

**NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, May 14, 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
Sudhir Ponnapan	*	Game and Parks Commission
Josh Lear	*	Natural Resources
Bob Martin	*	Dept. of Revenue – PAD
Bill Wehling	*	Dept. of Roads
Steve Cobb	*	State Surveyor's Office
Mark Brugger	*	Nebraska Public Power District
Karis Bowen	*	Dept. of Health & Human Services
Mike Schonlau	*	Douglas County-Omaha GIS
Duane Stott	*	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor

**Others:**

Larry Zink, GIS Steering Committee Coordinator  
Jeff McReynolds, City of Lincoln/ Lancaster County  
Eric Herbert, Sarpy County  
Chad Boshart, NEMA  
Jim Koch, Dept. of Revenue - PAD

**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 11 voting members present at roll call, and therefore there was a quorum present to conduct official business. 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3/19/08 MEETING**

Mr. Wehling moved approval of the 3-19-08 minutes, as distributed, and Mike Schonlau seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**RECOGNITION OF DUANE STOTT'S SERVICE**

Mr. Henderson took the Chair's prerogative to briefly adjust the meeting's agenda to take time to recognize the years of service to the GIS Steering Committee provided by Duane Stott, Scotts Bluff County Surveyor. Mr. Stott has been an active member of the GIS Steering Committee since 1991 and has regularly made the long trip across Nebraska to attend its meetings for these 18 years. Mr. Stott has been an "at-large" representative and in this role has ably represented rural local governments and land surveyors. In recognition of Mr. Stott's years of service, [Mr. Henderson presented Mr. Stott with an appreciative plaque.](#)

## **IMAGERY INITIATIVES UPDATES**

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

Mr. Schonlau reported that the NI-ROC imagery initiative is nearing completion. Due to an equipment malfunction, there were a few N/S strips that needed to be re-flown this spring. Those spring imagery collection flights have been flown, but the new/replacement imagery has not yet been received, but is due no later than the end of June.

### **NI-ROC 2010**

Mr. Schonlau noted that the online agenda erroneously listed agenda item as NI-ROC 2011 and it should be 2010 because there is a desire to have new imagery flown the same year as the Census data is collected. Mr. Schonlau reported that there have already been some initial meetings and discussions related to a 2010 effort. There is an interest in exploring alternative avenues for data collection and processing that might reduce the timeline for acquisition and processing.

Mr. Schonlau also expressed a concern that the coordination required for the 2007 effort became very demanding after additional contiguous and non-contiguous counties and cities were added to the project. The bulk of this coordination/technical assistance need fell on Mr. Schonlau and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. Mr. Schonlau indicated that he could clearly see the benefit of this coordination and outreach to these additional areas, but asked that consideration be given to providing more state-level support for future efforts.

Mr. Zink expressed strong support for Mr. Schonlau request for addition coordination/technical assistance support for future NI-ROC type efforts. Mr. Zink noted that these collaborative projects provide very substantial benefits to the more populous, but non-metro areas of Nebraska. However, Mr. Zink also noted that it is not realistic to expect Omaha-area resources to continue to provide all the assistance and coordination to enable these other areas to participate in future efforts. Mr. Zink suggested that this is a need that should be highlighted in the upcoming strategic planning effort.

Mr. Wehling expressed an interest in effort to further define a sequence and timeline for collaborative imagery acquisition. Mr. Wehling indicated that would definitely help NDOR to plan its participation and budget for such collaborative endeavors. It was proposed that a working group be established to develop proposals in this area. Mr. Schonlau and Mr. Wehling indicated an interest in participating in such a group.

### **NEBRASKA GEOSPATIAL DATA SHARING AND WEB SERVICES NETWORK UPDATE**

Mr. Zink reported that this project is still struggling with the need to hire a Technical Lead/Project Coordinator. Two job searches have been conducted, but neither was successful in finding a suitable candidate. A further job search is now underway. Mr. Zink also noted that due to action by the Legislature, one of the major funding sources for this project will no longer be available if it is not expended by June 30, 2009. Mr. Zink noted that if a suitable candidate can be found in the near future the funding timelines will still work, but it going to be close.

Mr. Schonlau suggested that the project should consider hiring a consulting firm to put in place the basic hardware/software configure as a way to get the project rolling in the face of a very tight market for the particular skills needed.

### **STREET CENTERLINE ADDRESS WORK (NDOR, NPSC, STATE PATROL) AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION UPDATE**

Mr. Zink reported that the advisory committee has met a couple times and has established a technical work group. The technical work group has been initially focusing on data models and standards and looking to build on a standards developed collaboratively by the states of Oregon Washington and Idaho.

Mr. Zink indicated that he felt some very good progress was being made in proposing solutions to some of more difficult issues related to the on-going integration of data from multiple sources.

The full Advisory Committee itself is tackling some of the difficult policy issues. Two of the primary policy issues were 1) limits on access/use of the data produced by various data producers and 2) what state agency would be willing and able to take the lead on this enterprise effort. The Public Service Commission (PSC) had indicated that it was willing to share data with other public entities but that it had concerns about the potential commercial use of data which was funded by E911 cellular fees. Following discussions exploring possible alternative approaches, PSC has indicated that it would like, at a minimum, to have a disclaimer available with the online data indicating that the data is not intended for commercial use. Another major stumbling block was to identify a state agency that was willing and able to take the lead on this enterprise-level effort, because there is no obvious state agency lead for this particular dataset. The three leading possibilities seemed to be Roads, Public Service Commission, or OCIO. Both Roads and PSC have indicated that they would be glad to have someone else take on this responsibility. The OCIO has indicated a willingness to explore a leadership role in serving this statewide data need. However in presenting this possibility to the GIS Str. Cmte., Mr. Henderson added the caveat that folks need to be reminded that the OCIO is primarily a cash funded organization and so it will need to be approaching the various interested parties with a discussion of how best to fund this on-going need.

Another policy issue, which has yet to receive much consideration is the issue of how data attributes (or other data changes) not currently in some of the data produced by data producers, but incorporated into the enterprise data model/standards will be populated, maintained, and funded.

#### [METADATA AND GEOSPATIAL DATA CATALOGUE CAMPAIGN UPDATE](#)

Nebraska is part of MidAmerica GIS Consortium. MAGIC had an FGDC grant to facilitate metadata training sessions in states that are a part of MAGIC. Adonna Fleming, UNL-Libraries worked with Mr. Schonlau to host a regional metadata training session on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Omaha. Mr. Schonlau indicated that there was quite a bit of interest and that there may be a need to schedule another session. Mr. Zink indicated that it was his understanding that Ms. Fleming was willing to lead other metadata training sessions if there is a way to fund her costs for travel and materials.

#### [LIDAR UPDATE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION UPDATE](#)

Advisory Committee Report. Mr. Zink reported that an initial meeting of folks interested in forming a LiDAR Advisory Committee has been held. There was good attendance for approximately 30 folks and good interest in promoting a statewide LiDAR effort. Mr. Zink now has the responsibility of working with NDNR to pull together a formal Adv. Cmte. and a technical working group. The agreed upon approach was that the full Advisory Committee would have more of a policy focus and maybe meeting 3-4 times over the next year and the technical working group would meet initially more regularly and focus on documenting the need and developing a business case.

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 restricts that require prompt action.

LiDAR and Land Surveying Requirements. Duane Stott indicated that he had been contacted by a Registered Land Surveyor who had participated in the initial formative meeting of the LiDAR Adv. Cmte. Concern was expressed to Mr. Stott that perhaps a Registered Land Surveyor should be involved in the process of determining/certifying the vertical accuracy of the resultant data. Mr. Stott noted that while most Registered Land Surveyors do not have a particular expertise in the area of LiDAR data collection, they do have expertise in determining the vertical accuracy of the delivered data. Mr. Stott noted that depending upon ultimate use of resultant LiDAR data, this vertical accuracy question could be very important. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that in the initial LiDAR Adv. Cmte. discussion,

there was clear acknowledgement that the resultant LiDAR data was probably not appropriate for applications like final roadway engineering design or pavement construction, however it was probably appropriate and useful for preliminary roadway planning applications. It was also noted that one of the purposes of the proposed needs study/business case was to look at the standards that would be required for the various potential applications.

The discussion also noted that LiDAR technology has evolved so fast that there is a general acknowledgement that existing written contractual standards have not kept up with the technology and at least a USGS are being revised. Bill Wehling, NDOR, noted that the point person for NDOR in this LiDAR Adv. Cmte. effort would be Ken Hartwig, the NDOR Surveyor, and so there will be Registered Land Surveyor input into the process. Mr. Zink asked for his understanding of the issues involved whether state statutes would require the formal involvement of a Registered Land Surveyor in a LiDAR project. Steve Cobb, State Surveyor, indicated that he felt the LiDAR applications that we were discussing would fall under the general category of topographic surveying and therefore would not require the involvement of a Registered Land Surveyor. The discussion focused on the need for increased education and awareness related to the limitation of LiDAR data. It was decided that Mr. Cobb and Mr. Stott would provide a list of educational articles that could be provided as reference material to the LiDAR Adv. Cmte. members, and others, which would address the limitations of LiDAR data.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Zink provided the members present with a printed copy of a draft of the 2007 Annual Report. Mr. Zink noted that as per prior understanding this draft document would be available for review and feedback for two weeks (ending on May 28<sup>th</sup>). At that time, Mr. Zink would make any editorial changes that seemed warranted from the feedback. If there were any substantive changes suggested, they would be reviewed by the Chair Steve Henderson and Vice Chair Lash Chaffin and their collective decisions would be final. In the unlikely even that there was a major policy disagreement, the Chair and Vice Chair could decide to hold the draft document until the next Str. Cmte. meeting. Otherwise, the edited document will be finalized based on the collective decision of the Chair and Vice Chair and published.

### **NEBRASKA GIS STRATEGIC PLANNING, FGDC CAP Grants --Strategic Planning Application**

Mr. Zink noted that he really has had time to do much work on this strategic planning process since the last GIS Str. Cmte. meeting. The grant was approved for \$50,000 (\$40,000 for a consultant and \$10,000 to conduct regional meetings). The consultant would assist with strategic planning and to assist GIS in developing a business case for the street centerline-address database. Mr. Zink would welcome any assistance with the RFP development or outreach efforts for the regional meetings to be held early this summer with follow-up meetings to be scheduled in the fall.

### **LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO GIS STEERING COMMITTEE STATUTES**

**Changes to GIS Steering Committee Statutes.** Mr. Zink and Mr. Henderson provided a quick overview of the statutory changes to the GIS Committee statutes that were incorporated into LB 823 (starting on page 17, line 11) that was approved by the Nebraska Legislature. Since there was no emergency clause included in the legislation the changes will become effective on approximately July 17th. The changes retain most of the GIS Steering Committee statutory language, but made it an Advisory Committee of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) as opposed to its previous status as a free-standing body. This is consistent with the Str. Cmte.'s previous proposal.

**GIS Council and NITC Relationship – Defining a Charter.** The NGISSC (Nebraska Geographic Information System Steering Committee) will now become the Geographic Information Systems Council, an advisory council to the NITC. Mr. Zink noted that it was ultimately decided to retain the statutory definition of the NGISSC in statute, as opposed to just making it a creation solely of the NITC. A major factor in this decision was the fact that GIS deals extensively with data whereas the NITC statutes refer to hardware, software and the network, but does explicitly refer to data.

Mr. Henderson noted that a Charter process has been used with the other NITC Councils to define the roles and relationships between the Councils and the NITC. Mr. Henderson noted that Mr. Zink had created an initial draft Charter based on the structure of the Charters for the other Councils and presented it at the last Str. Cmte. meeting. Mr. Zink noted that while there had been some discussion about possible changes in the draft membership, no formal action had been taken at that time to provide members with the opportunity to more fully review the draft and provide him with feedback. Mr. Zink indicated in revised draft Charter that was linked to the agenda and available for the members in printed copies, the various proposals for members were all presented. Mr. Zink suggested that concerns about defining the membership seats that the NITC could add to the GIS Council seemed to be the primary focus of concern about the draft Charter. The discussed options were outlined in section 6.2.18 of the draft Charter.

Following extensive discussion, the Str. Cmte. decided to propose to the NITC the following addition members to be added to the statutorily defined members.

6.2.18. Such other members as nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor. These additional members shall include:

- a) Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency or Military Dept. or his or her designee (20);
- b) Director of the Nebraska Public Service Commission or his or her designee (21);
- c) One representative of Nebraska geospatial professional association nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor (22);
- d) One representative from the Omaha metro area nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor (23);
- e) One representative from the Lincoln metro area nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor (24);
- f) Up to two additional at-large representatives, as necessary to provide regional geographic and/or other key sectors of representation to be nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor (25) (26).

The discussion noted that there was the flexibility in the other proposed sector representatives to address the concern for surveyor and tribal representatives in other ways. It was suggested that the surveyors were already represented by the State Surveyor and that it was likely that additional surveyors might be appointed via the NACO or at-large representatives. It was also suggested that if an interested tribal representative could be found they could be appointed to one of the four (4) at-large seats. This proposal made a total of 26 seats on the new NITC GIS Council. Mr. Schonlau moved and Mr. Cobb seconded a motion to propose to the NITC the draft Charter, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

[NITC Information Technology Plan Questionnaire Survey](#). Mr. Henderson provided the Str. Cmte. with a brief overview of the NITC Information Technology Plan Survey and its interface with the state budgeting process. He noted as a part of the process of more closely integrating GIS coordination with other IT policy/coordination efforts, that for the first time a specific question related to planned GIS activities is being proposed for this state agency IT survey. Mr. Henderson indicated that Mr. Zink had develop a draft GIS question for the survey and that this was a time for the Str. Cmte. to have some input on revising that draft question if it so desired.

### **3.4 Geographic Information System (GIS)**

Does your agency have plans, over the next biennium, for the development and/or acquisition of GIS/geospatial data or web-based systems to display or make accessible this type of data that is estimated to cost more than \$25,000?

If your answer to the previous question is YES, please provide a brief description:

Mr. Zink noted that the \$25,000 threshold came from a proposal developed by the Str. Cmte. a couple years previously. Mr. Schonlau suggested that it might be better to make the question a little more

generic and refer to “geospatial data application or services” instead of “web-based systems to ...” Mr. Wehling raised a question as to whether the request to provide a brief description wouldn’t be duplicated in the following question. It was decided that the wording could be modified to incorporate Mr. Schonlau’s suggestions and to make a reference to the following Section 4 for a description.

#### ESRI ENTERPRISE LICENSE AGREEMENT PROPOSAL

Mr. Zink presented to the Str. Cmte. the proposal from ESRI for a state government enterprise license agreement (ELA). As proposed by ESRI the ELA would include unlimited ESRI software for state agencies, bundled with training and services and would cost \$240,000/year for three years. According to ESRI this would break down to \$175,000 for unlimited software (some software types do have caps) and \$65,000 for the Enterprise Advantage Program (training and technical support). Mr. Zink noted that at his request, Joe Eckmann, ESRI, had provided some background figures on current and anticipated software costs. Mr. Zink also noted that Mr. Eckmann had offered to come to the next GIS Str. Cmte. meeting to discuss the proposal if there was sufficient interest.

The Str. Cmte. discussed the proposal, but took no formal action. Among the issues/concerns raised was the fact that the ESRI proposal did not seem to result in any actual cost savings for the state. It was also noted that this proposal would most likely result in someone in state government needing to pick up a significant burden of administrative costs for ESRI license management that was previously handled by ESRI. The issue of the Enterprise Advantage Program was also discussed, the difficulty in administering these technical assistance credits, and the desirability of de-coupling this aspect of the proposal from the software component. Another major issue of discussion was the desirability of including in local subdivisions in any software ELA.

An informal polling of the Str. Cmte. indicated that there was sufficient interest in the possibility of an ESRI-ELA to pursue the matter further.

#### **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 July 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**See below for voting record**

<b>Vote Tallies – May 14, 2008</b>						
	Roll Call	#1 Approval of 3-19-08 Minutes	#2 NITC Charter	#3	#4	#5
DAS - <b>Steve Henderson</b> (Brenda Decker)	P	Y	Y			.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, <b>Paul Yamamoto</b> (Mike Linder)	P	Y	Y			.
CSD – Mark Kuzila, Les Howard, Milda Vaitkus	A			.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett, <b>Sudhir Ponnapan</b> (Rex Amack)	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
NRC - <b>Josh Lear</b> , Kim Menke, (Ann Bleed)	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
PRO - John Erickson (Lauren Hill)	A			.	.	.
PAD - Ruth Sorensen, <b>Bob Martin</b> ,	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
DOR – <b>Bill Wehling</b> , Rose Braun, Ed Kelly	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
St.Surv - <b>Steve Cobb</b> , John Beran	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell	A			.	.	.
Jim Langtry	A	.	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi, Chris Poole	A	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Mark Brugger</b>	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
Larry Seifert	A			.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	A	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Duane Stott</b>	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
<b>Mike Schonlau</b>	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
DHHS: Thomas Rauner, <b>Karis Bowen</b>	P	Y	Y	.	.	.
<b>TOTALS</b>	11	11 +	11 +	.	.	.

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