

## GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 7/19/95

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
* 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
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Cmte.

*(due to a staff oversight, an attendance sign-in sheet was not circulated, therefore the names of attendees other than Str. Cmte. members are not available)*

**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 July 12, 1995.

**ROLL CALL.** Vice Chair Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm and requested that Larry Z. call the roll. Eleven duly authorized representatives were present and therefore there was a quorum to conduct business. A short time later, Chair Rod Armstrong and Mahendra Bansal arrived.

**MINUTES:** Jon O. moved, Blaine D. seconded, that the minutes of the June 14, 1995 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion carried on a unanimous vote *(see vote #1 on the attached Voting Record sheet)*.

**DISCUSSION WITH NACO REPRESENTATIVES.** Larry Z. reported that in line with the Str. Cmte.'s decision at it last meeting, he and Cliff Welsh had invited Jack Mills of NACO to attend this or the following meeting. While Mr. Mills had indicated an interest in meeting with the Str. Cmte., he was not available for either of the next two Str. Cmte. meetings. Mr. Mills had suggested that either Larry Dix, Director of NACO's Data Processing, or Craig Nelson, NACO's attorney might be a useful substitute. Larry Z. reported that he had arranged for Larry Dix to attend, but that he was apparently delayed getting there from an earlier meeting out-of-town. Larry Z. suggested that the NACO dialogue be moved down on the agenda until Larry Dix was available. The Str. Cmte. was agreeable to this approach.

**REVIEW, MODIFICATION, AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.** Larry Z. noted that it was time once again for the Annual Report to the Legislature. Larry Z. noted that he had sent out an initial draft Annual Report with the minutes of the last Str. Cmte. meeting, with a request for feedback by July 10th. Larry Z. reported that he had received feedback from a few members and had incorporated much of that feedback into a revised version (dated 7/10/95) that he had mailed out with the agenda for this meeting. Larry Z. reported

that he had also mailed out a copy of Terry Kubicek's feedback, as per Terry's request after the Str. Cmte. reviewed the last draft report. In response to a question from Mahendra Bansal, Larry Z. reported that he had incorporated some of Terry Kubicek's suggestions in the revised draft, but not others.

Jim B. moved to approve the 7/10/95 draft of the Annual Report, as submitted by Larry Z. The motion was seconded by Jim M. Mahendra B. inquired as to whether this meant that the Str. Cmte. would not be going through Terry Kubicek's suggestion individually. Chair Rod A. responded that would be the case if the Str. Cmte. adopted the motion as made and seconded. Rod A. also noted that Str. Cmte. members had several days to review Terry Kubicek's feedback prior to the meeting. A few minor, editorial changes were raised and accepted as friendly amendments to the original motion. Those included listing "Mr." or "Dr." in front of all the Str. Cmte. participant names to be consistent on the last two pages; including email addresses on the last two pages; changing SURRGO to SSURGO on page 5; adding NRDs to the list of agencies maintaining water well data on page 6; and changing the phrasing on the 2nd paragraph on page 5 to read, "These agencies are just finishing a multi-year effort to complete Nebraska county soil surveys using modern soil survey techniques." With these friendly amendments, the motion passed on a vote of ten "for" and three "against" (*see vote #2, on attached Voting Record sheet*).

**UPDATE FROM CADASTRAL/PLSS TASK FORCE.** Jim B. noted that a report had been handed out to the Str. Cmte. members from the Task Force (*attached to these minutes*). Jim B. noted that the report listed the current Task Force members, and noted that the members represented a cross-section of the interest groups and areas of the state. Jim B. also noted that the Task Force currently did not have a representative from the Omaha area and that he was looking for such a representative. Jim B. pointed out that the report contained draft definitions of both PLSS Base Maps and Cadastral Base Maps, as per the Str. Cmte.'s request. Jim B. noted that the minimum the Task Force would seek to accomplish would be to draft standards for both PLSS and Cadastral digital databases.

Jim B. stated that the major point that he wished the Str. Cmte. to note was that the Task Force was leaning toward developing a proposal for some type of land transfer fee to help fund local land modernization efforts. Jim B. shared the feelings of the Task Force that if local land modernization were to move forward in a meaningful way, there needed to be a funding mechanism. However, Jim B. also observed that there would be political costs to such proposals, and he wanted to get the Str. Cmte.'s feedback on pursuing something along the lines of the Wisconsin land transfer fee. Duane S. noted the importance of some state-level support for the continuity required for GIS. Duane S. shared his experience in Scotts Bluff County where turnover of County Commissioners threatened the continued existence of the system there. Str. Cmte. members gave Jim B. general support for pursuing the work of the Task Force and the concept of a land transfer fee.

Larry Z. inquired of the Str. Cmte. their feelings about the Task Force working to build political support among interest groups for the land transfer fee concept. While noting the overall responsibility of the Str. Cmte. in this effort, there was general support for the Task Force's efforts in this political arena.

Other issues raised in this discussion, included Mahendra B's observation of the role of NIDCAC in this area. The question was raised as to whether these database standards was another example of unfunded mandates. It was observed that if there was financial support it wouldn't be unfunded and that the support of the local governments was a key to getting anything passed. Jon O. raised the question of dissemination of PLSS data from a central point and Jim B. responded that the issue had been discussed briefly but that no specific proposal was available at this time. Cliff W. suggested that

the Task Force should have a six month timeline to finish their work because things needed to be pulled together for the Legislative session. Jim B. responded that he felt the overall task needed to be segmented, with something on PLSS work being potentially ready for action in 1996, but that realistically action on the cadastral front probably would not be ready until 1997. There was differing perspectives on the relative leadership/support for the state-level versus the county-level. Jim M. observed that he felt that it was very important that there was a lot of support from the counties. Cliff W. stated his feelings that a lot of the initiative and direction needed to come from the top/down. Larry Z. noted that one point of discussion in the Task Force was the amount of restrictions to place on the use of any land transfer fee funds that stayed in the counties. Cliff W. expressed his opinion that those restrictions needed to be pretty specific and targeted to GIS. Cliff W. also expressed an opinion that hands-on-demonstrations of GIS capabilities would be helpful for local government officials.

#### **UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COUNTY SOIL SURVEYS.**

Mahendra B. reported that NRC, CSD, and NRCS had met since their last presentation at the GIS Str. Cmte., and while there was still not a final agreement or plan for developing digital soil surveys for Nebraska, there was a draft agreement. According to Mahendra, that draft agreement involves NRC producing DOQQs for the state and digitizing the recompiled soil surveys. CSD would do the bulk of the recompilation, with some assistance from NRC. Mahendra indicated that they hoped to have a final agreement or plan ready by August or September of this year.

Cliff Welsh shared with the Str. Cmte. the fact that he has continued to pursue the tie-in between the soil survey updates and the mandatory updating of the cadastral maps within the following year. These discussions have still not produced a clear resolution or grace period for counties. However, they have raised the question of what are the penalties for non-compliance within the specified one-year time frame.

**REPORT ON INITIATIVE FOR COMMON WATER WELL IDS.** Larry Z. gave a brief report on efforts he had been involved in to facilitate an interagency effort to explore the feasibility of developing common water well IDs between several state, regional and local agencies. Larry Z. reported the Susan France, DWR, had circulated a letter to relevant state, regional and local agencies inquiring as to their interest in such an effort, and whether it should be incorporated with the DOA effort to develop a common database on water quality. At the time of the Str. Cmte. meeting, Susan France was still waiting for response to her letter of inquiry. A sample copy of the letter was handed out at the Str. Cmte. meeting.

**REVISED FUTURE MEETING DATES.** Larry Z. noted that he had mailed out proposed changes in the 1995-96 GIS Str. Cmte. meeting dates which had been adopted at the June meeting. Those changes were necessary because of scheduling conflicts with the NSGIC meeting and meeting space availability problems. The proposed changes were as follows: from Sept. 20th to Sept. 27th; from March 20th to March 13th; from April 17th to April 10th. Larry Z. noted that he had contacted most of the Str. Cmte. members and found general support for these changes. While not making a formal motion, the Str. Cmte. expressed general support for adopting these changes in the future meeting schedule.

No August Str. Cmte. Meeting. Rod A. asked if any Str. Cmte. had a compelling reason to meet in August. No one expressed such a need. Therefore the Str. Cmte. decided to not meet in August and to hold its next meeting on Sept. 27th.

**DISCUSSION WITH NACO REPRESENTATIVES ON TWO PRIORITIZED ITEMS FROM STR. CMTE. PLANNING RETREAT.** When Larry Dix, Director of NACO's Data Processing, arrived, this earlier NACO agenda item was taken up. Larry Dix was given a brief overview of the interest and the initiatives (PLSS/Cadastral Task Force, etc.) of the GIS Str. Cmte. in local land records modernization. Larry Dix noted that Larry Z. had discussed some of these items with him. Larry Dix observed that to his knowledge, only Scotts Bluff, Douglas, and Lincoln/Lancaster are currently developing GIS. He also noted that in general the counties have not been approached much by vendors about GIS, probably because the vendors did not feel that there was the resources available. Larry Dix stated his, and NACO's, strong support for the development of standards for land record databases. Larry Dix also noted the great need for education. Larry Dix stated his belief that there was a broad disparity in terms of the levels of knowledge about GIS.

Larry Dix noted that the IBM AS400 computers and its related network is in place in the 93 counties. He stated that 88 or so counties are currently using the AS400 system for motor vehicle registration and titling. Larry Dix noted that the AS400s are currently limited in terms of their ability to handle and manipulate graphical data. Larry Dix also noted that currently there has not been much done with the AS400 network, in terms of attaching PCs or LANs, but that this was a possibility.

Larry Dix also discussed the status of multiple county assessing systems. The CAPs system, administered by the Dept. of Revenue, is used by several counties. Larry Dix said that CAPs uses a different terminal system than the AS400, but the same communication lines. NACO also administers an assessing system which is used by several counties. Larry Dix said that between the CAPs system and NACOs, about 50% of the counties are covered.

Larry Dix stated that he felt that there would be a fair chance for acceptance of state standards for data, particularly in counties where competing standards are not already in place. Larry Dix also stated that NACO was interested in being a partner in efforts to define database standards for counties.

Rod A. asked Larry Dix for his thoughts on what might be most helpful in the area of educational efforts for county officials. Larry Dix mentioned the potential of the Febr. 1996 Nebraska GIS Symposium and also the importance of some presence at the NACO Annual Convention, in October of 1995. Larry Dix seconded Cliff W. thoughts that some sort of practical "show and tell" about GIS would be helpful. Larry Dix also mentioned that NACO holds 1/2-day district meetings around the state. However, Larry said that the agenda of these meetings was usually pretty tight with up to 10 state agencies presenting information. Larry Z. asked about the state NACO Board, and Larry Dix indicated that was also a possibility. Larry Dix indicated that NACO has an 18 member board which meets four times a year. To get on the agenda for those meetings, one should talk with Jack Mills or the current NACO President.

Jim B., in particular, expressed his appreciation for Larry Dix's attendance and invited Larry Dix to participate in the PLSS/Cadastral Task Force meetings. Larry Dix indicated an interest in being part of that process.

Cliff W. brought up his experience with the NDOR's effort to distribute a new technology related to bridge inventorying. In that effort, NDOR put on area workshops and provided each participating county with a laptop PC for use in the effort. Cliff said he was very impressed with how readily the counties seemed to adopt this technology and felt that perhaps we could learn from this effort. Jon O. shared with the group that the laptops were provided with federal funds from the DOT. However, it was mentioned that this equipment is now out there in most, if not all of the counties and it might be something that we should consider as part of future outreach efforts.

**FGDC GRAND AWARD.** Larry Z. informed the Str. Cmte. that the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) had received notice that it had been awarded one of twenty-three grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee. While the final details of the grant award had not yet been received by the NLC, the grant proposal was for \$25,000 and was targeted toward upgrading the current online spatial data catalog, which is housed at the NLC, and for outreach efforts related to the online catalog and related FGDC Metadata Standards. Larry Z. noted that the GIS Str. Cmte. was a collaborating organization with the NLC in the grant proposal and it included funds for both the NLC and the GIS Str. Cmte.

Larry Z. said that he assumed that the Str. Cmte. wanted to continue with the project as proposed in the grant, but there was probably the opportunity right now to decide not to go forward with it. Larry Z. indicated that the grant award would probably mean that the Data Inventory Pilot Project Team would need to be reconvened, to at a minimum help define the minimum metadata fields that should be used to capture the data currently needed for the current online catalog. Larry also noted that the grant award would also mean that he would have to devote a significant amount of his time to fulfilling the commitments made in the grant proposal (7 mths. at 25% and 5 mths. at 40%). Larry Z. also noted that the grant will probably also require some travel for training on the digital spatial metadata standards. The Str. Cmte. congratulated Larry Z. on the grant award and expressed its support for continuing with the project. Jim M. suggested that one thing that might be considered was the use of an college student intern to help with some of the work that Larry Z. might have to do otherwise himself. Larry Z. asked the Str. Cmte. about their reactions to this idea and there appeared to be a general openness to exploring this possibility.

**NSGIC MEMBERSHIP.** Larry Z. informed the Str. Cmte. that he had received a billing for membership in the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). Larry Z. noted that the billing included the following options: a) \$150 for membership only; or b) \$400 for membership and conference fees. Larry Z. noted that option b) resulted in a savings of \$50 for the conference fees if paid by August 15th. There was discussion about the availability of funds for this and Rod A. indicated that he felt that with the action of the Legislature to create a position to support the Str. Cmte.'s activities in the DAS-IDS Division that there was funds available. Jim B. moved, Jim M. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. authorize Larry Z. to attend the 1995 NSGIC Conference and that the combined NSGIC membership and conference registration fee of \$400 be paid. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote # 3, on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.** There were no reports from the GIS Review, Data Inventory, Policy, Technical Standards, or Education Subcmtes.

GPS Coordination Subcmte. Jim B. noted that he is still examining various methods of providing GPS Base Station service for the state. Jim B. indicated that one specific piece of feedback he needed from the Str. Cmte. or other potential users was the turn around time they needed for the data. Jim B. indicated that he is currently looking at a system that will provide next-day service in terms of data availability (i.e. the ability to get access to yesterday's data today). Jim wanted to know if that was a particular problem for anyone. No one indicated that was a problem.

**STR. CMTE. MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES.** Duane Stott informed the group that Scotts Bluff County had recently completed GPS all the section corners in a 3 x 6 mile area around Scottsbluff/Gering. Jon O. noted that the DOR had sponsored a satellite downlink telecast for a two session GPS workshop put on by the Iowa Dept. of Transportation and the Federal DOT.

**OTHER BUSINESS. NACO Annual Convention** Larry Z. noted that with the discussion of working closer with NACO and the priority the Str. Cmte. placed on educational efforts targeted at public officials, the upcoming October Annual Convention of NACO was probably something in which the Str. Cmte. should participate. Larry Z. indicated that he believed the booth costs for the last couple years was approximately \$100. Cliff W. inquired about the possibility of Scotts Bluff County and/or Lancaster County having available some sort of live demo for a GIS booth. Both Duane S. and Jim Langtry indicated that they thought that might be a possibility. Cliff W. indicated that he would inquire about the possibility of a letter of invitation from NACO for that purpose. The Str. Cmte. indicated their support for hosting another booth at the NACO Annual Convention.

**Coordinator's Office Move.** Larry Z. reported that with the changes made by the Legislature in the last session, the GIS Coordinator's office is being moved to be with the DAS Intergovernmental Data Services Division, Rm 344, 3rd floor east side of the Capitol. His phone number, and Internet email address will be the same, but his FAX number will be 471-4157. His mailing address will be DAS-IDS, P.O. Box 94664, State Capitol, 68509. Larry indicated the move was planned for the next day following the Str. Cmte. meeting.

**ESRI Seminar.** Larry Z. noted that as part of the meeting handouts, there was a draft flyer on a three-day ESRI Seminar to be held in Lincoln on August 22-24th. Larry Z. noted that it was included for general information purposes only, at the request of ESRI.

**TO DO LIST:**

Duane Stott - will explore the feasibility of have a live demo of GIS capabilities and functionalities, based on Scotts Bluff County work available at the October NACO Annual Convention.

Larry Worrell, Jim Langtry - will explore the feasibility of have a live demo of GIS capabilities and functionalities, based on Lancaster County work available at the October NACO Annual Convention.

Cliff Welsh - will inquire about a letter of invitation to Scotts Bluff and Lancaster Counties to have a demo of GIS capabilities at the NACO Annual Convention.

Larry Zink - will contact NACO to arrange for a booth at their 1995 Annual Convention.

GIS Steering Committee  
VOTING RECORD

Date 7/19/95

Attendance Minutes An. Rpt. NSGIC doc

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

P = present  
A = absent

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