

## GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 1/12/94

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Chair, Rod Armstrong.

The roll was called and those 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
* Judy Larsen	Dodge County Supervisor
* Jim Merchant	Conservation and Survey Division
Jerry Odum	National Geodetic Survey
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Tim Prescott	Soil Conservation Service
* Dayle Williamson	Natural Resources Commission
* Larry Worrell	Lancaster County Surveyor
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 5, 1994.

**MINUTES.** Dayle W. moved, Blaine D. seconded, that the minutes be approved as circulated. Dennis B. raised a concern about page 5 of the minutes, the section outlining the changes made in Chpt 4, "Hardware Platforms". It was Dennis's suggestion (and his recollection following discussion with others) that the approved wording changes for that recommendation section did not include the words "Recommendation 1:" or "Recommendation 2:". Following further discussion, Dayle and Blaine accepted that as a friendly amendment to their motion to approve the minutes. The Str. Cmte. voted to approve the minutes as distributed, with the exception of removing the words "Recommendation 1:" and "Recommendation 2:" in the Chpt. 4 section of the Technical Standards (see attached Voting Record, vote #1). It was understood, with this vote, that this section of the Technical Standards would be changed prior to additional printings or copying of this document.

**DATA INVENTORY SUBCMTE:** Jon O. reported that the Pilot Project Team will meet on Thursday, January 13th, to discuss the documentation that needs to be developed to support the Online Data Inventory. Jon O. also reported that Kate Wakefield has left the Library Commission for another job in the State of Washington.

**POLICY SUBCMTE:** Rod reported that for the first time in several months, the Policy Subcmte. had not met since the last meeting, and therefore had no report.

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE:** Mahendra B. stated that the Technical Standards Subcmte. had not met and therefore had no report. Larry Z. reported that only about 15 copies of the Interim Planning Report was left and that he anticipated requests for additional copies of the Technical Standards. It was decided to prepare and print 100 copies of the Technical Standards as a stand alone document. Rod A. and Larry Z. will explore possible avenues to cover these printing costs. Both Lash C. and Larry W. requested single sheet originals, so that they could make copies to distribute to their constituents. Larry Z. suggested, and was supported by the Str. Cmte., that in future printing of

the Technical Standards the references to the Strategic Goals and Objectives be removed from the document. Larry Z. encouraged Str. Cmte. members to review the document and alert him to any editorial errors.

**EDUCATION SUBCMTE:** Jim M. reported that the most recent newsletter is in the mail and was distributed at the GIS Fair. Jim also reported that GIS Forum presenters are scheduled for the remainder of the academic year. Jim also noted that he has available an excellent interactive GIS demo disk produced by the Minnesota Land Management Information Center. This demo software requires only a PC to use.

**GIS REVIEW SUBCMTE:** Larry Z. reported that there had been no requests for review of GIS-related purchase requests since the last Str. Cmte. meeting. However, Steve H. reported that he had just received such a request, which he would discuss later, that he would be referring to the Subcmte.

**REFLECTIONS ON NEBRASKA GIS FAIR - 1994:** Overall the feeling was that the Fair went over quite well. Comments included: good turnout of visitors, attractive displays, approximately 15 Senators visited - not too bad, served to network GIS users, Sarpy County folks who are considering GIS visited, and well planned. Larry Z. noted that he had recently sent out evaluation forms to Fair presenters but that most of them had not yet returned.

**REFLECTIONS ON INTERIM PLANNING REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE:** Generally positive comments were expressed on the document, with no specific concerns expressed except for the one discussed in the minutes section related to Technical Standards recommendations for GIS Hardware Platforms. Larry noted that copies had gone to all of the Senators and that there were currently only about 15 copies left of an original 200 that the Department of Roads had printed. It was decided to not print any additional copies at this time and see if any additional demand materializes.

**UPDATE ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND CIVIL DEFENSE:** Larry Z. referred to a meeting handout that was developed by Dennis B. outlining the initial draft of a review of GIS coverages available and needed that would be helpful in emergency planning and response. This draft was developed at a meeting prior to the last GIS Str. Cmte. meeting and nothing had been done with this document since. It was suggested that it was probably important to keep in such a document references to GIS coverages already available, to document existing state commitment to this type of effort.

Larry Z. also reported on a recent conversation he had with Rick Semm, State Civil Defense Director. Rick said that the State of Iowa's proposal was denied by the FEMA at the national level. So far, Rick had not been able to find out why, he suspected it was because of all the hardware in the proposal. Rick will continue to pursue information on reasons for the Iowa denial. Larry reported that Rick was basically waiting for the Str. Cmte. to take the lead in initiating a proposal for the Army Corps. Rick would then support that proposal.

Rick Semm indicated that NRC or DWR were the logical agencies to formally request assistance from their federal counterpart, the Army Corps. Rick also suggested that it would be very helpful to document the interests in these GIS coverages by other agencies. Rick had indicated, earlier, that a formal letter of interest from the Governor to the Army Corps was the likely place to start. The Str. Cmte. decided to pursue further information about the reasons for denial of the Iowa proposal and to pursue a letter of interest from the Governor to the Army Corps of Engineers.

EIS. Larry Z. and Rod A. indicated that Rick Semm was interested in pursuing the EIS (Emergency Information System) package that many Str. Cmte. members had seen demonstrated. Apparently the City of Omaha has decided to buy the package and the Public Power Districts were willing to buy it for Civil Defense for nuclear power emergency planning. Rick S. was wanting to see if a larger number of agencies were interested. Rick S. has called a followup meeting to discuss EIS for Jan. 18th from 2-4 pm in the Legislative Conference Room of the Nebraska Civil Defense Agency, 1300 Military Road. Discussion of this issue, raised the importance of developing GIS coverages and maps for the EIS system to be effective.

Review Subcmte. Steve H. reported that he had received a purchase request from Civil Defense to purchase hardware and software to connect with NRC GIS system. Steve reported that he would be referring this matter to the GIS Review Subcmte. Dayle W. indicated he would be considering a possible conflict of interest on this request.

**DIGITAL ORTHOPHOTO QUADS:** Larry Z. reported on a conversation he had with Cyril R. Smith, Kansas GIS Manager, related to their DOQ efforts. This conversation was summarized in a handout that Larry passed out at the meeting. Kansas is conducting a DOQ Pilot Project to develop and test three different DOQ products. They are expecting to enter into a joint effort between state agencies and the Soil Conservation Service to acquire DOQs. A significant difference in Kansas's situation is the fact that the Kansas Dept. of Revenue is mandated to provide County Appraisers with base maps.

Tim Prescott, Soil Conservation Service, offered to research the costs for SCS to acquire DOQs for the entire state and report to the Str. Cmte.

Jon O. inquired if the ad hoc subcommittee of Terry Kubicek, Lash Chaffin, Jim Brown, and Dennis Burling had anything to report on their efforts to survey local government representatives regarding their possible interests in a joint effort to develop DOQs. Those of the ad hoc subcmte. present, reported no action had been taken. The Str. Cmte. requested a report from that subcmte. at the Febr. Str. Cmte. meeting.

#### **STR. CMTE. UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES:**

CALMIT. Jim M. reported on a project to develop land cover/land use GIS coverage for the entire state of Nebraska. This project was outlined in an article in the most recent GIS newsletter. The project, which is expected to be completed by 1995, is jointly funded by National Biological Survey (NBS), the US Geological Survey (USGS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Jim noted that while the base data will be at 30 meter resolution, he felt that it was most appropriate to describe the output data as having a 100 meter level of accuracy.

NRC. Dayle W. reported on efforts to work with Civil Defense on reporting ice jams. At this point the reporting forms are completed via "stubby pencil" but later efforts will be computerized and eventually interactive with GIS.

State Surveyor. Jim B. reported that it appears his office will not be utilizing their GIS hardware and software much in the next year. He offered to loan out this equipment and software to a state agency, providing the agency covers the maintenance costs of approximately \$3,000/year.

National Geodetic Survey. Jerry Odum reported on planned efforts for either later this year, or early in 1995, to develop a High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) in Nebraska. This project will use GPS technology to document approximately 150 control points in publicly accessible areas across the state. This will be a cooperative effort with the Dept. of Roads and other interested parties. This HARN will be tied into the existing geo-referencing networks maintained by NGS.

The related discussion highlighted the fact that these points will provide not only very accuracy horizontal control, but also accurate vertical control. The discussion also highlighted the need for some group in the state to begin to assume the responsibility of gathering and publishing control point information from a variety of groups, such as Lancaster County, etc. NGS has done this in the past, but is discontinuing this service.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Translation between GIS Software Files. Jon O. raised a concern that perhaps it was time for the Str. Cmte. to begin working on a pilot effort to develop the capability to translate GIS information from one software type to another. In particular, Jon O. noted that in Nebraska it seemed that the place to start might be ArcInfo and Integraph translation, since these seem to be the major systems in place. There was general support that this was an effort that the Str. Cmte. should undertake or encourage. In the following discussion, the distinction was made between transferring files and translating files. Blaine D. reported that OPPD had worked on the ArcInfo - Integraph translation and it isn't easy. Jon O. offered to explore the idea with DOR staff and administration to see if there was interest.

Policy Subcmte. Agenda. Rod A. noted that the Policy Subcmte. should probably meet and outline the next steps in the state agency GIS planning process. He noted that a Policy Subcmte. meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27th, 1:30 in Rod's new office in the DAS Budget office area.

Rod and Larry's Move. Rod has moved to a new office in the DAS Budget Division in the State Capitol. His phone number is his old direct line, 471-3138, and his new profs ID is BUD1014. Larry will be moving to the same area in the next week or two. Larry will keep the same phone number, 471-3206, and his new profs ID is already BUD1015.

#### **TO DO LIST:**

Policy Subcmte. - will review plans and develop specific tasks and responsibilities for the next phase of the state agency GIS planning process.

Terry K. - will convene an ad hoc committee of himself, Lash C., Dennis B., and Jim B. to develop and implement a plan to survey local government officials relative to their potential interest in joint efforts to secure DOQQs.

Jon O - will explore with DOR staff and Adm. interest in working on ArcInfo - Integraph translation.

Tim Prescott - will research the costs to SCS to acquire DOQQs for the entire state of Nebraska

Rod A. & Larry Z. - Explore avenues to cover the costs of printing 100 copies of the Technical Standards document.

Larry Z. - Make changes in Chapter 4, Hardware Platform recommendation section, and remove references to Strategic Goals and Objectives and get 100 copies of Technical Standards printed as a stand alone document. Get to Lash C. and Larry W. single sheet originals of Tech. Stds. so they can reproduce copies for their needs.

GIS Steering Committee  
VOTING RECORD

Date 1/12/94

Attendance Minutes

	P	#1								
DAS - Steve Henderson	P	+								
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling	P	+								
CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard, Jim Merchant	P	+								
NRC - Dayle Williamson Terry Kubicek	P	+								
PRO - Rod Armstrong	P	+								
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+								
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P	+								
LRD - Laura Valenziano	A									
John Miyoshi	A									
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	NV								
Judy Larsen	P	+								
Larry Worrell	P	+								
Lash Chaffin	P	+								
Duane Stott	A									
Dennis Wilson	A									
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11-P</b>	<b>10,+ 1-NV</b>								

P = present  
A = absent

"+" = voting for  
"\_" = voting against  
"NV" = not voting

NOTES ON PHONE CONVERSATION WITH  
CYRIL R. SMITH, KANSAS GIS MANAGER, 10/12/94, ON DOQs

Kansas is currently working to on a pilot project on Digital Orthophoto Quads. Pilot Project will produce three products:

- Standard DOQ
- Enhanced DOQ using standard NAPPs with more control points (his memory was they wanted control points on every 1/4 corner). They will then back off on the control points and see what the impact will be on the accuracy. The goal is to determine how much control is needed to achieve 15 foot accuracy.
- Develop a larger scale 1/4 DOQ with a 1/2 meter resolution instead of the standard 1 meter resolution. Area will be reflown at 3,000 feet. This product is intended to be used for urban areas.

They hope to have these three Pilot Project products available by March/April. The plan is that they will then take these products (particularly the first two) and field test them in several identified applications.

The State of Kansas is arranging for the control points and is working with USGS to actually produce the Pilot Project products. In the case of the 3,000 foot flight, the State of Kansas is arranging for that.

A significant difference in their situation from Nebraska's, is that the Kansas Dept. of Revenue is mandated to provide county appraisers with a base map. Cyril thought that started in 1985, but he wasn't sure of that. The Dept of Revenue has \$800,000 budgeted over a four year period to provide these updated base maps. The larger scale (3,000 ft flight) is an attempt to produce a comparable urban product to what appraisers have used in the past, with a scale of 1 inch = 100 ft. Cyril said he thought that Revenue would provide the map in digital format and if the county needed a hardcopy, they had to pay for the processing.

A goal of the project is to see if a way can be found so that all agencies (state and local) can use the same base map.

He said that if the project goes forward for the whole state, they are looking at working with the Soil Conservation Service. SCS receives a Federal discount from USGS. That would probably mean that they would lose the 50/50 cost share with USGS, but they figure they will gain that back with SCS funding support and the Federal discount. They are hoping that they can convince USGS to still do some cost sharing, even if it is not at the 50/50 level. The Kansas GIS Policy Board is putting up the money for the Pilot Project (about \$30,000).

Cyril said he intended to follow the model that someone in Georgia had shared with him.

1. Get some hardcopy product in hand.
2. Take it around to individual state agency heads personally and discuss with them what it might be used for within their agencies.
3. Have a per/quad price available for what it would cost if six agencies split the development costs.
4. Attempt to get an agency commitment to be one of the six agencies to split the costs.

I asked if Kansas had discussed at all the question of in-house production and he said no. He said there seemed to be a shared feeling that was something we didn't want to get into. I asked about the whole matter of "selling" the data and Cyril said that they were trying to get private firms involved upfront in terms of sharing the development costs. But the reality was that the information would ultimately be available through the state data center for distribution costs only.

Cyril R. Smith, 913-296-0877, GIS Manager,  
Kansas Water Office, 109 S.W. 9th Str., Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66612

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