

**GIS Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes - July 16, 1996**

Present were (* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	State Information Technology Coordinator
Laura Banker	Science Applications International Corporation
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resources Commission
* Jim Brown	State Surveyor's Office
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
* Les Howard	Conservation & Survey Division
Erik Hubl	Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Terry Kubicek	Natural Resources Commission
* Jim Langtry	Lancaster County Engineer's Office
Jerry Odum	National Geodetic Survey
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Tim Prescott	USDA - NRCS
Shawn Riley	Keith County
* Tom Ryan	Governor's Policy Research Office
Jennifer Sharpe	USGS
* Duane Stott	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
* Cliff Welsh	Keith County Commissioner
* Dayle Williamson	Natural Resources Commission
* Dennis Wilson	City of Omaha
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 Tuesday, July 9, 1996.

ROLL CALL. Chairperson Jim Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 pm and requested a call of the roll. Ten duly authorized representatives were present, and therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business. Blaine Dinwiddie and Dennis Wilson arrived shortly after roll call.

MINUTES. Rod Armstrong moved for the minutes of the May 15, 1996 steering committee meeting to be approved as circulated. Dayle Williamson seconded. The motion passed (*see vote #1 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

REPORT ON METADATA TRAINING & GEOSPATIAL DATA CLEARINGHOUSE PROJECT. Larry Zink reported on the Metadata Workshop scheduled for July 17 at the Library Commission's training room. Larry, along with several others, are working together to provide information and training on metadata: Conservation & Survey (Les Howard), USDA-NRCS (Tim Prescott), Game & Parks (Scott Richert), Natural Resources Commission (Kim Menke), and the Department of Roads (Ed Kelley). There are approximately 40 participants who have signed up for the workshop.

REVIEW/ACTION ON PROPERTY PARCEL TASK FORCE'S WORKING PAPER.
The property parcel task force's working paper, "Facilitating Land Record Modernization", June 1996,

had previously been mailed to the steering committee. Jim Brown explained that this was the task force's report back to the committee and opened the floor for discussion.

Terry Kubicek had comments or suggestions regarding the working paper's pages 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15. Terry distributed a copy of his recommended changes and addressed these changes with the committee page by page.

Jim Brown commented that the task force was made up of a broad base of officials from a variety of counties, NACO, surveyors, and the Department of Roads. Jim felt this report was not a final report, but an interim report for the task force. The task force did decide that funding would be necessary to get the project going in Nebraska and also talked about various types of funding (i.e. fees for recording or documentation). The direction of the task force is aimed specifically at property parcel tax mapping. Jim agreed that the paper did raise more questions than there were answers for, but it was a good first report. Jim also commented that the task force was looking for some direction from the GIS Steering Committee - does the task force move forward in the area of standards or funding.

Blaine Dinwiddie noted that the report did not put any particular binding on any one entity, but was more of a preliminary observation. Tom Ryan asked what happened if the steering committee approved the working paper. Jim Brown said it would become a document of the steering committee and would be helpful with any legislative issues that may be addressed at the next legislative session.

Jim thought the steering committee should begin working on standards next--standards in terms of how tax mapping is done at the county level. The state of Wisconsin has completed work on standards and would be one example to review. The task force could adopt Wisconsin's standards and then modify them as they applied to the state of Nebraska. Once the standards were in place, then funding issues could be addressed. Mahendra Bansal commented that this issue was discussed at the last NIDCAC meeting and their general consensus was to focus on standards.

General discussion regarding standards and funding followed. Larry recommended the approach of taking the existing working paper to use as the basis for visiting with and involving other interested groups. Out of those who indicate an interest, a larger one-day meeting could identify priorities and authorize a smaller group to draft standards. Jim Brown preferred to draft standards first and then engage other groups in a process of modifying the draft standards.

Terry Kubicek suggested that the steering committee identify four or five states that have been innovative and successful with such standards. Larry could do an executive summary about these programs reviewing areas such as funding, personnel costs, hardware, software, and processes. The subcommittee could discuss each of these models and then build a hybrid of these models for the state of Nebraska.

Rod Armstrong made a two-part motion: 1) move to have the steering committee accept the report from the property parcel task force as distributed and 2) direct the task force to begin work on standards by looking at other states and to use these existing standards as a model for Nebraska. Tom Ryan seconded the motion. Jim Brown asked for further discussion.

Dayle Williamson asked if this meant that no changes would be made to the report as discussed earlier. Both Jim Brown and Rod Armstrong agreed that the word changes and addition of agency names would be okay to change. Dayle asked if the committee wanted to leave the issue of funding

of land record modernization as it is discussed in the working paper. Larry noted the quotes in the working paper about a land record modernization fund are from an earlier steering committee annual report. Jim Brown recommended leaving the funding issue as it is outlined in the report, because it clearly stated the position of the task force.

Dayle asked to have the question divided. Rod did not object. Jim asked for the discussion on the acceptance of the report. There was no discussion. A vote was taken for acceptance of the report. The motion passed (*see vote #2 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

Jim asked for discussion on the second part to Rod's motion. The committee clarified the intent of Rod's motion and discussed what "standards" meant. Rod was suggesting that the task force get a broad picture of standards as used by other states. Blaine indicated that it was not the standards themselves, but how counties use standards. Jim added that it was how the counties collected them. Larry noted that there was an entire shopping list that someone needed to define. Jim was looking at the entire process of how standards moved through the county down to taxing. A vote was taken on the second part to Rod's motion. The motion passed (*see vote #3 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

Cliff Welsh asked if a time frame or goals should be established for the task force. Jim Brown believed that it would not be less than 6 months, but at least a minimum of one year before the task force could create standards. A few factors affect a timeline for this task force. One factor is the turnover of task force members. The second factor is the time it takes to reach rural counties. Larry asked the committee if he should be directing a large portion of his time to this project. The committee generally agreed that he should.

ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT. A copy of the draft annual report was previously mailed to committee members. Dennis Burling asked if there were any major changes since the committee had seen the previous draft at the May 15 meeting. Larry said that no significant changes had been made. There were changes to the task force's working paper which is a part of the annual report and there were additional self-reports from a few agencies.

Dayle distributed NRCs recommended changes to pages 3, 4, and 5 of the draft report. Terry addressed these issues with the committee page by page. Rod Armstrong moved to approve the June 19, 1996 draft as distributed. Jon Ogden seconded the motion. Dayle Williamson moved to amend Rod's motion to accept the changes as proposed in Terry's draft. Jim asked for discussion.

The committee decided to address each one of Terry's recommended changes on an individual basis since there were only a few of them. The committee also decided that they were to vote on the intent of the proposed language changes, not specifically the wording itself. Both Larry and Terry were willing to work together to determine the specific and final word changes.

Tom Ryan asked for clarification of Terry's change on page 4, first paragraph. Dennis Burling suggested that the intent be worded similar to the DOQQ resolution passed by the steering committee in regards to the list of potential uses and users. Terry agreed. The intent was to identify the secondary users.

Tom asked for discussion on Terry's proposed change on page 4, second paragraph - "Currently, there is no requirement that these boundaries be registered in a common spatial reference system, nor is

there any central repository for this information." The committee decided on the following:
"Currently, there is no requirement that these boundaries be registered in a common spatial reference system."

The next proposed change (page 5, third paragraph) was discussed - "... no shared plan for the development of this digital data that outlines the various agency responsibilities, processes to be used, resources needed, nor the timeline required for completion." Terry noted that there is no single document which specifically outlines and states a plan for SSURGO soils. There are several contracts or agreements between various agencies such as NRD and CSD and NRC and NRCS, etc. These various documents taken together as a whole do define a common goal or plan. Duane Stott suggested replacing "no shared plan" with "there is a consensus." Terry agreed to - "there is a consensus or an agreement on how to proceed. . . ." Larry raised a question about the existence of a "consensus" and suggested the sentence be deleted. This suggested was accepted by the committee.

The committee discussed the last sentence of the second paragraph on page 3. Larry noted that the intent was to state the need for updated information. Terry suggested - "this information was developed over a ten year period, there is a continuing need to update and have current information available, and to use the best GIS techniques available." Jim deferred the exact language changes to Larry and Terry.

The next change for discussion was to strike the last sentence of the third paragraph, page 4. Mahendra noted that NRC asked for a copy of the database from CSD and did not get it. This was not a good example of sharing the database. After further discussion, Terry agreed to leave the sentence as is.

Larry recapped his understanding of the proposed changes to the draft report. A vote was taken on Dayle's amendment to Rod's motion considering the consensus changes summarized by Larry. The motion passed (*see vote #4 on the attached Voting Record sheet*). A vote was taken on the motion to accept the draft as amended. The motion passed (*see vote #5 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

STEERING COMMITTEE BUDGET PROPOSAL. Larry Zink submitted a proposed steering committee budget for the committee to discuss. Steve Schafer, IDSD Administrator, agree to submit this information as a narrative with his division's budget. Larry had outline two estimates. One was a lower estimate for a budget with six committee meetings a year and a lower amount for an educational outreach program. The second estimate included twelve committee meetings a year, higher funding for an educational outreach program, and the cost for a portable computer.

Tom Ryan moved to accept the upper estimate with funding for six meetings a year, instead of twelve. Jon Ogden seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed (*see vote #6 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

FGDC PARTNERSHIP. On May 24, 1996, the FGDC formally recognized the steering committee as a partner. On July 8, 1996, the FGDC sent a letter requesting the steering committee to identify one or two specific issues that the steering committee would like to work on resolving within the next year or two. The FGDC would then identify federal agencies, FGDC subcommittees, or state steering committees that would be good sources to assist in resolving these issues. Larry asked the committee members to review and suggest any issues that they would like to see identified and to submit these ideas to Larry before the next meeting.

Given Governor Nelson's interest in unfunded mandates and identifying bottlenecks in state and federal partnerships, Terry asked Tom Ryan if this wouldn't be an excellent opportunity for all interested agencies to identify their GIS issues, get endorsement from the committee, take it to the Governor for his endorsement, and then attach his letter to the steering committee's letter to FGDC. Tom Ryan thought the Governor would be interested in what the steering committee came up with, then he may or may not endorse it. The legislature is also looking at unfunded mandates and the committee may want to forward the letter to Senator Coordsen who is the chair of this task force. Terry and Dayle also mentioned the problems of getting cooperation from the USDA-Farm Services Agency on information sharing.

FINAL REPORT ON GIS SYMPOSIUM. Since Lash Chaffin was not present, this agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

DRAFT LEGISLATION ON STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM. A copy of the draft legislation was previously mailed to the committee. Jim Brown reported that the draft legislation was modeled after the state of Missouri and information provided by Jerry Odum. The legislation was intended to create an official coordinate system for the state. Jim offered the draft for the steering committee's discussion and consideration.

Terry noted that Section 5 was not clear regarding the sentence - "... accuracy and specifications for first or second-order geodetic surveying. . ." Terry recommended adding third-order. Jim explained that the intent of Section 5 was aimed at the private surveyor who used conventional methods. The state does want bad results on state plane coming from the private sector. Terry also noted that the last sentence of Section 5 - "Above limitations may be modified by the Nebraska State Surveyor to meet conditions" was extremely broad. Terry would feel more comfortable if rules and regulation changes was used which then made it open for public comment. Tom Ryan also noted his preference for rules and regulations. Jim Brown noted that the draft legislation's wording paralleled authority that he already has.

Terry also commented that Section 6 needed to be clarified. He suggested adding - "need authority for continued use of . . ." since the current language sounded mandatory. Jim Brown explained that this was for new work only. The purpose of this document was to create one coordinate system and was to be used as a background document only.

Terry preferred that the word "sole" in Section 9 be changed to "official." Jim noted that there are 40 other states using terminology similar to this one and were not running into any problems. Given the amount of discussion and the lateness of the day, Jim Brown tabled this item until later.

LAND USE/LAND COVER DEVELOPMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CURRENT CSD EFFORTS AND PROPOSED NRC EFFORTS. Larry noted the potential for overlap of work and suggested that the committee review the relationship to see how these projects work together. Jim Merchant was not present for discussion, and therefore, Jim Brown tabled this item until Jim Merchant was available. Terry believed that CSD's intent was to use 1:100,000 resolution, while NRC's intent was to use a 30 meter resolution online with Internet accessibility.

POSSIBLE MEETING DATE CHANGE. After some discussion, the September 24th meeting date was rescheduled to September 10th.

FUTURE EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS. Larry noted that the 1998 Mid-Symposium may be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. This item was also tabled until the next meeting date, since Lash Chaffin was not present.

UPDATE ON NRC'S DOQQ PROJECT. Terry Kubicek updated the committee on the status of the DOQQ project and handed out a copy of the DOQQ update map. The project is on time for all DEM and survey requirements. DEMs have been moved from level 1 to level 2. DEMs are currently being done a 30 meter resolution. NRC examined the possibility of going to a 15 meter resolution. The USGS asked NRC to consider a 10 meter resolution. NRC tried to use a 10 meter resolution. However, their software will not work with a 10 meter resolution and programmers are currently working to identify the problem. NRC may use a 30 meter resolution for the first year, and then use a 10 meter resolution for the remaining sections.

UPDATE ON GPS BASE STATION NETWORK. Jim Brown had just received word from Jon Ogden that the hardware for a GPS base station had been delivered to the Department of Roads. Someone from Arizona will be out next week to position the antenna. Duane Stott is still working in Scotts Bluff and should have an answer regarding a possible local venture by November. The city of Grand Island has expressed an interest in a survey quality base station and Jim Brown will meet with them on Thursday. If a GPS base station is installed in Grand Island, then all three GPS base stations in Nebraska will be survey quality. Duane Stott added that cooperative efforts have been successful. The National Parks Service has committed \$1,000 to a possible local GPS Base Station venture in Scotts Bluff.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES. Les Howard handed out a copy of "GAP Analysis: Geographic Information for Conserving Biodiversity in Nebraska." He also brought in maps from the GAP project that is currently working on and posted these maps on the wall for review.

Jerry Odum gave an update on the HARN data that was mailed on May 3 and which he had already received back. This information is available on the NSG bulletin board. It is not currently compatible with the existing network, but will be at a later date. Jerry provided Jim Brown with a copy of the reference information on the HARN points.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 1996.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 7/16/96

		Min. #1	Accept Report #2	Begin study #3	amend. to change #4	#5 approve A/R as amended	Budget #6				
DAS - Rod Armstrong	P	+	+	+	NV	+	+				
DEQ - <u>Dennis Burling</u> Tom Lamberson	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
CSD - Perry Wigley <u>Les Howard</u> , Jim Merchant	P	+	NV	+	NV	NV	+				
NRC - <u>Dayle Williamson</u> Terry Kubicek	P	+	NV	+	+	+	+				
PRO - Tom Ryan	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
LRD - Laura Valenziano Val Goodman	A										
John Miyoshi	A										
Blaine Dinwiddie	A/P		+	+	+	+	+				
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Larry Worrell <u>Jim Langtry</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Lash Chaffin	A										
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Dennis Wilson	A/P		+	+	+	+	+				
TOTALS	$\frac{10-P}{12-P}$	10(+)	10(+)	11(+) 1(-)	10(+)	11(+)	12(+)				

P = present
A = absent

"+" = voting for
"-" = voting against
"NV" = not voting