

GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 6/15/94

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Jim Brown, acting on behalf of Chair Rod Armstrong, who was delayed.

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
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte North NRD
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
* Dennis Wilson	City of Omaha
* Jim Langtry	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 June 8, 1994.

ROLL CALL. Acting Chair Jim Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 pm and requested that Larry Z. call the roll. Eleven duly authorized representatives were present and therefore there was a quorum to conduct business. Rod A. and Lash C. arrived later in the meeting.

MINUTES: Jon O. moved, Jim M. seconded, that the minutes of the May 18, 1994 meeting be approved as distributed. The motion carried unanimously (see vote #1, on the attached voting record sheet).

DATA INVENTORY SUBCMTE. Jon O. reported that Jim M. has an article announcing the new Nebraska On-line service for the GIS newsletter. Jon O. also reported that Rod A. and Larry Z. had drafted a letter, and secured the Governor's signature, urging state agency participation and that Larry Z. had mailed it out to all the state agency Directors and Agency GIS Contacts. Dennis B. noted that the Information Technology survey being conducted in conjunction with the budget process may also help collect this information from state agencies.

POLICY SUBCMTE. Because Subcmte. Chair Rod A. was not yet present, this report was deferred until later in the meeting. When Rod A. arrived, he suggested that the items in the Subcmte. report could be discussed under Agenda item #4, "Fleshing out a Picture...."

TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE. Mahendra B. reported for the Subcmte. in the absence of Subcmte. Chair Terry Kubicek. Mahendra reported that Terry K. felt that the Subcmte. did not need to meet to discuss the item that the Str. Cmte. had referred to it at the Str. Cmte.'s May meeting, "Communicating the Quality of Spatial Data". Mahendra reported that Terry K. felt that the Str. Cmte. should adopt the draft Federal standards. Mahendra then offered a motion that the Str. Cmte. adopt the Federal Digital Spatial Metadata Standards, Special Data Transfer Standards, USGS Mapping Standards, and SCS Ssurgo Standards. Following a brief discussion, the motion died for a lack of a second.

Concern was expressed that the Subcmte. was not given the opportunity to meet and discuss the issue that was referred to it by the Str. Cmte. The Str. Cmte. directed Larry Z. to mail out copies of the draft Federal Digital Spatial Metadata Standards along with the minutes of the meeting, and to place the Metadata Standards on the agenda for the next meeting.

EDUCATION SUBCMTE. Jim M. reported that the following Monday, June 20th was the cut-off date for material for the newsletter.

REVIEW SUBCMTE. Jim B. reported for the Subcmte. and gave a brief overview of recent activities. Two items were referred to the Subcmte. for review from CDP. One, a couple of computers for Civil Defense was withdrawn for modification and probable resubmission later. The other was a purchase request from the Dept. of Education for a COMPAQ Deskpro XL 586/60 and associated hardware and software, totalling approximately \$9,000. Among other uses, this equipment was to be used to develop and maintain up-to-date school district boundary maps by networking with NRC's GIS. The Subcmte. had unanimously recommended approval of the purchase request.

Prior to taking up a motion on the Dept. of Education's request, Larry Z. noted that the Subcmte. had also recommended that the Str. Cmte. adjust the procedures it requires of the GIS Review Subcmte. by removing the requirement for a written "Justification" document for each item reviewed. Jim B. noted that when the Subcmte. was established, one of its guidelines was to provide a rapid turn around in reviewing agency request so as not to create a bureaucratic bottleneck. The Subcmte. has found that the requirement to produce a written "Justification" document has resulted in such a bottleneck, and one that seems to be serving little in the way of a useful function. Jim B. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the Str. Cmte.'s requirement for a "Justification" document from the Review Subcmte. for each of its recommendations be removed. The motion passed unanimously (see vote #2, on the attached voting record sheet).

Steve H. expressed a concern that from his perspective at CDP, he wanted to maintain the practice of receiving written communication back from the Review Subcmte., although it did not need to be at the level of a "Justification" document. Steve H. moved, Dennis B. seconded, that the Review Subcmte. should provide CDP with written communications summarizing the actions of the Review Subcmte. and the Str. Cmte. taken on issues referred to the Subcmte. by CDP. The motion carried unanimously (see vote #3, on attached voting record sheet).

Jon O. moved, Judy L. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. accept the Review Subcmte.'s recommendation and therefore recommend the approval of the Dept. of Education's request to purchase the COMPAQ Deskpro XL 586/60 and associated hardware and software. The motion passed unanimously (see vote #4, on attached voting record sheet).

GPS COORDINATION SUBCMTE. Jim B. reported that this new Subcmte. held its first meeting and had approximately 14 people in attendance. Jim reported that the Subcmte. considered three areas of possible focus:

- Developing standards and guidelines to promote compatibility of GPS equipment;
- Promoting the establishment of 2-3 GPS base stations across Nebraska; and
- The establishment of a central depository to maintain and make accessible user-defined GPS reference points.

Jim B. reported that there was tentative agreement among those present that pursuing the establishment of the base stations was the best course. This was based on the need, the fact that the development of base stations would in large part take care of the compatibility concerns, and that the costs were of a moderate nature. Subcmte. participants were encouraged to discuss this tentative direction with their agencies prior to the next meeting, which was scheduled for July 6th, 1:30 pm at the State Surveyor's office. Jim B. also noted that there was available some possible loan equipment for a base station, possible funding in some agencies budgets, and the possibility for FEMA support.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH ARMY CORPS, NRC, CIVIL DEFENSE AND FEMA.

Copies of the letter from NRC to General Heng, Nebr. Military Dept., requesting assistance from FEMA for funding for Army Corps of Engineers development of GIS coverages for disaster planning and response were passed out at the meeting. Mahendra B. and Larry Z. reported that the initial response back from FEMA to the proposal was negative. The verbal reasons given for the negative reaction was based primarily on the length of time since the disaster. However, Rick Semm, Nebr. Civil Defense Agency, indicated an interest in pursuing the proposal further. Dennis B. expressed a concern that the language in the letter seemed to imply that the Corps was going to do all of the development themselves, even though the Working Group on this issue had expressed a sense that some of this coverage development would be best done by state agencies.

ARCINFO/INTEGRAPH TRANSLATION PROJECT. Jon O. requested that this item be moved up in the agenda because he had to leave early. Jon O. reported that he had contacted DEQ about the project and they had named Paul Yamamoto to the project team. Jon O. also noted that Mahendra B. indicated that he would be naming someone for the project team from NRC in the very near future. Jon O. also reported that Roads will be getting some software from Integraph that should facilitate the project.

FLESHING OUT A PICTURE OF FUTURE NEBRASKA GIS IMPLEMENTATION. Rod A. provided an overview of the Policy Subcmte. discussion that lead to that Subcmte. bringing to the Str. Cmte. the general question of, "Should it be a role of the GIS Str. Cmte. to propose and pursue medium-to-large scale, multi-agency GIS-related project, the realization of which will require developing significant political and funding support?" Larry Z. also provided a brief overview of a proposal (outlined in the summary of the responses to second set of long-range planning questions related to Data Bases Development) that the Str. Cmte. pursue the acquisition of DOQQs for the state -- a proposal which stimulated the more general discussion about the role of the Str. Cmte.

The Str. Cmte. discussion which followed, while raising some questions about the specifics of the DOQQs proposal, revealed the broad support within the Str. Cmte. for taking on the role of proposing and pursuing medium-to-large scale, multi-agency GIS-related development projects. There was virtually no opposition to this role and the general consensus was reflected in the statements of "If we don't do it, who will?" and "I feel it fits within the Legislature's intent." Jon O. moved, Jim B. seconded, that the Policy Subcmte. develop several strategies that could be applied to different types of projects (DOQQs, GPS, etc.) and present them to the Str. Cmte. for consideration. The motion passed unanimously (see vote # 5, on the attached voting record sheet).

On the specifics of the DOQQ acquisition proposal, several comments were made supporting the DOQQ project in general. Concern was expressed about maintaining the currency of the DOQQ data. Concern was expressed about the size/cost of this for an initial project and that maybe something like the GPS Base Stations might be better. The question was raised about a particular state agency developing DOQQs and questioning if this was in the domain of the Str. Cmte. While it was noted that counties would probably utilize the data, concern was expressed that counties don't end up paying for it twice in some way. Tim Prescott, Soil Conservation Service, offered a demonstration of DOQQs for the Str. Cmte. **The next Str. Cmte. meeting on July 13th, 1:30 pm, has been scheduled for the Federal Bldg, 15th & O Strs in Rm 265, so that a DOQQ demo can be held in conjunction with the Str. Cmte. meeting.**

Decentralized, but Integrated. Larry Z. presented a slightly revised version of the proposed consensus language on this concept. The revision was basically the same wording as that mailed out with the minutes of the last meeting, but with the wording sequence shifted slightly. Mahendra B. raised a concern that this final draft summary of the "decentralized, but integrated" approach to GIS development was not specific enough about the details of data access architecture. Others on the Str. Cmte. expressed the feeling that what Mahendra was suggesting, while important to be developed, was at a finer detail than the Str. Cmte. was wishing to go with this document. These sentiments seemed to be generally shared by most of the Str. Cmte. members present. Following this discussion, Rod asked the members present whether they were generally satisfied with the modified draft that Larry Z. had prepared and general support (and no objections) was expressed.

Development and Maintenance of Databases. Larry reviewed the summary of the written responses which he had received to the third set of conceptual questions, and which had been mailed out with the agenda. The members of the Str. Cmte. expressed comfort with reporting (as outlined on page 1 of Larry's summary) the general types of GIS coverages highlighted by the GIS Needs Survey as being widely needed. Jon O. expressed a desire to have further discussion regarding the concept of charging a fee for data access as part of the broader strategic discussion by the Policy Subcmte. The Str. Cmte. decided to defer discussion of the coordination/management needs related to GIS database development until the discussion of the final set of questions related to that issue.

APPROVAL OF DRAFT OUTLINE OF ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. Larry Z. reviewed the draft outline of the Annual Report to the Legislature, dated 6/6/94, which he had mailed out with the Agenda. The outline was supported by the Str. Cmte. members present. It was suggested that Rod include a section on funding for the Coordinator's position. It was also suggested that the recent newsletters also be included. Dennis W. suggested that local GIS developments be included in the Annual Report. There was general support for this idea, however it was suggested that it might be more useful in the end-of-the-year report that would include any legislative recommendations. The idea that this report should not be too extensive, due to a planned end-of-year report, was generally supported.

UPDATES ON AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES. At Rod A. suggestion, this agenda item was moved ahead of the update of the Coordinator's position.

Conservation and Survey Division. Jim M. reported on a project that Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) is working on with the Dept. of Health to map the results of water well sampling across the state. Jim M. also reported that CSD now has six federal agencies supporting their project to map existing statewide vegetation and other land cover and to conduct a GAP analysis for native plants and animal species. Jim M. reported that they now have Landsat TM data for the entire state and he anticipated the analysis to actually get underway this fall. They will initially focus on three areas: the Missouri River Corridor, the Middle Platte, and the Panhandle.

Game and Parks Commission. Mike Fritz reported that Game and Parks, Wildlife Division, will be hiring a temporary GIS staffperson to begin the development of needed GIS coverages. Mike F. reported that they had 12 applicants and had cut that to 8, whom they planned to interview the last week of June.

UPDATE ON FUNDING FOR COORDINATOR'S POSITION. At Rod A.'s suggestion, the Str. Cmte. went into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. All non-Str. Cmte. members or their representatives left the meeting. When the Executive Session was ended, and non-Str. Cmte. members admitted, Jim B. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. set the Coordinator's compensation for FY 94-95 at the standard rate of increase for State employees, as approved by the Legislature. The motion passed unanimously (see vote # 6 on the attached voting record sheet).

OTHER BUSINESS. Rod A. asked if there was any other business. Larry Z. reported briefly on meetings he and Rod had had with Berri Balka, State Tax Commissioner, and his staff, and also on a meeting he had with Larry Dix and Craig Nelson of NACO, and on a planned meeting with Clint Morrison, Scotts Bluff County Commissioner and a board member of NACO. Larry noted that these mtgs. were a follow-up to his proposal at May's GIS Str. Cmte. meeting that he initiate these contacts.

TO DO LIST

Policy Subcmte. - Will review and develop further the DOQQ proposal and other strategic approaches to GIS development and present several alternatives to the Str. Cmte. for consideration.

Jon Ogden - Will convene at meeting of the Integraph/Arc Translation Working Group to get this project rolling.

Rod Armstrong - Will draft a narrative regarding funding for the Coordinator's position for the upcoming Annual Report to the Legislature.

Larry Z. - Mail out copies of the draft "Content Standards for Digital Spatial Metadata to the Str. Cmte. members and place the issue of adoption of the Federal Digital Spatial Metadata Standards on the Agenda of the July 13th meeting.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 6/15/94

Attendance Minutes
Justification document
Written Response
Date of Est Review
Policy Subjects
Salary

		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6				
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	A/P					+	+				
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
LRD - Laura Valenziano	A										
John Miyoshi	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Judy Larsen	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Lash Chaffin	A/P		+	+	+	+	+				
Duane Stott	PA										
Dennis Wilson	P	+	+	+	+	+	+				
TOTALS	2-A 13-P	11(+)	12(+)	12(+)	12(+)	13(+)	13(+)				

P = present
A = absent
"+" = voting for
"-" = voting against
"NV" = not voting