

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes -- September 5, 2002

Present were (authorized to vote +):

Alan Beiermann	*	Nebraska Public Power District
Jim Brown	*	State Surveyor
Steve Cacioppo		Lower Platte North NRD
Matthew Cast		Natural Resources Conservation
Lash Chaffin	*	League of Municipalities
Ray Fox		United States Geologic Survey
Steve Fredrick	*	Health and Human Services
Abu Gadem	*	Nebraska Game and Parks
Dick Genrich	*	Nebraska Department of Roads
Lance Hedquist		City of South Sioux City
Erik Hubl		Lancaster County Assessors Office
Dan Kahm		A & D Technical Supply
Ed Kelley		Department of Roads
Gail Knapp		City of Omaha
Jim Langtry	*	Lancaster County
Scott McIntyre	*	City of Omaha
Kim Menke		Department of Natural Resources
John Miyoshi	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Ming Qu		Health and Human Services
Jim Richardson		National Geodetic Survey
Scott Richert		Lancaster County Assessors Office
Steve Schafer	*	Chief Information Officer
Sonja Sebree	*	United States Geologic Survey
Dana Snyder		Natural Resources Conservation
Gayle Starr		Department of Natural Resources
Duane Stott	*	Scottsbluff County
Mike Thompson	*	Department of Natural Resources
Doug Wagner		Natural Resources Conservation
Philip Webb		Natural Resources Conservation
Cliff Welsh	*	Nebraska Association of County Officials
Paul Yamamoto	*	Department of Environmental Quality

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

Hydrologic Unit Code Boundary Database

Land Records Modernization Study

Adv. Committee on Facilitating Geospatial Data Homeland Security

Sharing Report

Roads Initiatives

Annual Report

GIS/LIS Association

Voting Record

Natural Resources Data Initiatives

National Map

Agency Reports

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 Thursday, August 29, 2002.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chairperson Duane Stott called the meeting to order at 1:05. Fifteen duly authorized representatives were present therefore a quorum was present to conduct business. .

MINUTES: Steve Schafer moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Dick Genrich seconded the motion. The motion passed. (*see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet*)

NEBRASKA HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE BOUNDARY DATABASES: Dana Snyder of the NRC explained that in the 1970's the USGS developed a four level division of watersheds based on size.

The smallest of these were 448 acre blocks and were assigned eight digit codes. Recently the Federal Geographic Data Committee has decided to move forward on an initiative to further refine the watersheds into a fifth and sixth level. The fifth level will include watersheds from 40,000 acres to 250,000 acres and will be assigned 10 digit codes. The sixth level will included watersheds from 10,000 to 40,000 acres.

The ultimate goal of this effort is to have a seamless, hydrologically correct, accurate and consistent hydrologic database.

This effort is well underway in many areas of the United States but the State of Nebraska is only 25% complete. In order to more effectively accomplish the goal, the FGDC standards recommend the formation of a committee called the Interagency Hydrologic Group. The NRC is requesting participation from Steering Committee agencies as well as assistance with the coordinating efforts.

Mike Thompson commented that for the sake of consistency, a cooperative effort is critical, especially as there is potential conflict in splitting and categorizing the watersheds.

Larry clarified that funding was not an issue, that it was only coordination. Dana said that funding was also an issue. John asked how this effort has been funded in other states, particularly the ones mostly completed. Dana explained that the USGS will be coming in from Utah to share how they completed their project.

Steve Schafer asked what the priority of this project is, if there is a specific date by which it must be done. Mike said that the big push now is that the NRC will be doing this project with or without assistance. The question is will the Steering Committee be a part of making it happen. John added that much of the EPA grant money is based on watersheds.

Mike moved to form the Interagency Hydrologic Group. Sonja Sebree seconded. The motion passed. (*see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet*)

Larry said that though there is a set of mandatory players, he will issue an invitation to anyone who might be interested. Mike said the hydrographic committee started with a fairly large group but that it

narrowed down quickly to the most critical agencies.

LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION STUDY: Larry reported that the project is beginning. The final contract with Geodetics has been signed and they are in the process of drafting a local government survey designed to document current cadastral mapping activity. They will then proceed to work on creating the business case.

The Committee working on this project is comprised of Larry Dix, Jim Brown, Duane Stott, Steve Schafer, Cathy Lang, Jon Erickson, and Larry Zink.

Steve Schafer suggested that a city representative is needed on the Committee. Lash agreed to server as that representative.

Larry said they are trying to do a lot of it web based and requested a county surveyor mailing list, should any of the Steering Committee members have one available.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FACILITING GEOSPATIAL DATA SHARING: Steve Schafer reported that among the decisions made by this committee was the one to single out DNR as the home for many databases. Accepting that responsibility will require additional responsibilities and increase expectations, but the committee is well aware that no additional funding will be forthcoming. As a result, DNR will be required to utilize existing resources and will not be able to deliver the kind of results that might be expected. The success of this venture depends on other agencies getting involved and assisting in areas where DNR is not able.

Larry Zink summarized the remainder of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

1. Short term limited resource recommendations:

- Combine existing geospatial data clearinghouses to create an enterprise clearinghouse for Nebraska.
- The Steering Committee is ultimate owner of the enterprise clearinghouse and NDNR trustee.
- Conduct online geospatial data survey (state agencies, universities, NRDs)
- Develop metadata as feasible with existing resources.
- Encourage geospatial data listing on clearinghouse.

2. Longer-term Vision of an Enhanced Nebraska Geospatial Data Center

- Recommended Services
 - Nebraska geo-portal
 - Help desk
 - Data integration

- Interactive Internet mapping
- Technical assistance
- Pooling resources
- Recommended Organization Characteristics
 - State agency – university collaboration
 - Close and clearly defined relationship with Steering Committee
 - Enterprise service focus

Steve added that the Advisory Committee will revisit and refine these later as needed.

Mike Thompson moved to accept the Report of the Internet Advisory Committee and to adopt their recommendations as the Steering Committee's recommendations. Further, these will be taken to the NITC. John Miyoshi seconded. The motion passed. (*see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet*)

HOMELAND SECURITY: Larry Zink reported that a survey was email to state agencies asking what data would be most necessary to facilitate homeland security. The response received was that basically no one has considered that question.

The next step will be to schedule one on one meetings with key agencies to attempt to more clearly answer the question of what data is needed.

Larry has already met with NEMA to discuss their needs. The results are as follows:

- NEMA strongly seconds the formation of a data center.
- On-going data integration services.
- Availability of additional GIS personnel resources.
- GIS technical assistance with application development.
- Defined responsibility for specific database maintenance by specific agencies.
- Defining specific database coordination initiatives between NEMA and other key agencies (Roads, DEQ, etc.).
- Insuring the development and maintenance of priority geospatial databases.

Steve Schafer agreed that pursuing individual agency interviews is a good direction to take this. A strawman document could be created and refined by the committee later. However, due to the short timeline involved with this issue, it may make more sense to have a subcommittee review it before handing it off to NEMA to use in making their case for further federal funding. The final document

would be brought to the Steering Committee after it had been presented to NEMA

Cliff Welsh acknowledged the need to have information but expressed concern about relative security. Steve said that NEMA is very conscious of security but are only in the first stages of development right now, exploring the value of GIS.

Scott McIntyre said that within his agency, GIS applications are created in response to emergency situations as they arise because it is impossible to predict what will come up. Larry acknowledged that as a valid technique but reminded the Committee that NEMA is at a very basic level at the moment. GIS is an area they have not been active in before and they lack the expertise to develop applications spontaneously. Dick agreed that developing applications on the fly makes sense because of the nature of emergencies. Steve said that the potential exists for the development of a GIS specialist team, available at any time to assist during times of emergency.

Lash expressed concern that a clearly defined lead agency would eventually become a directive. Steve clarified that no database would be assigned to a specific agency without that agency's expressed approval. Assigned databases would allow NEMA to know exactly which agency to go to in order to obtain specific information.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF ROADS INITIATIVES: Dick reported that they are a little behind schedule but are currently working on completing the road vectors for two more counties, Saunders and Cass.

A center line/street address survey was issued to local government. Dick has received 1/3 back and discovered that many entities are exploring the possibility of using GIS.

With respect to the personnel classification, Deb Weber was to contact Dick but has apparently been busy lately. She is interested in getting more information about GIS, what it does and how it works. There is no hurry at the moment however.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DATA INITIATIVES: Mike Thompson reported that the DOQQ effort is moving again and that the state should be complete by December 2003.

The DEM process is basically complete and waiting for certification.

The NHD project has completed two watersheds. All digitizing is complete. The DEQ has helped quite a bit. Larry added that this project is a good example of agency collaboration. NRC has taken the lead and both the DEQ and NRD has provided assistance and funding.

ANNUAL REPORT: It is now Annual Report time and as a part of the agreement with the USGS, the Steering Committee has committed to creating a Nebraska I-Team Plan. Larry Zink proposed merging those documents into a single report. The main difference from previous reports would be the addition of estimated dollar figures, something that has traditionally been omitted.

The I-Team will require the addition of missing information within each priority database discussion, namely

- total investments per database theme by sector

- cost estimates to complete database theme
- estimates per theme of current allocations by state, local, federal and private contributors (budgeted, needed, gap)
- ideas for overcoming funding gap
- most appropriate data steward
- maintenance plans and cost estimates

The idea again is that this a cross government plan to be shared across all levels of government.

Larry proposed taking last year's document and updating it. The Steering Committee's Strategic Direction would remain largely the same. Last years Strategic Directions included

- Priority database development and maintenance
- Land records modernization
- Technical assistance
- Education and outreach
- Data Sharing and Distribution
- Strengthen Coordination Capacity

with one additional initiative, GIS and Homeland Security.

Priority Geospatial Databases that were previously identified by the Steering Committee as being critical components of IT infrastructure include

- Framework Databases
 - Hydrography – Surface Water Features
 - DOQs – Digital Aerial Photography
 - DEMs – Digital Elevation Models
 - Cadastral – Public Land Survey System
 - Ground Transportation
 - Administrative Boundaries
 - Geodetic Control

Non-Framework databases are databases that the Steering Committee has identified as needing to be developed.

- Non-Framework Databases
 - Ground Water Features – wells
 - Soil Surveys (SSURGO)
 - Street Addresses Database

A watershed boundaries database could be added this year.

Ray Fox asked if any thought had been given to adding any datasets that are required for Homeland Security efforts. Larry said that was a possibility to the extent that they have been identified by then. If any emerge during the scoping process, that would be a consideration.

The question was raised of what constitutes Critical Infrastructure. That would include places like hospitals and police stations. Lash suggested this might be a good time to assess what priority homeland security has for the Committee.

Larry asked if the Committee was comfortable identifying which agencies will act as stewards of which datasets. Some will not have a logical lead agency and there will be some orphan datasets but this is a good time to begin making those assessments. Lash added it will be easier to handle as long as the acknowledgement is made that there will be orphan datasets and that there is no additional money to support the maintenance of these databases.

Other non-database initiatives that may or may not logically be included into the I-Team plan:

- Land Records Modernization
- Technical Assistance
- Education/Outreach
- Data Sharing and Distribution
- Strengthen Coordination Capacity
- GIS and Homeland Security

Related Federal Initiatives that need to be incorporated into the I-Team plan

- I-Team planning on Federal Level
- Geospatial One Stop
- USGS National Map

- Homeland Security Initiatives
- NRCS-USDA Lighthouse
- BLM Cadastral Mapping Initiatives

The most significant work involved in completing this document will be soliciting and compiling cost estimates. A draft of the combined document will be ready by the next I-Team meeting. A committee appointed by the Chair will review the document and then brought to the Steering Committee for final approval.

USGS NATIONAL MAP: At the direction of Barbara Ryan, USGS Associate Director for Geography, the USGS is currently in the beginning stages of establishing a National Map designed to replace current paper maps to improve the value of available resources.

Some of the reasons behind the initiative included eliminating outdated information, removing divergence between base data and topographic maps, reducing duplication of effort among and between geographic sectors.

The National Map vision is to create a seamless, continually maintained, nationally consistent set of base geographic data. To accomplish this goal, the USGS intends to establish data steward partnerships with state and local agencies. Another part of the process will be to re-link the topographic map with the underlying base geographic data.

Key characteristics of the National Map will include

- Current – continuous revision
- Seamless – no arbitrary edges
- Complete and consistently classified – built on the best available data
- Variable resolution – reflect geographic reality with finer detail in urban areas
- Integrated within and between themes of data – positional and logical consistency
- Geographic – no cartographic offsets
- Temporal record – versioning and transactional updates
- Metadata – data set and feature level

The USGS would like to invite the Steering Committee to participate in this effort. As a partner, the state, regional and local role would be to coordinate consortia, identify changes and provide updates and collaborate on data.

Federal roles would be to identify needs and collaborate on data.

Private industry would provide tools, opens standards and data as well as conducting research.

Academia would provide training and conduct research.

Libraries would ensure public access to the National Map.

Volunteers would be utilized to identify changes and provide updates.

The USGS roles would be

- Guarantor of national data completeness
- Provide a mirror site for partners' data and a perpetual archive
- Catalyst and collaborator for creating and stimulating data partnerships
- Integrator of data from other participants
- Data producer and owner when no other source exists
- Leader in standards development

There are two basic ways of aligning with the USGS vision, a. pilot the mapping partnership office concept b. align current topographic mapping activities with The National Map vision.

Steve Schafer observed that the USGS effort seems closely related to many of the ongoing Steering Committee initiatives and asked what the next step would be if the Committee wanted to get involved. Ray said eventually something would have to be presented in writing expressing the desire to be a part of the National Map effort.

There was some discussion about the Mid American Geographic Information Consortium and their interest in developing a regional group to work on sections of the country rather than splitting the land out by state. If a regional group were not created, then eventually a partnership office would be needed in every state.

GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION: Gail Knapp reported that they have started planning for the 2003 Symposium. It will be held at the Cornhusker hotel, May 15-18.

Lori Becker moved out of state and has stepped down from the board and Jim Langtry has replaced her.

They have been working on planning the Midwest Arc Users Group meeting. It will be held in Omaha September 21-24. The Association would appreciate Steering Committee support.

Important dates to remember are:

- Symposium planning meeting at the UNO Technology Park, 9:00 AM September 18
- Board meeting at the UNO Technology Park, 10:00 AM September 18

- GIS Forum at the UNO Technology Park, noon September 18
- Symposium planning meeting at the UNO Technology Park, 9:00 AM October 15
- Association meeting in Scottsbluff October 21
- Association meeting in Norfolk November 18
- Symposium Planning meeting at the UNO Technology Park, 9:00 AM November 20
- No meetings in December

AGENCY REPORTS:

Lash introduced Lance Hedquist from the City of South Sioux City.

Steve Fredrick reported they have been working on homeland security issues.

Mike Thompson reported that flood plane mappers have started sending CD's along with their printed quad sized maps with a new product designed as a sort of PDF maker for maps. A publisher and reader are included and it allows for layers to be added while controlling size issues.

Dick Genrich reported that they have started a pilot project for an Internet mapping portal. It is coming along nicely. Some of the DRG's hooked up along with some videos. The project should be complete by the end of the year.

Scott reported they are just getting their 2001 data in. There was a problem as the data was not geographically adjusted but that has been corrected. They have begun looking at a 2004 flight including Pottawattamie County, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties. This represents over 1000 square miles and a larger mapping area. Scott is looking forward to seeing what sort of interest is out there. Light R technology is not yet cost effective.

Ray asked what resolution they are using for the orthophotos. Scott said they are using 1/8. For urban applications 1/16 is much better. Ray added that Omaha is on the list of 120 cities for Homeland Security. USGS has been working with the mapping element of the Department of Defense and would be interested in talking to the City of Omaha about acquiring their data and possibly coordinating on flights.

John Miyoshi introduced the latest member of his team, Steve Cacioppo. He is a GIS specialist and a valuable addition to their team. They are planning to add a new IMS server in the near future that will house the Lower Elkhorn and Lewis and Clark NRD's.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be November 7, 2002.

Vote Tallies for 9/5/02 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll	Min.	Interagency Hydrologic	Internet Advisory Committee					

	Call	#1	Group #2	Recommendations #3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <u>Steve Schafer</u> (Lori McClurg)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - <u>Paul Yamamoto</u> (Mike Linder)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Les Howard	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett . Abu Gadem	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <u>Mike Thompson</u> (Roger Patterson)	P	-	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - <u>John Erickson</u> (Lauren Hill)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> (John Craig)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown .	A/P	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Leg. - Judy Backhaus (Patrick O'Donnell)	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sonia Sebree .	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi Steve Cacioppo.	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Alan J. Beierman .	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh .	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell <u>Jim Langtry</u>	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin .	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott.	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre.	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
HHS - <u>Steve Frederick</u> (Dick Nelson)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	15/16 - P	14 + 1 -	15 +	15 +	.	.	.	.	.

"P"=present, "A"=absent, "+"=voting for, "-"=voting against, "NV"=not voting