

NEBRASKA GIS COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Nebraska Dept. of Roads- Main Auditorium
1500 Nebraska Hwy 2
Lincoln, Nebraska

ROLL CALL PRESENT (authorized to vote*):

Steve Henderson	*	Chair, Office of the CIO
Paul Yamamoto	*	Dept. of Environmental Quality
Lash Chaffin	*	Nebr. League of Municipalities
Josh Lear	*	Natural Resources
Les Howard	*	CSD/SNR – UNL
Thomas Rauner	*	Dept. of Health and Human Services
John Miyoshi	*	Natural Resources Districts Association
Ed Kelley	*	Dept. of Roads
John Beran	*	State Surveyor's Office
Mike Schonlau	*	Douglas County-Omaha GIS

Others:

Larry Zink, GIS Council Coordinator
Jeff McReynolds, City of Lincoln/ Lancaster County
Chad Boshart, NEMA
Steve Kinzy, ESRI
Joe Eckmann, ESRI
Jack Dohrman, Nebr. Legislature
Tom Jensen, Dept. of Agriculture
Milda Vaitkus, UNL CALMIT
Michael Niedermeyer, Dept. of Roads
Joe Stansberry, Nebr. Forest Service

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE ATTENDEES, PUBLIC MEETINGS REGULATIONS AND POSTING OF THE SAME

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. There were initially only 8 voting members present for the initial roll call and so official action could not be taken. Later two additional voting members arrived to make a total of 10 voting members present, which constituted was a quorum to conduct official business. It was noted that the Open Meetings law was posted on the east wall of the room. Guests made introductions.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FROM ATTENDEES

There was no public comment.

ESRI ENTERPRISE LICENSING PROPOSAL

Steve Kinsy, ESRI Regional Manager out of Kansas City, and Joe Eckmann, ESRI, provided the GIS Council with a presentation on ESRI enterprise licensing agreements and a particular proposal for Nebraska. Mr. Kinsy provided an overview and background on Traditional ELAs for state and local governments and also a new ESRI Small Government ELA. Mr. Kinsy noted that Enterprise License included full access to all ESRI software, including updating non-current license to the most current version of those software packages. Mr. Kinsy also explained the Enterprise Advantage Program component of the Enterprise License, which provides a defined amount of training and technical assistance. Mr. Kinsy also noted that the Enterprise License Customers are required to: a) establish a single point of contract for orders and delivers; b) have the ability to contract, sign and enforce license agreements for all participating organizations; c) staff a first-level GIS help desk; and d) provide an annual report to ESRI on GIS deployments. ESRI had initially provided [a quote to the State of Nebraska for a state agency level of Enterprise Licensing](#). At Steve Henderson's request, they had also developed [an](#)

[Enterprise Licensing proposal to include all Nebraska public subdivisions](#) and Mr. Kinsy presented this proposal at the meeting. Mr. Kinsy fielded several questions from Council members regarding the proposal.

Among the related issues that were discussed were the following. The current lack of a centralized technical support mechanism would definitely require that this capability be developed as part of an enterprise licensing approach. The fact that the costs for Lincoln, Omaha, and Sarpy County had discouraged those local governments from pursuing an Enterprise License, but also the sense that they might be interested in exploring it as part of a statewide initiative. In response to a question from the Council, Mr. Kinsy noted that currently only three states have a state-agency level Enterprise License. It was also discussed that as a practical matter, after the initial proposed three-year period it is very likely that the costs would substantially increase due to the increase use of the ESRI software. John Miyoshi noted that the NRDs have access to ESRI software through a USDA ELA.

The Council expressed their appreciation for his presentation and indicated that they would discuss the proposal further at a future meeting and get back to him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5/14/08 MEETING

Due to the arrival of a few additional Council members, which then provided a quorum to conduct official business the Council returned to its original agenda and took up the approval of the previous meetings agenda. Mr. Rauner moved approval of the 5-14-08 minutes, as distributed, and Mr. Yamamoto seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

GIS COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Henderson noted that the NITC adopted on 6-18-08, the [GIS Council Charter](#), as recommended by GIS Council. This new Charter now provides the organizational framework for the GIS Council to reorganize itself based on LB 823 and the Council Charter.

Mr. Zink noted that as part of LB 823 and the Charter, the GIS Council now has seven new seats, plus two additional vacancies (Larry Worrell, NACO, and Duane Stott's At-Large seats) to make a total of nine seats to be filled. Mr. Zink noted that he had intentionally not been aggressive in pursuing filling these vacant seats because of his awareness of this upcoming restructuring. Mr. Zink also noted that because of LB 823 and the GIS Council Charter, the terms of office for the Council members has now been changed from four years to three years. Mr. Zink suggested that the next step in this reorganization process would be for the GIS Council to adopt recommendations for the NITC consideration of staggered 3-year terms of office for GIS Council members. To provide a starting point for this discussion, Mr. Zink offered a [draft proposal](#) for the Council's consideration. The first page of this document provide a listing of the existing and new Council seats. The second page provides the relevant text from both the statutes and the Charter relative to Council seats. The third page of the document provides a draft suggestion of new GIS Council three-year terms of office. In developing this draft proposal, Mr. Zink noted that he first started with existing terms of office so that none of the current appointment expiration terms would need to be shortened from their current term of office expiration date. Next Mr. Zink sought to roughly distribute equally the terms of office over a three rotation period and also sought to divide the four "at-large" seats and the two NACO seats across the three year cycle. Mr. Zink noted that he had left the term of office for one of the four "at-large" seats undefined to provide the Council with some flexibility for how it wanted to restructure itself.

Mike Schonlau suggested that the fourth and undefined "at-large" seat be given a Sept. 2009 term expiration. Following discussion on the draft proposal for "Terms of Office", Lash Chaffin move and Mike Schonlau second that Mr. Zink's draft proposal be adopted, with the modification that the term of office of two "at-large" seats will expire on Sept. 2009. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)

The discussion then moved to actual recommendations to fill the new or vacant existing seats on the Council. Mr. Zink noted that while we are still working to nail down the details of this nomination and appointment process, that in general the GIS Council can make recommendations to the NITC, but that the NITC nominates and the Governor appoints. Jeff McReynolds noted that the Lincoln/Lancaster County GIS coordinating body had voted to recommend him for the Lincoln area seat. Mr. Zink asked if

he had any written documentation upon which the GIS Council could forward this recommendation to the NITC. Mr. McReynolds indicated that he doesn't have that now, but that he could easily get such documentation. Mr. Schonlau moved and Mr. Chaffin seconded that the GIS Council recommend Mr. McReynolds for the Lincoln area seat, pending receipt of a written recommendation from the Lincoln/Lancaster GIS group. [The group voted unanimously to make this McReynolds recommendation to the NITC.](#) There was further discussion on the other vacant seats and there was general support for forwarding any recommendation from NEMA and/or PSC to the NITC for nomination action. Assuming that the NITC adopts the recommended terms of office, other Council members were encouraged to solicit suggestions/recommendations for other vacant Council seats. It was also generally agreed that one objective was to seek a wider geographic representation on the Council and that the NACO regional districts would provide a good reference model for that geographic distribution.

GEOSPATIAL PORTAL UPDATE

Mr. Zink reported that this project has struggled with hiring a Technical Lead/Project Coordinator. The Advisory Committee is now into the third job search/recruitment effort. The previous two searches were not successful in finding a suitable candidate. A problem has been the available salary range relative to the current market for someone with these technical skills. As a result of a third job search we now have another candidate. Again, salary is an issue, but we are hoping to be able to come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement with the current candidate. Mr. Zink also noted that funding is going to be very tight because of the funding timelines on some of the grants, but if we can hire someone in the very near future we can probably still make it work, but it going to be close.

Mr. Schonlau suggested that if a technical project lead person can not be found, then the project should consider hiring a consulting firm to put in place the basic hardware/software configuration as a way to get the project rolling in the face of a very tight market for the particular skills needed.

STREET CENTERLINE-ADDRESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Zink reported that the Advisory Committee and its Technical Working Group have continued to meet to develop plans and standards and technical processes for developing an integrated statewide street centerline-address database. Mr. Zink reviewed a [list of findings and recommendations](#) made by the Advisory Committee. These include that data is currently available for 87 of Nebraska's 93 counties and that all the participating public agencies agree to share street centerline-address data for this initiative. The Advisory Committee also found that none of the key participating agency has a particular interest in assuming the role and responsibilities of a statewide data integrator. In the absence of an alternative, the Office of the CIO agreed to take on this responsibility and this was supported by the Advisory Committee. The OCIO's agreement to assume the data integrator role was predicated on there being sufficient support (financial and otherwise) by the other participants to make these a feasible initiative for the cash funded OCIO. Discussions are currently underway to determine possible funding commitments.

Mr. Zink also reported that a Technical Working Group has been working on data standards and related processes for transforming and integrating street centerline-address data from multiple data producers or sources. While those data standards are still under development, they are in a [working draft mode](#) and any feedback, concerns or suggestions is welcome on those draft standards.

HYDROLOGY / SURFACE WATER STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE

Mr. Zink introduced the idea of possibly convening a strategic planning working group to focus on future plans, needs and applications related to the NHD and other surface water feature databases. It was noted that NDNR, the GIS Str. Cmte. and USGS have entered into a three-way NHD stewardship agreement. Josh Lear spoke briefly about the current plans and development related to NHD applications at NDNR and expressed his support for a NHD strategic planning initiative. It was suggested that a meeting or meetings related to NHD future issues should possibly be convened in January or February of 2009. There was general support expressed by the Str. Cmte. members for undertaking this approach.

AERIAL IMAGERY STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE

Mr. Zink asked Mr. Schonlau to provide the Str. Cmte. with a brief update on the status of NIROC 2007 efforts. Mr. Schonlau reported that while there were some problems with the products that the vendor delivered, that he felt overall most of the partners were satisfied with the aerial imagery delivered. Mr. Schonlau noted that most of the partners felt that they had received a great bargain through this collaborative effort. Mr. Schonlau also noted that initial discussions are already underway to look at a similar effort in 2010. Mr. Schonlau noted that many of the partners were interested in a 2010 effort because it would be three years from the last high-resolution imagery and also coincide with the census.

Mr. Zink noted that as part of the discussions for a 2010 high-resolution aerial imagery collaborative initiative, one of the topics that need to be on the table is how we might provide more state-level administrative support for such an undertaking. Mr. Zink noted that Mr. Schonlau ended up devoting quite a bit of his time to provide both technical and administrative support for this initiative in 2007 and has expressed a desire for additional state-level support for future initiatives if they are to continue to involve a larger area outside of the Omaha metro area.

Mr. Schonlau seconded this concern and the need to look at how we might provide support for these collaborative endeavors in the future. After future discussion, Mr. Schonlau moved and John Miyoshi seconded that a strategic planning subcommittee be formed to look at the broad range of issues related to future collaborative aerial imagery acquisition, including high-resolution imagery, statewide 1-m imagery, and the related issues such as administrative and financial support for these collaborative acquisition efforts. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)

LIDAR UPDATE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION UPDATE

Mr. Zink reported that a LiDAR Technical Working Group has been convened with the support of NDNR. The group has held one meeting and the intent of the Working Group is to develop a business case that would outline the desired standards for a statewide LiDAR effort and establish the need and cost benefit of such an undertaking. Doug Hallum, NDNR, is providing the leadership for this effort.

In a separate, but related effort, a joint effort by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, the Platte River Channel Project, and the Department of Natural Resources is working on proceeding with a 2008 effort that would cover roughly ¼ of Nebraska's land area in south central Nebraska. Funding for this effort seemed to be available at this time and some of the funding has time limit restrictions that require prompt action. Efforts are currently focused on securing access to an existing federal contract, which would allow for this collaborative effort to proceed in a more timely manner as opposed to the need to undergo a full RFP process.

OVERVIEW OF GIS INITIATIVES BY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

Mr. Zink introduced Jack Dohrman, Nebraska Office of Legislative Research, and invited Mr. Dohrman to provide the GIS Council with a brief overview of current and planned GIS efforts. Mr. Zink noted that the Legislature has not had a GIS staff person for some time and so this is a new initiative on their part. Mr. Dohrman noted that his efforts are largely related to preparing for the 2010 Census and the follow-up redistricting. Mr. Dohrman indicated that his current efforts are focused on pulling together geospatial information regarding census tracts, streams and other natural features, road centerlines, etc. that will help in determining Census tracts for 2010.

NITC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN SURVEY GIS QUESTION AND IT BUDGET PROJECT REVIEW

Mr. Henderson provided a brief refresher and overview for the Council on the NITC Information Technology Plan Survey and its interface with the state budgeting process. These are two separate, but interrelated IT coordination efforts that are upcoming and [may require GIS Council review and involvement, if GIS initiatives surface as part of the IT survey or the IT budget review process.](#) Mr. Henderson noted that these possible GIS review efforts are part of a process of more closely integrating GIS coordination with other IT policy/coordination efforts. For the first time a specific question related to planned GIS activities is being proposed for this state agency IT survey. Mr. Henderson also noted that the GIS Council reviewed and revised this GIS question for the IT survey at its last meeting. If a GIS-

related project surfaces as part of the IT Budget Review process, it may be necessary to convene a special meeting of the GIS Council to review and provide feedback on that GIS-related IT budget proposal, because the NITC review and rating are required to be submitted prior to the next schedule GIS Council meeting.

REPORT ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Members were given an opportunity to provide agency reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next GIS Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19th.

Meeting minutes were taken by Larry Zink of the Office of the CIO/NITC.

See below for voting record

Vote Tallies – Sept. 3, 2008						
	Roll Call	#1 Approval of 5-14-08 Minutes	#2 GIS Council Terms of Office	#3 Jeff McReynolds	#4 Imagery Working Group	#5
DAS - Steve Henderson (Brenda Decker)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, Paul Yamamoto (Mike Linder)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
DHHS: Thomas Rauner ,	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
CSD – Les Howard , Milda Vaitkus ark Kuzila	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
NRC - Josh Lear , Kim Menke, (Ann Bleed)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
PRO - John Erickson (Lauren Hill)	A	.	.	.	.	.
DOR – Bill Wehling, Rose Braun, Ed Kelly	A/P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
St.Surv - Steve Cobb, John Beran	A/P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
Clk of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell, Jack Dohrman	A	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC – Sudhir Ponnapan (Rex Amack)	A	.	.	.	.	.
PAD - Ruth Sorensen, Bob Martin,	A	.	.	.	.	.
Jim Langtry	A	.	.	.	.	.
NARD – John Miyoshi , Chris Poole	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
Public Power - Mark Brugger	A	.	.	.	.	.
NACO - Larry Seifert	A	.	.	.	.	.
NACO rep. – (formerly Larry Worrell) VACANT	A	.	.	.	.	.
League - Lash Chaffin	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
At-Large - Duane Stott VACANT	A	.	.	.	.	.
At-Large - Mike Schonlau	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	.
TOTALS	10	10 +	10 +	10 +	10 +	.

“P”=present, "A"=absent, "Y"=voting for, "N"=voting against, "NV"=not voting