

## GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 1/11/95

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by the Vice Chair, Lash Chaffin.

Present were (\* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	Governor's Policy Research Office
* Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resource Commission
* Jim Brown	State Surveyor's Office
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Lash Chaffin	League of Municipalities
* Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
* Steve Henderson	Department of Administrative Services
Sue Krogman	State Civil Defense Agency
Milbert Krohn	US Bureau of Land Management - Wyoming
Jim Lacy	CALMIT
* Jim Langtry	Lancaster County Engineer's Office
* Jim Merchant	Conservation and Survey Division
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte NRD
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
* Duane Stott	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
* Cliff Welsh	Keith County Commissioner
* Dennis Wilson	City of Omaha
Paul Yamamoto	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Cmte.

**NOTICE OF MEETING.** A public notice of the meeting pursuant to Section 84-1411 R.R.S. 1943, was published in the Omaha World Herald on January 4, 1995.

**ROLL CALL.** Vice Chair Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 pm and requested that Larry Z. call the roll. Ten duly authorized representatives were present and therefore a quorum was present to conduct business. Rod Armstrong, Jim Brown and Steve Henderson arrived a short time later.

**MINUTES** Jon O. moved, Jim M. seconded, that the minutes of the December 14, 1994 meeting be approved as distributed, with the correction noted that Paul Yamamoto of DEQ, was present at the meeting. The motion passed unanimously (see vote # 1 on the attached Voting Record sheet).

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION AND PROPOSAL ON DEVELOPMENT OF CADASTRAL CORNER COORDINATES.** Milbert Krohn, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming, provided the Str. Cmte. with a brief overview of the prospects of the BLM to do cadastral mapping in the State of Nebraska, as they had done in Wyoming. Milbert K. noted such an effort for Nebraska would necessitate Congress providing additional appropriations. Milbert noted that the BLM feels that it has been given the authority to develop cadastral maps for the nation, but not the funding to complete the task. The BLM was provided funding for the first of three phases—those states which have a major BLM presence and office (such as Wyoming). The second phase consists of the remainder of the states west of the Mississippi and the third phase would be those state east of the Mississippi. Current funding extends through FY 1996 (Sept. 1996). Milbert indicated that the GCDB staff would not be available for Nebraska work until Oct. 1996 and the ALMORS folks (see below) might be available a little sooner.

Milbert reported that the BLM has submitted a proposal for funding of the second phase to Congress, but he indicated that he could not predict the probability of it being funded. Milbert stated that he felt there might be a bit higher probability of funding for "border" states like Nebraska (BLM in Wyoming also has responsibilities for Nebraska). When asked, Milbert indicated that expressions of support and/or offers of partnership to provide some financial support would probably increase the likelihood of funding.

Milbert indicated that there are two components to the effort. The Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB), which he works with, develops the coordinates for property parcels in the non-urban (outside of towns) areas. The Automated Land and Mineral Records (ALMORS) portion builds the associated files which include the legal description, ownership and mineral records (*the minute taker is not real confident of what all is included in this portion*).

When asked, Milbert indicated that the rough cost figures for Nebraska were as follows:

GCDB	\$2.1 million (+ or -)
ALMORS	<u>\$0.9</u> million (+ or -)
TOTAL	\$3.0 million (+ or -)

Milbert indicated that another possibility was BLM just providing the software and training. The software is available for the cost of distribution only. In the related discussion, Milbert indicated that he felt that training should consist of one week's training for future trainers, followed by three months experience, followed by another week's training. Milbert indicated that the development of these data bases were a complex process and required a considerable amount of knowledge. Milbert suggested that surveyors make the best operators. One of the concerns that Milbert expressed was that the expertise that has been developed by the team of professionals he works will be lost if continuing funding is not secured.

The Str. Cmte. thanked Milbert for his presentation and committed themselves to further discussion and consideration of the proposal.

**DECEMBER 1994 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.** Rod A. gave a brief presentation and explanation of the work which the ad hoc editing subcommittee for the Legislative Report had done since the last Str. Cmte. meeting passed a motion calling for its creation. The editing subcommittee consisted of Rod A., Terry K., Dennis B., Jim B., Jim M. and Larry Z. Larry Z. had sent the Str. Cmte. a revised draft (version 1/5/95) based on the ad hoc subcmte's work. Lash C. moved, Steve H. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. adopt the revised 1/5/95 version of the December 1994 Report to the Legislature. Mahendra B. reported that Terry K. felt that there was still extraneous information in the latest revision which should be moved to the Appendix. The motion passed with eleven voting "for" and two "not voting" (see vote 2 on the attached Voting Records sheet).

**WHERE DO WE FOCUS OUR RESOURCES NOW?** Rod observed that with the completion of the most recent report to the Legislature, the Str. Cmte. has completed many of the tasks it initial set for itself. Rod also noted that Larry Z. had prepared and handed out a summary of future areas and projects on which the Str. Cmte. might focus its time and resources. Rod suggested that Str. Cmte. members consider this list and that at future meetings the Str. Cmte. consider its future course and focus.

Rod A. gave a brief overview of the current situation in terms of available funding for the Str. Cmte. and staff support. Rod indicated that the Str. Cmte. currently had approximately two months funding available, with funding needed at least through the month of June. Rod reported that the Governor's budget proposal does contain funding for a position under Intergovernmental Data Services. This is part of a larger information management initiative which would combine administrative support with NIDCAC.

In the interim, Rod reported that the Str. Cmte. would seem to have three options for making up its funding shortfall..

- Pass the hat and try to raise approximately \$10,000 to \$16,000
- Civil Defense's request for planning assistance
- Jim Merchant's proposal that the Str. Cmte., through Larry Z., work with CALMIT on its AIM/MAP project.

Sue Krogman, Civil Defense (CD), gave a brief presentation on CD's needs for planning assistance. Sue noted that the agency will soon have the hardware and software that it needs, but what they are needing is training and assistance in developing a plan for how they can best use GIS technology and how they should approach the implementation process. Sue noted that they were wanting something along the line of what Larry Z. did for Game and Parks, although probably not as detailed. Sue reiterated the agency's willingness to provide funding in exchange for such assistance.

Larry Z. noted that he felt there were at least three interrelated areas of need here. One was for an internal needs assessment and planning effort. Another was for training for agency staff in GIS software and its capabilities. Another was for interagency planning and coordination related to the data from other agencies, which CD will need to arrange for ready access in times of emergency. Mahendra B. noted that a fourth area was technical assistance with hardware and connectivity.

Jim B. expressed his feeling that it was important that the Str. Cmte. respond to CD's request for assistance, however, he also noted the Str. Cmte.'s earlier decision to not be in the business of providing technical consulting services for state agencies — because of the Str. Cmte.'s very limited resources. Steve H. expressed his feelings that the Str. Cmte. should be a facilitator of consulting services as opposed to being a provider of consulting services.

Jim M. gave a brief overview of Applied Information Management's (AIM) Multimedia Access Prototype (MAP) Project and the role he would like Larry Z. to play in the project. According to Jim M., the focus of the project is to demonstrate the feasibility (and the potential market for) of delivering a range of spatial information over a broad-band network with two primary target audiences: government policy makers and consumer households. One focus area for the project is west Omaha in an area in which US West is installing a broad-band network. While the project is headed by AIM, it is organized around teams involving several Omaha-based businesses. Jim noted that he felt that the Str. Cmte. could benefit: from making these connections with the private sector, from access to the potential interfaces that may be developed for this multi-media spatial data, from the research which will be done on available spatial data, and from the interim funding which would help the Str. Cmte. provide continued support for the Coordinator's position. Jim M. proposed that Conservation and Survey enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Str. Cmte., similar to the arrangement the Str. Cmte. had with Game and Parks when Larry Z. did the GIS needs assessment for that agency.

Jim B. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. authorize approximately one-fourth of Str. Cmte.'s Coordinator's time, for up to nine months, for the AIM - MAP project, with the understanding that the Str. Cmte. would be reimbursed for that time by the Conservation and Survey Division and that the details of this arrangement would be outlined in a memorandum of agreement to be developed and approved at the February Str. Cmte. meeting. The motion passed eleven "for" and Jim M. abstaining (see vote # 4 on the attached Voting Record sheet).

Acknowledging that the issues relating to Civil Defense's request for assistance had not been resolved, Rod A. suggested that this be a major agenda item for the next Policy Subcmte. meeting. Larry Z. requested a clarification from the Str. Cmte. that the body was supportive of interim efforts by him to work with CD to further define the agencies needs and to develop some possible scenarios for addressing those needs. The Str. Cmte. expressed support for that approach.

**FGDC GRANT OPPORTUNITY.** Larry Z. gave the Str. Cmte. a brief overview of the possibility of a grant (up to \$25,000) from the Federal Geographic Data Committee. Larry Z. suggested that from his review of the grant materials, the most likely project to be funded would be an enhancement of the Online GIS Data Catalog to meet the national standards based on the ability to search the adopted metadata standards. Larry Z. noted the reluctance of the Data Inventory Pilot Project to pursue the grant possibility. Larry Z. indicated that it was his understanding that this reluctance was based primarily on two considerations: a) a concern about who would do the work to upgrade the current system, and b) a concern about the amount of extra work that would be involved to develop the required metadata information for the current and future spatial data.

To address the issue of the extra work required to create the metadata info, Larry Z. passed out a sheet he had worked up, based on his review of the metadata standards, which illustrated the minimal metadata information required for the standards. Larry Z. noted that much of the metadata is optional. Mahendra B. also noted that future versions of GIS software will lead a data developer through the development of this metadata information and these files could just be down loaded onto the clearinghouse. Larry Z. also informed the Str. Cmte. that he had talked with Steve Jonas, Nebraska Library Commission (NLC), about the work involved and Steve had discussed the issue with the Commission and they had given the approval for work on the project, with the understanding that a significant portion of any grant funds would be available to support that work.

Jim B. moved, and Jim M. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. (jointly with NLC, if possible) apply for one of the FGDC grants to enhance the online spatial data catalog. The motion passed unanimously (see vote #4 on the attached Voting Record sheet).

**CONSIDERATION OF A REVISED CONNECTIVITY POLICY.** Rod A. started the discussion with a recapping of his understanding of the current status of this initiative. Following Rod's development of a revised draft, which had been discussed by the Policy Subcmte., Terry K. had expressed his opinion that the draft should have further revision. The Str. Cmte. had directed Terry K. to develop another draft and present it to the Policy Subcmte. The Policy Subcmte. was to develop a revised draft for the Str. Cmte.'s consideration. Terry K. had presented another draft to the Policy Subcmte. and based on the discussion at the Subcmte., Terry K. and Dennis B. were to get together to further rework the draft to iron how some specific concerns that emerged in the discussion. That meeting had apparently not yet taken place. That was Rod's understanding of where the initiative currently stood.

Dennis B. noted that this issue had been discussed at DEQ and two concerns were raised. One was that with all the matters currently on DEQ's "to do", list they were probably not going to be able to give significant attention to this matter for at least three months. The second concern was that the sample network drawing which had been suggested for possible incorporation into a connectivity policy did not illustrate all possible and likely avenues of connectivity. Dennis felt it should. The question was raised in the Str. Cmte. discussion as to whether there was a strong need for further action on this matter, at this time, and there did not seem to be a sentiment that it was a priority need. Rod noted that the initiative had started in response to a desire by NRC to move forward in this area. No further action was taken.

**GIS REVIEW SUBCMTE.** No report.

**DATA INVENTORY SUBCMTE.** No report.

**POLICY SUBCMTE.** No report.

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE.** No report.

**EDUCATION SUBCMTE.** Jim M. noted that he was working on the January issue of the newsletter and that would appreciate copy submissions by Jan. 20th. Jim M. also noted that he was still soliciting input on the GIS Conference/Symposium via the survey and would accept those forms through the end of January. Lash C. offered the sponsorship of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, if it was useful.

**GPS COORDINATION SUBCMTE.** Jim B. reported on conversations he has had with a private investor who, at this time, is planning on making substantial investments in a network of GPS Base Stations in Nebraska. The first station, to be located in the O'Neill area is scheduled to be available in a month. Later stations are planned for the Lincoln area, Scottsbluff, and south of Hastings. The stations will have both real time and post processing capabilities, with a major focus on real time agricultural applications. Jim B. reported that in conversations he had with the investor, he has actively explored the possibilities of joint ventures with this initiative to provide low cost access to GPS base station data for state agencies.

Jim B. also reported on conversations he has had with Game and Parks, NRC, and DOR related to exploring the possibilities for sharing of GPS equipment and costs. Jim B. noted that Game and Parks has the need to survey the Cowboy Trail (the abandoned rail line across northern Nebraska) over the next few months. The agency is faced with an approx. \$80,000 contract or the purchasing of GPS equipment and using agency personnel to accomplish the task. Jim B. also informed the Str. Cmte. that these types of "geodetic positioning" needs by state agencies are becoming increasingly common. Jim B. raised the possibility that it may make sense to examine the feasibility and desirability of a more centralized approach to meeting these "geodetic positioning" needs of state agencies. Rod A. suggested that this is another matter that the Policy Subcmte. should consider at its next meeting.

**STR. CMTE. MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES.** Mahendra B. reported that as of January, NRC has started its "work share" arrangement with US Geodetic Survey to develop DOQQs and DEMs for Lancaster County.

#### **TO DO LIST**

Policy Subcmte. - will discuss and develop proposals related to the request of the State Civil Defense Agency for technical assistance from the GIS Str. Cmte. to help the agency identify their GIS-related needs and develop a plan to meet those needs.

Policy Subcmte. - will discuss and consider the development of proposals related to the feasibility and desirability of developing a more centralized approach to meeting the emerging needs of state agencies for "geodetic positioning."

Jim Merchant - will work with Rod A. and Larry Z. to develop a proposed memorandum of agreement related to the authorized work by the Str. Cmte.'s Coordinator on the AIM - MAP project.

Larry Z. - will complete the final version of the December 1994 Report to the Legislature, and get it printed and distributed to the Legislature.

Larry Z. - will work with Sue Krogman to future outline the technical assistance needs and desires of the Civil Defense Agency.

Larry Z. - will work with Rod A. and the Library Commission to develop a grant proposal related to enhancing the Online GIS Data Catalog.

GIS Steering Committee  
VOTING RECORD

Date 1/11/95

	Attendance #1	#2	#3	#4						
	Min.	Leg. Rpt	AIM	grant						
DAS - Steve Henderson	A/P		+	+	+					
DEQ - <del>Dennis Burling</del> Tom Lamberson	P	+	+	+	+					
CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard, <del>Jim Merchant</del>	P	+	+	NV	+					
NRC - Dayle Williamson Terry Kubicek, <del>Mahendra B.</del>	P	+	NV	+	+					
PRO - Rod Armstrong	P	+	+	+	+					
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	+					
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P/A	+	+	+	+					
LRD - Laura Valenziano	A									
John Miyoshi	P	+	+		+					
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	+	NV	+	+					
Cliff Welsh	A									
Larry Worrell <del>Jim Langtry</del>	P	+	+	+	+					
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	+					
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	+					
Dennis Wilson	P	+	+	+	+					
TOTALS	10-P 13-P	12(+)	11(+) 2-NV	11(+) 1-NV	13(+)					

P = present  
A = absent

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