

GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - November 17, 1993

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

Present were (* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	Governor's Policy Research Office
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resources Commission
* Jim Brown	State Surveyor's Office
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
Pat Hammond	Department of Environmental Quality
Steve Jonas	Nebraska Library Commission
Gunnit Khurana	Natural Resources Commission
Terry Kubicek	Natural Resources Commission
* Jim Merchant	Conservation and Survey Division
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte NRD
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
Steve Rathje	Natural Resources Commission
* Duane Stott	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Susan Traylor	Game & Parks Commission
* Laura Valenziano	Legislative Research Office
Kate Wakefield	Nebraska Library Commission
* Dayle Williamson	Natural Resources Commission
* Larry Worrell	Lancaster County Surveyor
Paul Yamamoto	Department of Environmental Quality
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 November 10, 1993.

ROLL CALL: Chair Rod Armstrong opened the meeting at approximately 1:30 with a call of the roll. Eleven duly authorized voting members were present and therefore the Str. Cmte. had the necessary quorum to conduct business (*see attached Voting Record*).

MINUTES: Dayle Williamson moved, and Jon Ogden seconded, that the minutes of the October 20, 1993, be approved as written. The motion carried by a vote of nine for and two not voting (stated reason for not voting was that they were not in attendance at the October meeting) (*see attached Voting Record, Vote #1*).

DATA INVENTORY PILOT PROJECT: Data Inventory Chair, Jon O., and Steve Jonas of the Nebraska Library Commission provided a demonstration of the Pilot Project's Online data entry screens and data search capabilities. A limited amount of data had been entered into the database to do initial testing. Jon O. thanked Steve Jonas, Steve Rathje, Paul Yamamoto, Kate Wakefield, Pat Hammond, Laura Valenziano, and Mahendra Bansal for their work to bring this project to this phase of development.

Blaine D. moved, and Jim M. seconded, that the Pilot Project Team be commended for their work, and that they should move ahead and complete developmental phase of this Online Data Inventory Project. The motion passed unanimously with nine votes in favor (*see the attached Voting Record, vote # 2*).

ONLINE FLOOD DAMAGE REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT: The Natural Resources Commission staff (Gunnit, Mahendra, and Terry) presented a demo of a beta version of an online system, they are working to develop, to record and access flood damage information. This system would be tied to an online GIS to allow for online geographic referencing and analysis. The NRC staff invited other agency's to provide suggestions or to be involved in the project if they wished.

Jim Merchant suggested that both the Online Data Inventory Project and the Flood Damage Reporting Project be considered for demonstration at the Midwest GIS Symposium in Kansas City this coming spring.

POLICY SUBCMTE:

Legislative Report II. In response to Tom Lamberson's inquiry at the October Str. Cmte. meeting, Larry Z. presented a proposed outline of the structure and content of the next GIS report to the Legislature, due by the end of the year. The proposed report outline basically followed the Legislative language related to GIS in the last Appropriations bill.

Larry Z. specifically requested Str. Cmte. feedback on three areas related to the Legislative Report: 1) permission to use agencies' written comments regarding plans for GIS, 2) his proposed steps and timeline for long-range GIS planning, and 3) how to handle review of likely FY '93-95 GIS Appropriation requests.

Larry Z. proposed to use in the report the written comments from state agencies' about their GIS plans and interests. Larry Z. noted that we have two current sources for this agency feedback: a) responses from an earlier letter from Rod A. asking for feedback and support for the Strategic Plan, b) responses to the recently returned survey inquiring about agency plans for GIS. Larry Z. noted that his plan would be to combine relevant comments from both that reflect on the agency's interest and plans for GIS. The Str. Cmte. was supportive of using this in the report, provided that the agencies have the opportunity to review it in advance.

Larry Z. proposed to include in the report an eight step planning process with a timeline between now and December of 1994, to prepare a long-range GIS development plan and recommendations for the 1995 Legislative session. The Str. Cmte. was generally supportive of the steps and timeline. Dayle W. suggested that the deadline for preparing the recommendations for funding initiatives be move to October instead of December 1994.

Response to Agency FY '93-95 GIS Requests. The last area that Larry Z. requested guidance on was how to process and handle the likely new GIS appropriation requests for FY '93-95, on which the Legislature would probably appreciate feedback from the GIS Steering Committee. Larry Z. passed out a summary of the responses from the agencies' survey that seemed to indicate a likely GIS-related appropriations request. The Str Cmte. decided to ask to Policy Subcmte. to review these likely requests and make recommendations to the Str. Cmte. at the December 1993 meeting. Overall the Str. Cmte. expressed support for the approach that Larry Z. had laid out for the December report.

Laura V. expressed concern that this was a lot of writing for one person and suggested it be broken up into sections for others to help with. Laura V. offered to help with the writing. Rod indicated that he had also offered to help with one section.

Digital Orthophoto Quads. Because the meeting agenda was behind schedule, Jim M. offered to postpone his presentation on DOQs until the December meeting. Rod A. reported on the discussion on DOQs that was held at the last Policy Subcmte. meeting. The general sense at that meeting was that there was a significant interest and potential for productive cooperation between governmental and other public agencies in this area and it would probably merit an organized follow up.

The Policy Subcmte. suggested that a significant factor in determining the merits of the Str. Cmte. investing time in this area was the interest, and potential for funding support, from local government entities. It was proposed that the next step would be to pull together a meeting of local government representatives to explore the idea.

Local Government Meeting on DOQs. Rod A. and Larry Z. reported on a meeting they pulled together of people representing the following groups to discuss local government's interest in DOQs: Nebr. Assoc. of County Officials, League of Municipalities, County Assessors and Natural Resource Districts (John M. couldn't make it at the last minute). Jim Brown and Larry Worrell also attended the meeting. It was apparent from the meeting that there was considerable interest and use of aerial photography by local governments and significant funds are currently spent on this type of product. It was also apparent that there was a lot of education that needs to be done about the currently available products. Most local governmental units do not currently use aerial photography in a digital format. Another pertinent fact was that there is considerable diversity as to when local governments invest in updating aerial photography.

Overall, it seemed apparent that there is productive work to do in this area. However, it would probably require considerable organizational and educational time and effort to be successful. A possible next step would be a needs/interest assessment of targeted local governments. NACO and the League offered to help with this.

Next Steps on DOQs? Rod A. suggested that the Str. Cmte. might want to form a Task Group to explore this general area in more detail. Larry W. suggested that there was a lot of education that needs to be done and one good place to start was the District NACO mtgs that start early next year. Larry W. said a lot of County Assessor attend those meetings and he suggested taking a roadshow to them. Larry Z. affirmed the idea, but raised a caution about being able to get a roadshow ready in time.

Laura V. suggested that this whole area go back to the Policy Subcmte. for more discussion and formulation of specific proposals for action. There was general support for Laurel's proposal. Dayle W. suggested that the Revenue Dept. should be invited. Jim B. suggested that this is an area where the Education Subcmte. may want to focus some attention. Jim B. seconded the idea that there is a considerable need for education of local government officials about the availability and potential of this type of data and associated software. Jim M. raised the question as to whether County Assessor are on the mailing list.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE: Mahendra B. provided copies of a revised Technical Standards proposal, that he and Gunjit Khurana had developed based on the feedback on the previous proposal.

Rod A. suggested that since the Str. Cmte. had obviously not had time to review the proposal, that action on it be deferred until the December Str. Cmte. mtg. Rod A. expressed his hope that something could be adopted by the Str. Cmte. at the December meeting.

Rod A. asked if the Technical Standards Subcmte. had reviewed this newest revision. Terry K., Technical Standards Chair, said he didn't feel it was necessary because substantive changes had not been made since the Subcmte. had last reviewed the proposal. Larry Z. stated his belief that it would be good if the Technical Standards Subcmte. would meet, review, and make recommendations to the Str. Cmte. on the proposal. Terry K. again stated that he didn't feel that was necessary. Rod A. suggested that people review the document and forward any questions or concerns to Larry Z. by Dec. 1st. Larry could then forward any concerns to Terry K.

CHANGE OF MEETING CHAIRS & LOST OF QUORUM: At this point in the meeting Rod A. had to leave for another meeting, and in the absence of V.Chair, Lash Chaffin, Rod A. asked Jim Brown to take over as Chair. Following a brief break the Str. Cmte. lacked a quorum to conduct business so no official action was taken passed this point.

EDUCATION SUBCMTE: No report.

GIS ROTUNDA FAIR: Larry Z. provided an overview of the current planning related to the GIS Fair. He reported that 16 organizations had expressed a "serious interest" in participating in the Fair. Larry reported that the Subcmte was proposing to rent convention style booths for the displays. Larry Z. also reported that the Fair Subcmte. was proposing to request a \$50 fee from presenters to cover the expenses of the Fair (booth and table rental, printing, etc.). This fee would have to be paid through the State Surveyor's cash fund.

Larry Z. also reported that the Subcmte. was proposing to develop a map of Nebraska that would demonstrate a range of types of GIS applications. Larry asked how the Str. Cmte. felt about buying some advertisement for the Fair and how many of these special color maps the Subcmte. should get printed. The sense of the Str. Cmte. was to focus on the State Senators and not add extra expense to attract the general public. The public is welcome to attend, but the focus should be on an educational opportunity for the Senators.

REVIEW SUBCMTE: Since there was no longer a quorum, action on approving the revised guidelines for the GIS Review Subcmte was deferred until the December mtg.

REPRIORITIZING OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: Lacking a quorum, action on this item was also deferred to the next Str. Cmte. meeting in December.

OTHER BUSINESS: Larry Z. reported on discussion he had recently with Rod Larson, Army Corps of Engineers. Larry Z. shared with the Str. Cmte. the general background on a proposal that has been made for the Corps to work with the State of Iowa to develop a statewide GIS for disaster response and planning. FEMA is being asked to fund this GIS development.

Larry Z. reported that Rod Larson of the Corps is interested in exploring ways that the Corps and the Str. Cmte. can work together to explore proposals like Iowa's but also in a more general way. Larry reported that he had also talked with Rick Semms, Nebraska Civil Defense Agency, about these ideas. Rick expressed an interest in exploring them with the Str. Cmte. One possible resource for some funding of this type of project is money that the state has received from FEMA for disaster hazard mitigation and planning.

The general feeling was that the Str. Cmte. should move forthrightly to explore these avenues. Dayle W. suggested that Larry Z. attempt to set up a meeting with the Corps representatives and Nebraska Civil Defense representatives before the December Str. Cmte. meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next Str. Cmte. meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15th in the East Campus Union. There will be no GIS Forum that day. Dayle W. had suggested that the Str. Cmte. start the meeting early at 12:30 and have lunch during the meeting due to the likely heavy agenda. No action was taken on this suggestion, I (Larry Z.) propose that we follow Dayle's suggestion unless people get back to me with objections.

TO DO LISTS:

Everyone - review the latest revision of the draft Technical Standards and get any questions, comments or concerns to Larry Zink by December 1st.

Data Inventory Pilot Project Team - complete the initial development and testing of the online metadata system.

Policy Subcmte - will review the likely new GIS appropriations requests for FY '93-95 and make recommendations to the Str. Cmte. for action, related to Legislative recommendations.

Policy Subcmte - will revisit the DOQ/Intergovernmental Research and Coordination issue and develop specific action proposal for the Str. Cmte. to consider. It was suggested that the Revenue Dept be invited to this meeting.

Technical Standards Subcmte - will review and respond to any concerns or suggestions expressed about the current revision of the Technical Standards proposal.

Larry - will collect any concerns or suggestions related to the current revisions of the Technical Standards proposal and forward them to the Subcmte. Chair, Terry Kubicek.

Items deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of quorum:

1. Jim Merchant's presentation on DOQs.
2. Adoption of the Revised Operation Guidelines for the GIS Review Subcmte.
3. Reprioritizing of the Strategic Objectives.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 11/17/93

Attendance #1 #2
Minutes Proj.

		Minutes	Proj.							
DAS - Steve Henderson	A									
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	P	NV	+							
John Miyoshi	P	NV	+							
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	+	+							
Judy Larsen	A		+							
Larry Worrell	P	+	+							
Lash Chaffin	A									
Duane Stott	P	+	+							
Dennis Wilson	A									
TOTALS	11-P 4-A	9+	11+	2-NV						

P = present
A = absent

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