come up with a fairly structured proposal that most folks could get behind. But, as the draft reports illustrate, there is a clear need and interest, there is a clear need for additional resources, coordination, standards, and there is also a pretty solid consensus on the need for program flexibility due to Nebraska's diversity. However, so far we have not found consensus around how a program should be structured. It is not that there are two competing ideas; there is a mix of differing opinions and perspectives that we have yet to shift through. I think the hope was that in the course of this study, GeoAnalytics could somehow come up with a solution that would be perfect.

John Erickson volunteered to work with Larry and Bill Holland to complete the final report. Steve Schafer requested that additional information be included in the form of projected statewide costs. Any other comments or suggestions about the report should be submitted to Larry Zink within a week.

Steve Schafer moved to authorize payment for work done on the report, with final approval of the report subject to the changes to be made by Larry Zink, John Erickson and Bill Holland. Scott McIntyre seconded. The motion passed (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet).

There was discussion about changing the wording of the funding section to clarify that a significant amount of the funds collected would be returned to the county. There was a feeling that the report should be left as generic as possible to obtain as much support as possible. Larry Dix said that at the time the bill is drafted, NACO will ensure that funds are available or there will be no support for it. He indicated he would prefer wording that makes clear that the funding will go to counties and state as the Steering Committee runs the risk of not getting both funds if it is not defined. John Erickson pointed out that the more that is removed the more the report is open to someone else defining it and the harder the battle will be to get it through the legislature. Scott McIntyre said that if there is some value in having 80-90% of the parcels completed then there should be no issue if some of the counties have to take 5-10 years to get their parcels automated. Budget issues have made local government sensitive to funds redistribution. Jim Brown pointed out that there are some counties that are so small with so few parcels that they will never generate enough money to become automated and must be subsidized by the bigger counties.

Larry Zink agreed to take all comments from the Steering Committee meeting to Bill to complete the report. Links to various sections and draft reports related to the Nebraska Land Record Modernization Study can be found [here](#).

STREET CENTERLINE/ADDRESS DATABASE: The GIS-related needs for homeland security and bio-terrorism applications have created a higher priority for the development of a statewide street centerline/address database for Nebraska. In response to this need, there was a meeting two weeks ago to discuss the optimum approach to address this need. Two approaches were compared.

CALMIT looked at GDT data, a primary national vendor of street address data. GDT data involves taking the TIGER data and enhancing with local-developed enhanced data. The street address working group's decided that the best approach for meeting the short-term need was to take the Census Tiger data and where it is available, add enhanced local data.

CALMIT will take the lead on inserting enhanced local data into the Tiger file. Larry is helping by making local government contacts to explore the availability of local data and their willingness to share that data for this purpose. Lincoln/Lancaster, Omaha/Douglas, Papillion/Sarpy, Blair/Washington, Scottsbluff/Scottsbluff, Fairbury/Jefferson, Crete/Saline counties have enhanced data and will share. Beaver City/Furnas, Holdrege/Phelps, Kearney/Buffalo counties have it and have been contacted.

Steve Schafer and Larry Zink have also meet with the Public Service Commission staff about their need for street address data. The Public Service Commission needs to get highly accurate street address data for the E911 applications in selected counties. They will need this data as counties are ready to go to phase II for cellular. They do have funding available from fees on cell phones. They are currently looking to private vendors to develop this data and acquire datasets. They plan to issue an RFP at six months. Steve Schafer said he was encouraged by the spirit of cooperation that came through at the meeting.

ON-GOING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR INTERAGENCY GIS EFFORTS - A Discussion Needed? This issue came about out of dialogue Steve Schafer and Larry Zink have had with various agencies. There are a number of potentially new major GIS users such as NEMA, HHS, PAT, PSC. All four of these agencies have data needs that are interagency in scope and they will want to get the most current data from its source. They will largely be data consumers rather than producers and will not have much experience and/or trained GIS personnel on staff. Their applications will probably be fairly customized and may need quite a bit of operational support. However, it appears that not a lot has been done in the way of long term planning for how operational support will be provided for these applications. Some interagency discussions and decisions should probably occur relative to how this apparent need for on-going operational support will be provided. One of the main questions is whether IMS, CALMIT or DNR should/will be preparing themselves to provide this on-going support. Larry Zink has written a draft discussion paper providing an overview. Steve Schafer said it provides a good summary of situation and outlines the available options to provide support to the new entrants to the GIS field.

COORDINATING GEOSPATIAL DATA SHARING INITIATIVES (Nebraska Clearinghouse - NDNR; America View - CSD; National Map; USGS Mapping Projects Office; and Homeland Security Initiatives): DNR has completed their internal review and CALMIT and DNR are looking to see how they can integrate their data. Larry and Steve Schafer will try to arrange a meeting with Roger Patterson, NDNR, to discuss a plan for proceeding from this point.

NEBRASKA GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION: The Association met on June 28 to elect officers. Doug Steinke is the new President, Marcus Tooze is the president elect. Email list serve problems were discussed along with the plan to add extra links and GIS certification efforts. They will be finding out if attending conferences and symposiums will count toward certification.

Jim Langtry has been elected to represent GIS/LIS Association at the Mid-America GIS Consortium this year.

Attendance at the symposium was down a little but there were still over 300 persons in attendance. Some surveys were issued to get feedback from participants and Jim Langtry will be putting together a report on those surveys to help better plan for future symposiums. The symposium was well received. Jim Langtry said this fall is not too soon to begin thinking about 2005.

Throughout the year the Association sponsors regional meetings to encourage local groups. There will be a Lincoln/Omaha forum group meeting soon.

MID-WEST ARCUSER GROUP CONFERENCE, Omaha, September 22-24, 2003

They are getting down to the final weeks of organizing the conference. Online registration is now open. 12-15 speakers have signed up along with a dozen vendors. In the next couple of weeks, they will be making a push to increase attendance and will be looking for 300 people or more to attend. The website address is www.midwestarc.org

REPORT ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES:

Mahendra – two projects. Statewide database to be completed this year. Progress on NHD.

Dick Genrich

Roads recently signed a contract with the Cornhusker for a symposium to be held April 2005. Also, Roads released their first nationwide Internet mapping server.

Scott

An RFP was issued for the four-county region around Omaha, including Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawatomie and Washington Counties to fly 1 m color imagery. Douglas and Sarpy are also looking into contours. Lidar and digital photography will be factors in the decisions they make.

Steve Cacioppo

Recently they discovered that NRDs could get arc extensions and that allowed him to obtain a copy of Arc among other things. He is currently working on some IMS stuff and is working in conjunction with 10 counties to try to eradicate purple loosestrife. He will be coordinating the tracking system.

Alan Beierman

NPPD is still working on the implementation phase of their system for power lines. They are also looking at flying about a dozen more towns, possibly next spring.

Steve Frederick

HHSS has some GIS software loaded and training has started.

Mark Kuzila

CALMIT is working a lot with agencies at this time. CSD was supposed to have been merged to form the National Resources Water Division but nothing formal has been done at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

NACO Booths: Mark Kuzila moved to have a booth at the annual NACO conference. Mahendra seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet)

Erik Hubl said that the National Imagery and Mapping Agency has partnered with the USGS to obtain high quality imagery of 133 cities for the purposes of homeland security. Recently they flew 1-foot color orthodigital photography for Lancaster County and that imagery is now available. As a part of the of the High Accuracy Reference Network, X's were placed on several targets and 35 points hit within 6 feet. That means that the aerial is accurate within 1 meter.

Vote Tallies for 7/9/03 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Min #1	Payment to Geo-Analytics #2	NACO Booth #3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <u>Steve Schafer</u>	A/P	NV.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, Paul Yamamoto	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - <u>Mark Kuzila</u> Jim Merchant, Les Howard	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett Abu Gadem	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <u>Mahendra Bansal</u> Kim Menke, (Roger Patterson)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - <u>Cathy Lang</u> <u>Bob Martin</u>	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - <u>Lauren Hill</u> <u>John Erickson</u>	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> Ed Kelley, (John Craig)	P	NV	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - <u>Jim Brown</u> John Beran	A/P	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - <u>Patrick O'Donnell</u> Judy Backhaus,	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sonia Sebree	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

John Miyoshi, Steve Cacioppo	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Alan J. Beierman	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre Joan Green	A/P	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Dick Nelson Steve Frederick	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	10/13 – P	9 +, 2 NV	13	13	.	.	.	.	.

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