

**GIS Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes - January 17, 1996**

Present were (* authorized to vote):

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| * Jim Brown | State Surveyor's Office |
| * Dennis Burling | Department of Environmental Quality |
| * Lash Chaffin | League of Municipalities |
| * Blaine Dinwiddie | Omaha Public Power District |
| Erik Hubl | Lancaster County Assessor's Office |
| * Terry Kubicek | Natural Resources Commission |
| Mark Kuzila | Conservation and Survey Division |
| * Jim Langtry | Lancaster County Engineer's Office |
| * Jim Merchant | Conservation and Survey Division |
| * John Miyoshi | Lower Platte NRD |
| Kent Morgan | Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Dept. |
| * Jon Ogden | Department of Roads |
| Tim Prescott | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| * Tom Ryan | Governor's Policy Research Office |
| Connie Watson | SAIC |
| * Cliff Welsh | Keith County Commissioner |
| * Dennis Wilson | City of Omaha |
| Paul Yamamoto | Department of Environmental Quality |
| Larry K. Zink | Coordinator, GIS Steering Committee |

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 January 10, 1996.

ROLL CALL. Vice Chair Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 pm and requested a call of the roll. Eleven duly authorized representatives were present, and therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business. John Miyoshi arrived shortly after roll call.

MINUTES. Jon Ogden moved, Jim Merchant seconded, for the minutes of the November 15, 1995 Steering Committee meeting to be approved as circulated. The motion carried unanimously (*see vote #1 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

UPDATE ON CADASTRE/PLSS TASK FORCE. Jim Brown and Larry Zink gave an update on the efforts by the Task Force. The last meeting was a fact finding trip to Saunders County. The Task Force met with various county officials and board members about their land record management procedures. The next step for the Task Force will be to use this and other information to develop guidelines for parcel/tax mapping purposes.

The task force has received information from other states. North Carolina was able to provide extensive guidelines in terms of their cadastral mapping. Wisconsin did not have a lot of information as they were looking to develop guidelines as well. Larry Zink is working to gather information from Kansas.

Cliff Welsh asked whether or not anyone had contacted the National Association of County Officials. Larry Zink will call Larry Dix (NACO) to get the name of a contact person.

There has been some renewed interest in going to Kansas City to look at the GIS operation in Wyandotte County again. If anyone is interested, they are to contact Jim Brown or Larry Zink.

Ed Crane is planning to attend the GIS Symposium. Jim Merchant suggested that this might be an opportune time to form a small committee meeting to ask Ed Crane questions about Wyandotte County's GIS and cadastral mapping.

NRC'S DOQQ PROPOSAL. The discussion of this issue was based on two draft motions provided to the Steering Committee. One was a draft presented on behalf of Rod Armstrong (*attachment #2*) who was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. The other was a NRC revision of Rod's draft that was offered by Terry Kubicek (*attachment #3*). Terry noted that while NRC was provided a copy of Rod's draft prior to the Steering Committee meeting, NRC did not have an opportunity to provide input for Rod's draft. Terry also noted that NRC had revised Rod's draft to strengthen it from NRC's perspective. Terry made a motion to have NRC's revised draft adopted by the Steering Committee. Jim Brown seconded that motion.

General discussion about the differences between the two draft motions followed. Terry pointed out two major differences or concerns from NRC's perspective. NRC's draft specified the agency's motivation for the development of DEMs and DOQQs. NRC was also uncomfortable with the reference in Rod's draft to "other entities" and had removed that phrase. Terry commented that NRC would be happy to specify the uses and users of DEMs and DOQQs.

Larry Zink felt the major difference between the two draft motions was whether the Steering Committee was acting to endorse the production of DOQQs statewide versus endorsing DOQQ production for additional areas of the state. Those additional areas would be based on specific needs identified by NRC or other users of the data. Cliff Welsh commented that from a county perspective, he hoped that many things were addressed on a statewide basis. Larry stated that the wording of Rod's draft motion was an attempt to propose an alternative approach to DOQQ acquisition, in addition to the ones that NRC had identified in its response to the questions the Steering Committee had asked at its November 1995 meeting. Larry also pointed out that NRC's response to the question "are there viable alternatives?" it was proposed that the alternatives were: NRC's three-year statewide development effort, a very slow DOQQ acquisition effort through NRCS, or a state purchase of DOQQs through USGS for a cost of \$2.7 to \$3 million. Larry indicated that the wording of Rod's draft motion purposed another alternative of targeted DOQQ development as specific needs for DOQQs were identified for a given area.

Jon Ogden asked Terry whether or not NRC did have justification for DOQQ development in all 93 counties. Terry said they did. Jim Brown agreed with Larry that it was going too far to indicate that the Steering Committee had reviewed and identified a need for DOQQs statewide. Jim Brown also commented that he did not feel comfortable with NRC's phrase "demonstrated" (*in the third Whereas clause*). Jim Merchant stated his agreement with Jim Brown about the word "demonstrated". Jim M. suggested the possibility of striking that word. Terry offered a friendly amendment to use the phrase "demonstrated a use." After further discussion, the committee agreed to change the wording to "demonstrate its need" - striking the word "a" and

changing that word to "its".

Jim Langtry noted his support for the wording in Rods' draft motion that referred to "subject to available resources" (*in the first Therefore clause*). He felt that it reflected the Steering Committee's intent to support this DOQQ development effort as long as it was a priority for NRC, and therefore, NRC funding was available to support the project. Jim L. indicated that he did not think the Steering Committee wanted to say that DOQQ development was a priority over other possible data development projects. If DOQQs were no longer a NRC priority and therefore NRC funding was no longer available for it, the Steering Committee was not necessarily prioritizing their continued development.

Tom Ryan was concerned about the use of the phrase "strongly endorses" (*in the first Therefore clause*) in NRC's draft. Terry offered a friendly amendment to remove the word "strongly" from NRC's draft. Tom Ryan also raised the question "What does endorsement by the Steering Committee mean?" The following discussion indicated that passage of the motion would be an indication of the Steering Committee's support for NRC's proposed project to develop DOQQ's statewide.

Larry felt it was important that an effort be made to seek out other potential DOQQ users and to address their needs, particularly if one considered the possibility of a targeted approach to DOQQ production. Terry was asked by Jon Ogden whether or not NRC was developing DOQQs to meet the needs of others or to solely meet the internal uses of NRC. Terry indicated that it was a hybrid use. Terry referred to the fact that DOQQs will be used as a base map against which soil surveys will be compiled and recompiled.

Dennis Burling raised a concern about whether the motion should be on NRC's letterhead or the Steering Committee's. Larry noted that the committee does not currently have letterhead, but that if the motion passed, it could be placed on something other than NRC letterhead. The question was also raised about having the Steering Committee Chair sign the motion, if passed.

At the end of this discussion, Terry's original motion to adopt NRC's draft motion was amended with friendly amendments to change the wording in the third Whereas clause to read "has demonstrated a its need", to strike the word strongly from the first Therefore clause to read "and ~~strongly~~ endorses the efforts" and to add a signature block for the chair. The motion carried unanimously (*see vote #2 on the attached Voting Record sheet and attachment #4*).

UPDATE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COUNTY SOIL SURVEYS. Terry reported that NRCS, CSD, and NRC have agreed to a pilot project to develop SSURGO-level digital county soils data for Lancaster County. It was anticipated that the pilot project will take 12 to 18 months to complete and one of the goals of the pilot project is to develop a baseline on the time and resources that will be required for future SSURGO development efforts. It will take some time to redraw the soil lines on the new base map (DOQQs). NRC will digitize those lines once they have been redrawn and certified by NRCS.

UPDATE ON NEBRASKA NSDI CLEARINGHOUSE AND GEOSPATIAL METADATA INITIATIVE. Larry Zink commented that the major challenge of this effort was agencies carving out the time needed to develop the metadata. NRC has done the best job of moving this

project fairly fast. A web page has been drafted and is available through the state's web page.

The plan is to take the pilot project data and transfer that data to the fields under the standard metadata. Larry handed out a proposed thesaurus for Nebraska Geospatial data. Larry asked the committee if they would be interested in endorsing this as a theme thesaurus. Blaine Dinwiddie wondered if the committee could adopt a federal one. Blaine, Jon, and Terry would like to see what federal ones look like first. In the interim, the committee agreed that it was okay to use the pilot project data and theme categories, but the categories would not be registered until the committee was able to review the federal categories.

UPDATE ON THE 1996 NEBRASKA GIS SYMPOSIUM. Jim Merchant updated the committee on the status of the symposium. Currently, there were 51 presentations and 7 primary speakers, possibly including Senator Kerrey, plus a panel discussion. Almost all of the booths have been filled with 24 registered vendors. Jim also has 19 posters, 1 show case, and 11 workshops. Lash Chaffin reported that registrations were beginning to pick up. Jim Merchant indicated that 100 hotel rooms had been sold to date. The goal is to sell 300 hotel rooms. Jim will be calling on committee members to be session monitors.

Terry asked to see what the income and expenses looked like to date. Jim Merchant noted that a budget had not been formally prepared. Jim B. also noted that the Professional Surveyor's Association of Nebraska was financially underwriting the symposium. Terry requested that an income and expense statement for the symposium be prepared when the symposium was over and that it be presented for review by the GIS committee.

UPDATE ON GPS BASE STATION NETWORK. Jim Brown updated the committee on the status of the GPS base station network. A purchase request is being prepared for the purchase of the computer equipment (the computer that will support the web site).

Western Nebraska. There is significant interest in Scotts Bluff county among local government and other interests to either partner with the State or establish a GPS base station and then sell data to the state in some manner which would provide additional non-state funds to upgrade the capability of the proposed Scotts Bluff base station. Scotts Bluff expressed interested in a survey-quality station and the State Surveyor's office is waiting for them to decide what they want to do.

Central Nebraska. A private agri-business entity in central Nebraska is currently providing a "real-time" GPS base station data in Central Nebraska and is willing to provide this data to the state for post-processing for a limited fee. The State Surveyor's Office would buy data from them as opposed to buying a base station.

Eastern Nebraska. Just recently a different private interest approached the State Surveyor about providing survey-quality similar data for eastern Nebraska, at no cost to the state, if the State Surveyor would provide a site for their GPS base station antenna.

Jim Brown is reviewing these various options and believes that this data will be available, on-line, by June 1996. With these different options, it may be possible to look at a fourth site for the same amount of funds. Current plans are for the State Surveyor to establish an Internet Web

site so that people can download this information via the Internet.

The committee further discussed the types of frequency used, the archive of information, antennas, and radios.

Jon Ogden reported that within the next few months, DOR will receive the results of the HARN network efforts from NGS. Jon indicated that DOR and the State Surveyor will work together on a pilot project to put up this information on the same web site which the State Surveyor is developing to also distribute the GPS information. Jon and Jim B. indicated that as part of this pilot project, they will review how best to present this data, what types of data are important, and develop a methodology for providing a quality description for the data. The thought is that this web site could ultimately be expanded to serve as a central collection point for geodetic marks established by agencies such as DOR, NRC, and NPPD.

Jim Brown indicated that he did not feel this effort would require much additional effort beyond that already planned for distributing the GPS network information via the WWW. Jim B. is already in the process of ordering a computer to act as a server for this web site. The issue was raised as to whether this computer order would likely be referred to the Steering Committee for review. It was decided that such a referral was likely because the purchase order mentioned GPS. Larry asked if the Steering Committee was comfortable addressing its possible recommendation of this purchase request at this time in order to avoid delay of the purchase order until the committee meeting. Following a brief discussion, the committee indicated its general support for Larry to notify CDP of its support for this purchase request should it be forwarded to the Steering Committee for review.

UPDATE ON STEERING COMMITTEE BUDGET. Larry Zink handed out copies of the December 31, 1995 budget status report for the Steering Committee travel and meals expenses. Larry pointed out the shortage of funds to cover the expenses of future committee meetings. With the expenses incurred by two committee members traveling from western Nebraska, funding was only available for two more regular meetings (with a contribution from NIDCAC's portion of the funds). The committee decided to meet in person in March and then consider using video-conferencing in May or June (keeping in mind that the annual report is due July 1, 1996). Video-conferencing is one option to help reduce some traveling expenses.

After a review of the budget, the committee agreed that there would not be available funds to act as a benefactor co-sponsor for the Mid-America GIS Symposium.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES. Terry indicated he would like to hear a report from Rod Armstrong about LB 1190 and how it effects GIS. Tom Ryan said the bill primarily focuses on the initial assessment of the century date change. Terry commented that it was more of a labor problem than a hardware problem. Tom Ryan explained that the issue was an evaluation of the current system or programming. Do you upgrade the current system or buy a new one?

Whole Farmer Ranch Planning. Terry explained that NRC will be participating, along with NRCS, CFS, and the NRDs, in a national pilot project in Whole Farmer Ranch Planning. Nebraska is one of six states nationally to do this pilot project. The project requires databases

to be accessible from state, federal, local, and non-governmental organizations.

RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. Larry shared the interest of the Rainwater Basin to have some assistance in developing a plan for implementing a GIS. No one raised any concerns about Larry devoting some of his time in this area.

OTHER BUSINESS. Jim Merchant is in need of some audio visual equipment for the symposium. He could use five or six color computer projectors, 35mm projectors, and overhead projectors for each day.

Committee list for 1996. Larry asked for any corrections to the committee list. He will make any necessary changes and mail out an updated version with the minutes.

Nebraska GIS Update. The GIS Update is due out this month and Jim Merchant asked the committee for some additional articles to help fill the update. He will need these by the 1st of February and would like to have the update available for circulation at the symposium.

Elections. Terry Kubicek made a motion to have an election of chair and vice-chair for the GIS Steering Committee at the next meeting and asked that legal notices be given. John Miyoshi seconded the motion. Terry asked that legal notices be noted and present at the meeting and to be a part of the agenda. Larry noted that the public notices have been published in papers for some time and that they are regularly mentioned in the GIS Steering Committee minutes.

Tom Ryan moved to amend the motion to have the election at the Steering Committee meeting which follows the March meeting. Blaine Dinwiddie seconded the motion. Following discussion, Tom Ryan offered a friendly amendment to his motion to have the elected officers take office effective July 1, 1996.

A call to vote was made on Tom Ryan's amendment to Terry's motion. The motion passed (*see vote #3 on the attached Voting Record sheet*). A call to vote was made on Terry's motion as amended by Tom. The motion passed (*see vote #4 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

The committee discussed a few items concerning the election. It was decided to put these issues on the agenda for the next meeting. These issues included: what are the rules, clarification of who can vote, and election of an agency versus a designee. It was noted that these issues have been discussed at previous meetings. It would be helpful to review both the statutes and previous minutes at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be March 13, 1996. Terry Kubicek moved to adjourn. Dennis Wilson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:40 pm.

To Do List:

- Larry Zink - contact National NACO to explore possible cadastral map and GIS standards.
- Larry Zink - put on next agenda a discussion of rules for votings and a clarification of chair election as agency representative or individual.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 1/17/96

| | Roll call | Minutes #1 | DDQA motion #2 | Ryan's amendment #3 | Amended DDQA motion on election #4 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| DAS - Rod Armstrong | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| DEQ - <u>Dennis Burling</u> Tom Lamberson | P | + | + | + | - | | | | | | |
| CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard, <u>Jim Merchant</u> | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| NRC - Dayle Williamson <u>Terry Kubiczek</u> | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| PRO - Tom Ryan | P | + | + | + | - | | | | | | |
| DOR - Jon Ogden | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| Surveyor - Jim Brown | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| LRD - Laura Valenziano Val Goodman | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Miyoshi | A/P | + | + | - | + | | | | | | |
| Blaine Dinwiddie | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| Cliff Welsh | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| Larry Worrell <u>Jim Langtry</u> | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| Lash Chaffin | P | + | + | + | NV | | | | | | |
| Duane Stott | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dennis Wilson | P | + | + | + | + | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | <u>11P</u> <u>12P</u> | 12(+) | 12(+) | 11(+) 1(-) | 9(+) 2(-) 1(NV) | | | | | | |

P = present
A = absent

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