

GIS COUNCIL

Wednesday, Oct 5, 2011, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Nebraska Dept. of Roads- Main Auditorium
1500 Nebraska Hwy 2
Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

ROLL CALL PRESENT (authorized to vote*):

John Beran	*	State Surveyor's
Chad Boshart	*	NEMA/Military Dept.
Karis Bowen	*	DHHS
Rose Braun	*	Dept. of Roads
Lash Chaffin	*	League of Municipalities
Tim Cielocha	*	Public Power
Eric Herbert	*	NACO Representative
Jim Langtry	*	USGS
Josh Lear	*	Dept. of Natural Resources
Jeff McReynolds	*	City of Lincoln/Lancaster County
John Miyoshi	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Paul Mullen	*	Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
Jim Ohmberger	*	Office of the CIO
Sudhir Ponnapan	*	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Mike Preston	*	GIS Professional Organization
Mike Schonlau	*	Douglas County/Omaha – At Large Rep
Milda Vaitkus	*	Conservation and Survey Division – UNL
Mike Hybl	*	Public Service Commission

Others Present:

Larry Zink, GIS Council Coordinator, Office of the CIO/NITC; Jack Dohrman, GIS Workshop; Adam Darbro, Hamilton County GIS; Michelle Trueblood; and Michael Turner, Applied Geographics Inc.

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

Mr. Schonlau called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. There were 18 voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on July 26, 2011. The meeting agenda was posted on the GIS Council website September 14, 2011.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 9/8/2011 MEETING

Ms. Vaitkus moved to approve the [September 8, 2011 minutes](#) as presented. Mr. McReynolds seconded. The motion was approved unanimously on a [roll call vote](#).

[NEBRASKA GEOSPATIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING](#)

Chair, Mike Schonlau noted that the Council had previously decided to devote most of the current Council meeting to launching a strategic planning effort. Mr. Zink introduced Mr. Michael Turner, Executive Vice President, Applied Geographics Inc, (AppGeo) the firm that has been hired to help the Council with its strategic planning process.

Mr. Turner provided background information about AppGeo, the CAP grant and NDSI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure). In addition, he gave a presentation about the GIS Strategic Planning process. FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) will support strategic planning via CAP grants. A short brainstorming session was held for Mr. Turner to get feedback from the council.

The FGDC NSGIC 50 States Initiative has set 9 criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of statewide GIS Programs. Below is how Nebraska rates on the 9 NSGIC criteria:

1. A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans.
MEETS CRITERION
Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has a full time GIS Administration Manager. Larry Zink is in the position and working to hire a successor.
Note: GIS Council recommended this be changed to Partially Meets Criteria due to the NITC, and not Mr. Zink, having the authority to implement.
2. A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.
MEETS CRITERION
Nebraska GIS Council provides governance to statewide coordination efforts.
3. The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Office (CIO)
MEETS CRITERION
GIS Administration Manager is located in Office of CIO's within NITC.
4. A champion (politician, or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of geospatial coordination
DOES NOT MEET CRITERION
There does not appear to be a strong active champion right now.
5. Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned.
PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERION
The NebraskaMap exists, but has limited capability and appears to behind other states.
6. The ability exists to work and coordinate with local government, academia, and the private sector.
PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERION
Some evidence of local government involvement on state web-site, but overall GIS adoption across the state remains low.
7. Sustainable funding sources exist to meet project needs
PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERION
There is funding for the state GIS Administration Manager, but not enough to initiate new projects.
8. GIS Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving
MEETS CRITERION
The NITC has these capabilities and expending funds.
9. The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority.
MEETS CRITERION
The Federal Government recognizes the Nebraska GIS Council and efforts and has worked with the state (e.g. via NAIP program).

Many council members see the strategic planning as an opportunity to move forward with the council's initiatives.

Discussion occurred regarding "who are the stakeholders". In addition to the holders identified in the presentation (state and local governments, academia and the private sector), it was recommended to include Nebraska Public Power District, economic development groups, Natural Resource Districts and land surveyors. It was suggested to not limit the attendees to technical staff but to invited decision makers as well.

It was anticipated to begin the regional stakeholder meetings sometime late October ending with the last one by end of November. Mr. Terner strongly recommended to waiting until the new NITC GIS Administrative Manager is hired to plan the regional meetings. He met with three of the stakeholders earlier that morning. It would have been beneficial and informative to the new person to have been at the interviews. There was concern from some of the members about waiting too long to plan and schedule

for the regional meetings especially with inclement weather conditions. There was also concern about the CAP grant and extending the funding. Mr. Zink has informed FDGC about the status of the planning and his replacement. They informed him to get back to them in October. The Office of the CIO should know within a week or two as to when Mr. Zink's replacement will begin.

After discussion, it was agreed to conduct the online survey as soon as possible and for the project to begin scheduling the regional workshops to be held end of November and early December. Council members were asked to provide mailing lists to Mr. Turner or Mr. Zink for the online survey, as well as the regional meetings. The online survey can be ready to go by the end of next week. Council members were asked to review the survey for additional input and to provide feedback as soon as possible to Mr. Zink or a Steering Committee member. Other state surveys will be made available to members to get insights on alternative. Strategic Planning Committee members are Jim Langtry, Adam Darbro, Mike Preston, John Beran, Jim Ohmberger and Josh Lear.

Ms. Vaitkus and Mr. Ponnapan left the meeting

The GIS Strategic Plan will provide guidance for the council but it will also provide "direction" for the stakeholders and the whole state. The planning process would be beneficial to new person in their position. In regards to the audience for the plan, the council recommended local and state agencies, as well as city councils, county commissioners, and state legislators. It was strongly recommended to provide an executive summary for state legislators and county commissioners.

Mr. Mullen and Mr. Boshart left the meeting.

UPDATE ON GIS COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND NITC POSITION.

Mr. Ohmberger provided an update on the effort to find and hire a replacement for Mr. Zink, who had indicated his desire to resign back in April 2011. Mr. Ohmberger indicated that the FTE position was advertised and interviews were held. A preferred resource was identified, but an agreement could not be reached on a salary and benefits package within state salary guidelines for the position's current classification. Mr. Ohmberger noted that the OCIO has decided to try to fill the position using contracting rather than an FTE approach. This will require some additional time to formally advertise the availability of the contract, soliciting bids, and reviewing candidates. Mr. Ohmberger was asked about a timeline and indicated that while he couldn't make any firm commitment, he hoped that they could have the position filled by the middle of November. There was some concern with the position being a contracted position rather than a permanent fulltime employee. Mr. Ohmberger that the contracting approach could be re-evaluated at the end of the contract. Mr. Turner stated that other states have done it this way due to salary caps.

Mr. Ohmberger and Mr. Hybl left the meeting.

UPDATING OF [NITC GIS-RELATED ACTION ITEMS](#)

The NITC does a roughly annual update to its Statewide Technology Plan. Every NITC Advisory Council is invited to proposed action items for inclusion in the plan. At its September meeting, GIS Council members reviewed proposed updates/revisions to the previous GIS-related action items included the Technology Plan. At that time the council asked that the proposed updates/revisions be held over to the October meeting to provide time for the Council member's review and it was also recommended that Mr. Zink develop an additional action item related to a Statewide Land Record Information System. Mr. Zink noted that he had developed draft wording for an additional action item related to a Statewide Land Record Information System and had sent it out, with the other draft updates/revisions to the Council members for their review. The draft wording proposed for the new action item was as follows.

Action: Statewide Land Record Information System.

Work with local governments, state agencies, and the private sector to develop a collaborative plan, standards/guidelines, and the infrastructure necessary to encourage and facilitate the ongoing integration of separately-maintained state, city, and county land records into an

integrated statewide land records system capable of providing reliable online access to this critical data, maintaining restricted privacy access as necessary, and supporting a variety of applications by multiple agencies.

The NITC will be meeting on November 15th. Approval of the Statewide Action Plan will be an action item.

Mr. Herbert moved to recommend the GIS action items to the NITC as presented in the most recent draft circulated and attached to the agenda. Mr. Preston seconded. The [motion passed unanimously](#).

NEBRASKAMAP UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Schonlau and Mr. Reynolds noted that at the Council's September 2011 meeting, the recommendation of the NebraskaMAP Partners Committee, relative to private hosting of the online NebraskaMAP data sharing and web services network was discussed. At that September meeting, it was proposed that this issue be held over until the October meeting's agenda to allow Council members the opportunity to study the recommendation. The recommendation was made in response to the OCIO request that the GIS Council and the NebraskaMAP Partners Committee review and make recommendations regarding a proposal received from GIS Workshop to host a NebraskaMAP type service. This OCIO request was originally discussed at the March 2, 2011 GIS Council meeting and was referred to the NebraskaMAP Partners Committee for its review and recommendation. In the interim, the Partners Committee arranged for GIS Workshop to give a presentation to the Partners Committee. The Partners Committee discussed over a series of meetings the wide range of issues involved in the possibility of a non-state entity hosting and owning this data sharing and web services network, prior to making the recommendation that was presented to the Council at its last meeting.

Mr. Zink noted that since the recommendation was presented to the GIS Council at its September meeting that GIS Workshop, through their representative Kim Robak, has requested an opportunity to present to the GIS Council on this issue. Ms. Robak indicated that GIS Workshop wished to make this presentation because not all of the Council members were part of the Partners Committee, and GIS Workshop would like to respond to the bullet points listed in the recommendation. Mr. Zink noted that he had informed Ms. Robak that the Council members would be made aware of the GIS Workshop request, but that the Council, in addition to deferring the NebraskaMAP recommendation until the October meeting, had indicated that it wanted the October meeting dedicated primarily to strategic planning and so time was probably not available for a presentation at the October meeting.

Mr. Cielocha indicated that he for one would be interested in hearing what GIS Workshop had presented to the Partners Committee. The question was raised as to how many Council members were also actively involved with the Partners Committee. It was noted that 10 of the 18 GIS Council members and/or agencies are represented on the Partners Committee (NDRC, Roads, HHSS, NEMA, UNL-SNR, Lincoln, Omaha, Sarpy County, USGS, and OCIO). Mr. Cielocha asked about the issues of concern to the Partners Committee. It was noted that over the course of the series of meetings in which this proposal was discussed, there was a wide range of issues and concerns raised. Many of those concerns or considerations are referenced in the bullet points that accompany the actual recommendation. These bullet points are meant to provide background on the discussion, but not be part of the formal recommendation. It was specifically noted that the recommendation is not meant in any manner to discourage private entities, such as GIS Workshop, from being part of the evolving online informal geospatial data sharing and web services network. In fact, the recommendation language specifically encourages the participation of the private sector in this evolving network. Rather, the recommendation is based on what the Partners Committee felt was the unique roles required of public agencies in this evolving network and therefore Nebraska should continue to support a state agency hosted site. For example, one of the issues of concern was a private entity controlling data access versus a state hosted entity. Mr. Jack Dohrman, GIS Workshop, was present and stated that he felt that security should not be a concern with a GIS Workshop hosted site. In response, it was noted that the issue was not data security, but accountability. For example, in the Missouri River flood situation, some entities were

unwilling to provide key data unless some public agency was willing to take responsibility for the limited access to that data. The issue was legal accountability.

Further discussion followed. In the course of that discussion, it was again noted that the recommendation does not in any way suggest that the private sector should not be involved in host geospatial data sharing and web services sites. In fact, the recommendation language encourages the private sector participation. However, what the recommendation language seeks to do is to make the case for specific and unique roles for state agency hosted sites in this evolving network and therefore urges the continued support for the development and maintenance of a state hosted NebraskaMAP site. The recommendation also clearly states it is not the intent of this recommendation to preclude the possibility of a state agency responsible for providing such an online enterprise-level GIS data sharing service from contracting with the private sector to provide technical support for such a service.

Mr. Preston moved to accept and recommend to the OCIO the [Nebraska MAP Partnership Committee's recommendation](#). Mr. Lear seconded. In the discussion, the question was raised as to whether the "Background" information was part of the formal recommendation and it was clarified that it was not the intention that the "Background" information was part of the recommendation. [The motion was approved by majority roll call vote.](#)

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FROM ATTENDEES

There was no public comment.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS AGENCIES

There were no updates.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting of the NITC GIS Council will be held at 1 p.m. on November 2, 2011.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Larry Zink of the Office of the CIO.

Vote Tallies date: October 5, 2011					
		Roll Call	Sept. 8, 2011 Minutes	GIS Action Items for the NITC Statewide Technology Plan	Approve & Recommend the NebraskaMAP Partners Committee Recommendation
1	Mike Schonlau - Chair - At Large.	P	Y	Y	Y
2	Jeff McReynolds - Vice Chair - Lincoln area .	P	Y	Y	Y
3	Jim Ohmberger (Brenda Decker) - DAS	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
4	Les Howard, Milda Vaitkus (Mark Kuzila) - CSD	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
5	Josh Lear , Kim Menke, (Brian Dunnigan) - DNR	P	Y	Y	Y
6	TBA (Lauren Hill) - PRO	A			
7	Bill Wehling, Rose Braun , (Mike Neidemeyer) - DOR	P	Y	Y	Y
8	Steve Cobb, John Beran - St.Surv	P	Y	Y	Y
9	TBA (Patrick O'Donnell) -Clk of Leg.	A			
10	Sudhir Ponnapan (Rex Amack) -NGPC	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
11	Ruth Sorensen, Bob Martin - PTA	A			
12	Jim Langtry Federal Agency	P	Y	Y	Y
13	John Miyoshi , Chris Poole - NARD	P	Y	Y	N
14	Tim Cielocha (Mark Brugger) - Public Power .	P	Y	Y	Y
15	Eric Herbert - NACO rep.	P	Y	Y	Y
16	Lash Chaffin - League	P	Y	Y	Y
17	Karis Bowen , Ge Lin -DHHS	P	Y	Y	Y
18	Chad Boshart (Sue Krogman) - NEMA/Mil.	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
19	Paul Yamamoto, Tom Lamberson (M. Linder)-DEQ	A			
20	Paul Mullen Omaha area	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
21	Mike Hybl (Sue Vanicek) - PSC	P	Y	Left the Meeting	Left the Meeting
22	Mike Preston GIS Prof. Org	P	Y	Y	Y
23	NACO - VACANT		.	.	.
	TOTAL PRESENT	18	Yes - 18 No - 0 Ab - 0	Yes - 12 No - 0 Ab - 0	Yes - 11 No - 1 Ab - 0

ROLL CALL: "P"=present, "A"=absent

VOTING: "Y"=voting for, "N"=voting against, "A"="Abstained" "NV"=not voting