

**GIS Council Meeting Minutes**

**PROPOSED**

February 14, 2018  
1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Nebraska Department of Transportation - Main Auditorium  
1500 Nebraska Hwy 2, Lincoln Nebraska



*GIS Council • Nebraska Information Technology Commission*

**Meeting Summary**

Highlights of this meeting include a new Vice Chair, Mention of the Geospatial Data Act in Congress, Imagery, PLSS control points, Elevation and state agency summaries

**Motions**

Motions Carried:

Motions Failed:

There were no motions that failed.

**I. Roll Call and Quorum**

**Members Present:** \* *Authorized to Vote*

- \* Sudhir Ponnappan, Nebraska Game & Parks, Chair
- \* Casey Dunn, Clerk of the Legislature, Vice Chair
- \* Justin Wolff, Department of Transportation
- \* Steve Rathje, Department of Natural Resources
- \* Jim Ohmberger, Office of the CIO
- \* Milda Vaitkus, Alt. for Doug Hallam, Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
- \* Lesli Rawlings, NE Geospatial Professional Assoc.
- \* Karis Bowen, DHHS
- \* Chad Boshart, NEMA/Military Dept.
- \* Casey Sherlock, State Surveyor
- \* Eric Herbert, Omaha Metro Area
- \* Kea Morovitz, Public Service Commission
- \* Chuck Wingert, Natural Resources Districts
- \* Danny Pittman, NACO Sarpy County Assessor
- \* Gary Morrison, Dept. of Environmental Quality
- \* Michael Schonlau, Member at Large
- \* Todd Whitfield, Geospatial Professional Association

**Members Absent**

- Lash Chaffin, League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Tim Cielocha, Public Power Districts
- Jon Kraai, Nebraska State Patrol, Past Chair
- Jim Langtry, USGS
- Jeff McReynolds, Lincoln Metro Area
- Erin Northwall, Governor's Policy Research Office
- Ruth Sorenson, Property Tax Administrator
- Mike Preston, At-Large Representative
- Jennifer Myers, NACO

**NITC Representatives:**

John Watermolen, GIS Council Coordinator and Lori Lopez Urdiales, CIO/NITC

**Public Visitors:**

Jeff Timm, OCIO; Clair Inbody, OCIO; Chris Wiebke, Rob Christian and Samantha Mettenbrink, Dept. of Transportation; Steven Chase, Records Board; and Ryan Chapman, Department of Environmental Quality

**I-III. General Meeting Formalities (continued)**

**Roll Call and Quorum**

The Chair, Sudhir Ponnappan, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was taken. There were 17 members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present to conduct official business.

<b>Introduction of Audience Attendees</b>	Public visitors were welcomed and were asked to introduce themselves if they wished. Visitors who wished to identify themselves as attending the meeting were to sign the visitor log and their name and affiliation would be reported in the minutes.
<b>Public Meetings Regulations and Posting of the Same</b>	
<b>Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>	<b>Mr. Herbert moved to approve to approve the minutes with the correction of replacing his name with Mr. Reynolds for the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County update. Ms. Dunn seconded.</b> Ponnappan-Yes, Dunn-Yes, Wolff-Yes, Rathje-Yes, Ohmberger-Yes, Vaitkus-Abstained, Rawlings-Yes, Bowen-Yes, Boshart-Yes, Sherlock-Abstained, Herbert-Yes, Morovitz-Yes, Wingert-Yes, Pittman-Yes, Morrison-Abstained, Schonlau-Yes, and Whitfield-Yes. Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstained-3. Motion carried.

**IV. REMINDER OF MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS EXPIRING THIS YEAR- REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OMAHA METRO AREA AND THE NRD'S**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mr. Watermolen reminded members to submit nominations. If there were members who would like to continue serving on the Council, they were asked to inform Mr. Watermolen.
-------------------	---

**V. VICE CHAIR FOR 2018- NEW NOMINATIONS AND COUNCIL APPROVAL**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Casey Dunn has taken a position with the Office of the CIO and is resigning as Vice Chair of the GIS Council. Kea Morovitz has volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. There were no more nominations from the floor.</p> <p><b>Mr. Schonlau moved to approve the nomination of Kea Morovitz as Vice Chair of the GIS Council. Mr. Herbert seconded.</b> Ponnappan-Yes, Dunn-Yes, Wolff-Yes, Rathje-Yes, Ohmberger-Yes, Vaitkus-Yes, Rawlings-Yes, Bowen-Yes, Boshart-Yes, Sherlock-Yes, Herbert-Yes, Morovitz-Abstained, Wingert-Yes, Pittman-Yes, Morrison-Yes, Schonlau-Yes, and Whitfield-Yes. Results: Yes-16, No-1, Abstained-0. Motion carried.</p>
-------------------	---

**VI. STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ACTION ITEMS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Imagery - Update on the Working group meeting and survey results. Mr. Watermolen asked for guidance to find a solution to the Imagery Business Plan and options that are available do not coincide with the current business plan. Council directed him to determine what the agencies need. He did a survey state agencies and they reported they would like a pixel resolution ranging from 24 inches to 3 inches, with 9 inches being the most common. Some agencies use NAIP and Google. Band and leaf status....majority wanted leaf on and color. The work group will meet to continue working on this matter. John will be attending NSGIC and visiting with vendors there as well.</p> <p>Boundaries - Update the direction the group needs to take-council thoughts. Mr. Watermolen sent an email to Casey and Claire. One of their thoughts was to regroup the work group and look at the inventory and look at the federal data, which will be a new working group to be organized in the near future.</p> <p>Elevation - Update on projects and deliverables. Langtry was not here. LIDAR data for eastern Nebraska has been delivered. If members are interested in the data, contact Eric, Mike or Jeff. Sand Hills by the end of the month. DNR reminded 3D depth program and what the next program will be, Nebraska needs to decide who their champion would be – could be an individual or group. USGS will be flying south central/south east Nebraska for QL level two. Is the OCIO ready to host LIDAR data? Mr. Watermolen is looking at it and talking with ESRI about this as well.</p> <p>Geodetic and Survey Control - Update on the PLSS data, Jeff Timm. Nancy Von Meyer vendor, he met with her. Data should be published this week. State Surveyor's office assisted with this, he asked agencies to use this data as more current and accurate. If interested in data, contact him. Every point in the data set will be accurate.</p>
-------------------	---

	Nebraska Map - Update on version 2.0, John Watermolen. Still working on the version update. NebraskaMAP colors will be included on the website.
	Address and Street Center Lines, Watermolen. Will be meeting with PSC,

**VII. STORY MAP COMPETITION AND COMMON GEOMENTOR QUESTIONS FROM TEACHERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Lesli Rawlings talked about the 2018 Nebraska Mapping Contest. Harris Payne, Social Studies specialist for the Nebraska Dept. of Education, sent an email February 9th to middle and high school teachers to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nebraska Mapping Contest. Middle and high school students are invited to submit an entry for this contest. The map needs to be an ArcGIS Online web app or story map containing analysis (not just points on a map).</p> <p>The flyer distributed to the council members has a <a href="http://bit.ly/2018NEMaps">bit.ly/2018NEMaps</a> link. It takes you to a tabbed Story Map, which explains the mapping contest directions, how a school obtains a free site license, rubric on evaluating maps, the registration and entry deadlines. Teachers decide if they want to have students complete a project as a class activity or as an extracurricular activity, but teams are limited to 1 or 2 students.</p> <p align="center">Registration deadline: April 2, 2018 Entry deadline: April 16, 2018</p> <p>This story map also contains a tab showing the location of GeoMentors in Nebraska. If you don't see yourself as a GeoMentor, then go to the latest Nebraska GIS/LIS newsletter sent out 1/30/2018 and find the sign-up page or click on the link in the next NE GIS Council minutes: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMKviUHHJpJSgt0lqpk5V7aMqfll0UsLxpgq3smXhs6DjmMw/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMKviUHHJpJSgt0lqpk5V7aMqfll0UsLxpgq3smXhs6DjmMw/viewform</a></p> <p>The top five high school and five middle school entries will each win a cash prize (\$100/ team). The first place high school and first place middle school entries will be submitted to Esri as Nebraska's representatives to compete nationally. The national winners (one each at high school and middle school) earn a trip to the 2018 Esri Education GIS Summit and User Conference in San Diego, including registration, transportation, and lodging. Part of the GISP qualifications require training or volunteer and being a GeoMentor is one way to fulfill this requirement.</p>
-------------------	--

**VIII. GIS CONFERENCES- ESRI SOUTHWEST USER CONFERENCE IN DENVER 4/10-12 AND MAGIC SYMPOSIUM IN OMAHA 4/23-26, NE GIS/LIS 1 DAY MEETING 4/13**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>ESRI Southwest User Conference, Denver, Colorado. The OCIO will be taking a van. If there are any other state agency staff planning to attend, members can car pool to save money.</p> <p>MAGIC Symposium, Omaha, Nebraska. This will be the second time the symposium is in Nebraska. It have been 20 years since then. Presenters are still needed.</p> <p>GIS/LIS, April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was announced that next year's GIS/LIS conference will be held in La Vista Nebraska.</p>
-------------------	---

**IX. UPDATES FROM AGENCIES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>UNL Soil and Conservation, Milda Vaitkus.</b> The Spatial Science program is now in the School of Natural Resources. A new faculty member skilled in GIS will be starting at UNL. He has also done a lot of outreach and workshops, and will hopefully provide support for other GIS groups in Nebraska.</p> <p>Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Chad Boshart. In November, he attended a 3-day search and rescue hands-on workshop. There were GIS experts brought into the exercise as well. They learned a lot from each.</p> <p>Department of Health and Human Services, Karis Bowen. Clair Inbody and John Watermolen have been providing training and help with story map. Story maps are leaning more toward the ARCGIS. The agency will be getting a new website.</p> <p>Tod Whitfield. A Professional Surveyors Seminar was recently held in Kearney. NGS had a representative there update G08-12 to G08-18, he wanted folks to be aware. Two webinars (tomorrow</p>
-------------------	---

at 2 pm eastern) to talk about the vertical datum, and the one on March 8<sup>th</sup> will talk about the new state plane coordinate projection related to the new datum in 2022. NGS website. Casey Sherlock has this presentation and will post it on their website. NGS wants Nebraska’s input.

Omaha Metro, Eric Herbert. The agency has been battling with base maps, trying to phase in vector tile cache. Sarpy county is implementing Parcel fabric for its parcel data set.

Casey Sherlock. Steve Cobb has retired. Mr. Sherlock provided a brief background of his GIS experience.

Department of Natural Resources, Steve Rathje. The agency has hired a new GIS Coordinator, Ryan Werner.

Public Service Commission, Kea Morovitz. The agency has been focusing on NextGen 911. An RFP is being written for a QA/QC vendor to assist the PSC with the required GIS layers from the counties.

Department of Transportation, Justin Wolff. Been with agency about 6 months and getting a path together to replace legacy applications that the agency is using. Lots of culture change that needs to happen.

Policy Research Office, Casey Dunn. Ms. Dunn will be starting with the OCIO/NSP on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. She has been working on the restricting project and will try to upload county data as much as she can before Friday.

Nebraska Game Parks, Sudhir Ponnapan. The agency had a 2-day GIS training which included a ARCGIS online demonstrated. The second day was spent on ArcGIS Pro. Challenging projects that the agency is working on include Open Field management system using ESRI’s Survey 123.

OCIO, John Watermolen. The office is looking forward to Ms. Dunn joining the GIS team. Two story map classes were held for agency PIO’s and plan to have more sessions this summer. The OCIO will be involved in LUCA for the Census. Mr. Watermolen met with Senator Fisher’s office about GIS and its capabilities related to the Geospatial Data Acts that is currently in both houses of Congress. Part of the Geospatial Data act will require agencies to track how much it costs to collect the data. What is not in this bill is utilizing other sources. There is concern about the UNL Geography funding and members were encouraged to contact their senators.

Douglas County/City of Omaha, Mike Schonlau. NIROC will start to fly next month. All will be 3-inch imagery with data to be delivered this summer. The City of Omaha has hired another GIS person and now have a total 24 GIS staff. There are lots of concern in Omaha about snow removal and potholes. The city now has a pubic snow plow tracking application. Mr. Schonlau is willing to provide a demo at a future meeting. Another application to be rolled out soon is a citizen reporting applications. With ESRI’s assistance, the application will be moving this in-house. Thea agency is steadily moving desktop users to ArcGIS Pro.

Nebraska Geospatial Professional Association, Leslie Rawlings. An instructor at Wayne State is working on the development of a remote sensing class which will be starting in the fall. The class will be using ArcGIS products for image analysis tools.

**X. ArcGIS PRO DEMONSTRATION**

**DISCUSSION**

Due to technical difficulties, the presentation was postponed until a future meeting.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION**

There was further discussion regarding the UNL Geography Department and the council writing a letter of support. Mr. Watermolen will check with the OCIO Legal Counsel to see if this is possible.

**Mr. Whitfield moved to write a letter to the Legislature in support of the UNL Geography Department, if the Council is allowed to do so as an NITC Advisory Council. Mr. Sherlock**

	<p><b>seconded.</b> Ponnappan-Yes, Dunn-Abstained, Wolff-Yes, Rathje-Yes, Ohmberger- Abstained, Vaitkus-Abstained, Rawlings-Yes, Bowen-Yes, Boshart-Yes, Sherlock-Yes, Herbert-Yes, Morovitz-Abstained, Wingert-Yes, Pittman-Yes, Morrison-Yes, Schonlau- Abstained, and Whitfield-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-4. Motion carried.</p>
--	---

**XII. DATES FOR 2018 GIS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Just a reminder of the 2018 meeting dates: February 14, May 2, August 1 and November 7.
-------------------	---

**X. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Claire Inbody, spoke as a citizen, strongly encouraging the council members to write their senators to not allow the defunding of the UNL Geography Department. GIS is important and mission critical to the citizens of Nebraska. There were lots of members who are graduates of the UNL Geography Department.
-------------------	--

<b>Meeting Conclusion</b>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p><b>Mr. Wingert moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herbert seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	The next meeting will be May 2, 2018, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at the Department of Transportation, Lincoln Nebraska.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by John Watermolen of the Office of the CIO/NITC.