
PROJECT CHARTER

Project Title: Nebraska Land Records Information and Mapping
Project Sponsor: Ed Toner, CIO and the NITC GIS Council
Date: Adopted on June 27, 2008 and updated May 2, 2016

Major Participants: NITC GIS Council, Nebr. Office of the CIO, Nebr. Dept. of Revenue, Nebr. Dept. of Roads, Nebr. State Patrol, NE State Surveyor, City/County Governments, USGS, Nebraska Public Power District

Project Spokespersons: Eric Herbert, Sarpy County
Nathan Watermeier, NE OCIO

Project Working Group: NE OCIO: Nathan Watermeier and Jeff Timm
NE Dept. of Revenue: Ruth Sorensen, Barb Oswald, and Jim Koch
NE Dept. of Roads: Jim Hertzell and Bill Wehling
NE State Patrol: Jon Kraai
NE State Surveyor: John Beran and Steve Cobb
Lincoln/Lancaster County: Jeff McReynolds
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Sarpy County: Eric Herbert
Scotts Bluff County: Suzanne Wick
USGS: James Langtry, USGS Geospatial Liaison to Nebraska
Nebraska Public Power District: Tim Cielocha

** Working group members subject to change on an annual basis*

Project Vision: Land ownership is a critical aspect of how our economy and society are organized. A wide range of private entities and state, local and federal agencies need and regularly use property parcel and other land record information. Modern information technologies, like geographic information systems (GIS), have revolutionized the way that land records can be maintained, combined and analyzed with other data, and readily shared across digital networks. Because of the broad-based need, multiple federal, state and regional coordinating bodies have recognized as a priority, the collaborative development of standardized, digital geospatial property parcel data (cadastre).

In most of Nebraska, local governments are charged with maintaining land ownership and related records. The accuracy, currency, condition, and methods and procedures for maintaining these land records vary tremendously across the state. Some local governments have the resources and use the latest technology to insure that these records are current and readily accessible. Others, because of a lack of resources, still rely on paper records and maps that are difficult and costly to keep current and share. Many local governments are somewhere in between these extremes. Because of the difficulty of sharing non-digital information, it is not uncommon for multiple agencies to invest scarce public resources to maintain similar, but not necessarily duplicate land records. The wide variation in how these land records are maintained, and in their quality, make it is very difficult for any entity (i.e. NRDs, school districts, state agencies, businesses) that need to use or analyze land record data across jurisdictional lines. Local governments annually invest considerable public resources maintaining and providing access to these records. However, the absence of a statewide plan for land record modernization means that these on-going expenditures do not necessarily move Nebraska any closer to a quality land record system that is reasonably consistent, is readily accessible and easily shared, and can be integrated across jurisdictional lines.

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The project participants envision an enterprise-level project, which upon completion, will enable and support the on-going collection from multiple sources, integration, and distribution of a “best available” land records consisting of administrative boundaries and parcels (cadastre).

The NITC GIS Council's strategic database development goal states, "Actively coordinate the development, maintenance, and distribution of priority statewide digital geospatial databases." This involves a project design approach that incorporates the goal of supporting many applications related to infrastructure planning and maintenance.

Project Overview: This project has been identified as a Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) Strategic Initiative. It has been established to develop 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. Develop guidelines for a common geodatabase model that can provide public data for use in a multitude of state government applications. Implement a geodatabase model to maintain baseline data. 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. Develop data workflows with local county assessors to obtain parcel (spatial and attribute) data for use in various state government applications. Revise the current NITC Land Record Information and Mapping Standards that have been adopted with the goal of enabling the integration of local government land records into a statewide dataset. Identify methods and linkages through NebraskaMAP to communicate and provide access to relevant data to users and stakeholders.

Any effort to create an enterprise solution to the growing need for a statewide land records information and mapping database must address an array of both technical and policy issues. The needs and expectations of the current data producers must be considered, as well as the needs of the broader community of data users.

Technical and Policy Issues

- Data model and standards
- Data distribution mechanisms
- Tools and processes for integrating data from multiple sources
- Tools and processes for notification of update availability
- Data model and standards
- Data sharing agreements, commitments, and restrictions
- Data development and maintenance plans/commitments
- Delineation of agency responsibilities and commitments
- Identification and empowerment of lead agency
- Funding strategies and justifications
- Business case development
- Plans/commitments for undeveloped data elements
- Plans/commitments for undeveloped areas

This Working Group will take the lead in identifying the issues, soliciting input, and recommending solutions. As part of this process, the project team will actively pursue input and feedback on all aspects of the project from agencies not directing participating in the project team's work. The project team, acting on behalf of the participating

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agencies, will make recommendations to the NITC GIS Council. The Council may accept, modify, or reject those recommendations.

As part of this project, the project Working Group will develop a business case outlining the range of needs for this dataset and the justifications for the commitment of public resources for the on-going costs associated with the development, maintenance, and distribution of this “best available” dataset.

Specific project milestones include the delivery of a comprehensive business plan, implementation and maintenance activities are underway, and that adequate resources are provided for the sustainability of the Nebraska Land Records Information and Mapping Project.

Standards: The working group provides recommendations to the GIS Council for the development and maintenance of standards. The following standards are applicable to this project initiative.

NITC 3-201 Geospatial Metadata Standards. <http://nitc.ne.gov/standards/3-201.html>
NITC 3-202 Land Record Information and Mapping Standard
<http://nitc.ne.gov/standards/3-202.html>

When recommendations are approved through the GIS Council for standards, the NITC shall be responsible for adopting minimum technical standards, guidelines, and architectures upon recommendation by the technical panel. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516(6). The State of Nebraska, Office of the CIO (OCIO) will be responsible for assuring that metadata is completed and the data is registered and available for distribution through NebraskaMAP.

State granting or fund disbursement entities or agencies will be responsible for ensuring that these standards are included in requirements and regulations related to fund disbursements as they relate to land (property parcel) records or property parcel mapping. Local government agencies that have the primary responsibility for land ownership records and property parcel mapping will be responsible for ensuring that the standards will be incorporated in land record modernization and geospatial data development efforts and contracts.

Decision-making: It is the intent that this project Working Group will seek consensus on the best solutions and resolutions of the issues and present recommendations forward to the NITC GIS Council. The NITC GIS Council is charged with establishing guidelines and policies for statewide Geographic Information Systems and priority databases, and authorized to establish advisory committees from various levels of government, industry, or the general public pursuant to Sections 85-569 and 85-573, R.R.S. 1943. In cases where a consensus is not possible, the differing viewpoints and their rationale will be forwarded to the NITC GIS Council for further discussion and resolution.

Project Timeline: The timeline for completion of this project is ongoing until otherwise modified or terminated by the direction of the NITC GIS Council. Additional updates and changes to this charter can be made at any time by the NITC GIS Council.