

GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - April 21, 1993

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

Present were:

Rod Armstrong	Governor's Policy Research Office
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resource Commission
Jim Brown	State Surveyor Office
Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
Lash Chaffin	League of Municipalities
Steve Cobb	State Surveyor's Office
Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
Steve Henderson	Department of Administrative Services
Terry Kubicek	Natural Resources Commission
Judy Larsen	Dodge County Supervisor
John Miyoshi	Lower Platte NRD
Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Duane Stott	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Laura Valenziano	Legislative Research Office
Larry Worrell	Lancaster County Surveyor
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Cmte.

MINUTES: Terry K. moved and Larry W. seconded that the minutes of the March 17, 1993 Steering Committee meetings be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

DATA INVENTORY SUBCMTE: Jon O. reported on-going progress on the Pilot Project. The online access screens are being developed and the Nebraska Library Commission staff is also working on the online help screens. Jon reported that there is still the possibility of having a working prototype by the June meeting.

Terry K. shared with the Str. Cmte. that there were on-going discussions about pursuing a Kansas, Inc. type methodology for disseminating state government digital information to the interested public. He referred to a memo from Chris Hoy, DED, which is attached to these minutes.

POLICY SUBCMTE: Rod A. reported that he and Larry Z. had discussions with members of the Appropriations Committee about the work and needs of the Str. Cmte. Rod reported that some intent language is very likely to be included in the appropriations bill that would reaffirm the Legislature's support for the work of the GIS Str. Cmte.

Sen. Moore and Sen. Hillman have been informed about the need for resources to accomplish the Str. Cmte's. mandate. They were also informed of the willingness of the Str. Cmte. to be involved in the "Fiscal Note" process to comment on pending appropriations related to GIS. Rod also reported that he discussed the role of the State Surveyor's Cash Fund as a funding channel for staff support. Jim Brown reported that he had just received word that the Appropriations Cmte. acted to restore that funding channel. Rod also reported that his research on the "Separation of Powers" legislation indicated that it would not free the Legislative Research Office to contribute to staff support for the Str. Cmte. Rod offered the suggestion that the Str. Cmte. should also consider looking at grants as a means of helping to provide staff support.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE: Terry K. reported that the Subcmte. had meet and identified targets for their work and that drafts are being circulated among members.

EDUCATION SUBCMTE: Larry Z. reported for Subcmte. Chair Jim M. Larry noted that the latest issue of the Nebraska GIS Update is almost ready to go and that a proof copy will be available for Rod's review next week.

STAFF REPORT: Larry Z. reported that much of his time since the last meeting had been spent facilitating and tabulating the "straw poll" on the proposed Strategic Plan Objectives. Larry expressed his appreciation for the 100% participation by Str. Cmte. members or their delegates. The results of the straw poll were mailed out with the proposed agenda for this meeting. Larry also reported that he had attended the Omaha GIS users meeting and had drafted a couple articles for the upcoming GIS newsletter. Larry had also joined Rod A. in meetings with Sen. Moore and Sen. Hillman to discuss the Str. Cmte's. work. Larry mentioned that his proposed outline from the Annual Report would be discussed later in the agenda.

ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC PLAN: Larry reviewed the three minor wording changes that had been suggested by Mahendra Bansal and Pat Hammond (these were mailed out with agenda for the meeting). After a brief discussion, it was decided to modify the tasks and objectives to read as follows:

Goal 2, Obj. 1, Task 2. Establish an agreement with the Nebraska Library Commission on using their 'Nebraska Online System' to make the database inventory available statewide.

Goal 2, Obj. 1, Task 3. Establish a pilot project team and get a firm commitment from the contributing agencies for staffing the pilot project.

Goal 2, Obj. 3. Populate the 'Online Data Inventory System' with meta data.

Steve H. moved and Terry K. seconded that the Goals, Objectives and Tasks outlined in the Draft Strategic Plan (version: 4/12/93 and incorporating the modifications adopted from Mahendra B. and Pat H.) be adopted as the GIS Steering Committee's Strategic Plan. The discussion related to this motion made explicit that it was the intention of the Str. Cmte. to adopt this Strategic Plan as a working document, subject to on-going updating and revision as necessary. The discussion also explicitly excluded the current wording related to timelines, lead agencies, and participating agencies from the proposed motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN: Larry reviewed the results of the straw poll of the Str. Cmte. members on priority ranking for action on the Strategic Objectives. Larry provided three poll result statistics for each Objective: average, variance, and relative ranking. It was noted that some of the lower ranked Objectives were related to achieving to some of higher ranked Objectives. Following discussion, it was decided to focus the committee's efforts, over the next several months, on the top eight ranked Objectives. Laura V. noted her support for this approach, provided that when these initial Objectives are achieved that the Str. Cmte. revisit the relative priorities of the remaining Objectives. The top eight ranked Objectives were as follows:

1. Goal 1, Obj. 2. Identify needs for standards and guideline to facilitate data sharing.
2. Goal 5, Obj. 1. Inform state and local policymakers and potential GIS users about the need, the potential and the advantages of GISs.
3. Goal 2, Obj. 1. Pilot project to determine the feasibility of an online database inventory.
4. Goal 7, Obj. 1. Identify responsibility for GIS implementation.
5. Goal 8, Obj. 2. Steering Committee approval of Strategic Plan.
6. Goal 8, Obj. 1. Secure participating agencies' input and commitment to support implementation of Strategic Plan.
7. Goal 3, Obj. 1. Establish guidelines for database creation to facilitate data sharing.
8. Goal 1, Obj. 1. Develop an abridged listing of Nebraska, land-related or geo-referenced information needs.

Larry noted that he felt that the Objective ranked #10 (Goal 1, Obj. 3. Identify present and potential Nebraska GIS applications.) was closely associated with those Objectives ranked #1 & 7. The Str. Cmte. agreed to include this Objective in its initial implementation focus. It was noted that the #5 ranked Objective was now completed. Following discussion about how to move the implementation process forward, the Str. Cmte. assigned the following Objectives to the following Subcmtes:

Policy: Goal 1, Obj. 2; Goal 7, Obj. 1; Goal 8, Obj. 1;

Education: Goal 5, Obj. 1;

Data Inventory: Goal 2, Obj. 1; Goal 1, Obj. 1; Goal 1, Obj. 3

T. Standards: Goal 3, Obj. 1 (initial background work and a report to Policy Subcmte. on recommendations)

These Subcmtes. were asked to meet and to discuss further these Objectives and report back to the Str. Cmte., at its May meeting, with specific proposals on how to accomplish the Objectives, needed resources, responsible parties, and timelines.

REVIEW DRAFT OUTLINE OF ANNUAL REPORT: Larry discussed with the Str. Cmte. his initial proposed outline for the Annual Report to the Legislature (sent out with the agenda). The Str. Cmte. approved the general outline. Terry K. expressed a desire that the section on other state's GIS activities be kept short. Larry W. commenting on the section regarding current GIS activities in Nebraska, noted that there was growing interest by local governments across the state.

OTHER BUSINESS: Larry reported on his phone survey of Str. Cmte. members and/or their delegates regarding summer meetings. He said the response was quite favorable to continuing to meet on the third Wednesday. Larry noted that Jon O. could not make the third Wednesday in May. The Str. Cmte. decided to continue to meet on the third Wednesday during the summer months. It was agreed that the May 19th meeting would be hosted by NRC, in the NRC Conference Room, 4th floor, State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South.

Rod A. was asked, and agreed, to check into the feasibility of encumbering available funds from this fiscal year to support the GIS Str. Cmte. staff.

Terry K. shared with the Str. Cmte. that the NRC staff has initiated discussions with the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission regarding the possibility of redirecting funding from the Soil and Water Conservation Fund to provide turnkey GISs for each of Nebraska's NRDs. Terry said such a proposal would also provide for frame-relay networking with the NRC office in Lincoln and could cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000 for each NRD or approximately \$1.2 million overall. Terry noted that this idea received a mixed reaction from the Resources Commission and that before proceeding it would need their approval and that of the Legislature.

TO DO LISTS:

Policy Subcmte. meet, discuss and provide specific proposals to the Str. Cmte.'s May meeting on needed resources, responsible parties, and timelines to implement
Objectives: Goal 1, Obj. 2; Goal 7, Obj. 1; Goal 8, Obj. 1;

Education Subcmte. meet, discuss and provide specific proposals to the Str. Cmte.'s May meeting on needed resources, responsible parties, and timelines to implement
Objectives: Goal 5, Obj. 1

Data Inventory Subcmte. meet, discuss and provide specific proposals to the Str. Cmte.'s May meeting on needed resources, responsible parties, and timelines to implement
Objectives: Goal 2, Obj. 1; Goal 1, Obj. 1; Goal 1, Obj. 3

Tech. Standards Subcmte. meet, discuss and provide specific proposals to the Str. Cmte.'s May meeting on needed resources, responsible parties, and timelines to implement
Objectives: Goal 3, Obj. 1 (initial background work for report to Policy Subcmte. on recommendations)

Rod check into the feasibility of encumbering available agency funds from this fiscal year to support GIS Str. Cmte. staff.