

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- January 4, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote +):

Mahendra Bansal		Department of Natural Resources
Jim Brown	+	State Surveyor
Lash Chaffin	+	League of Municipalities
Rob Christian		NOPAT
John Craig		Department of Roads
Blaine Dinwiddie	+	Omaha Public Power District
Greg Fetterman		LPRCA
Steve Fredrick		Health and Human Services
Dick Genrich	+	Department of Roads
Dan Hoffman	+	Policy Research Office
Erik Hubl		Lancaster County Assessors Office
Ed Kelley		Department of Roads
Carl Kinkade		LLCHD
Mele Koneya	+	Game and Parks
Josh Lear		Department of Roads
Bob Martin	+	Property Assessment and Taxation
Scott McIntyre	+	City of Omaha
John Miyoshi	+	NRD
Dick Nelson	+	Health and Human Services
Scott Richert		Lancaster County Assessors Office
Steve Schafer	+	Chief Information Officer
Duane Stott	+	Scottsbluff County
Cliff Welsh	+	NACO
Dayle Williamson	+	Department of Natural Resources
Larry Worrell	+	Lancaster County
Paul Yamamoto	+	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Zink		GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

NITC Community Technology Fund Grant

Strategic Plan Follow-up

Land Records Modernization Advisory Committee

Agency Reports

NITC Presentations

Land Record Modernization Resolution

OMB Initiative

Voting Record

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 December 28, 2000.

ROLL CALL. Chairperson Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. and requested a call of the roll. Fourteen duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Chair Lash Chaffin requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2000 GIS Steering Committee meeting. Dayle Williamson moved, and Larry Worrell seconded, that the

minutes of the November 30, 2000 meeting be approved as circulated.
(see vote # 1 on Voting Record sheet).

NITC COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY FUND GRANT APPLICATION. Larry Zink gave brief overview of the planned NITC Community Technology Fund grant application that he was working with John Miyoshi to develop and submit on behalf of the Lower Platte North NRD. A preproposal grant summary had been available in advance of the meeting as a link to the agenda. Larry noted that the grant is intended to support a follow-up project from the original NHD pilot in the Logan Creek watershed in northeast Nebraska. If funded, this proposal would develop an NHD database for the Salt Creek watershed (Lincoln and Wahoo). Larry asked for Steering Committee support for this grant proposal. Larry Worrell moved, Dick Genrich seconded, that the Steering Committee go on record as supporting this NHD grant proposal. The motion passed. (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet).

PRESENTATION TO THE NITC ON JANUARY 23. Steve Schafer explained that this presentation is designed to update the NITC on Steering Committee projects relevant to them. The focus will be on standards development efforts and barriers to database development.

Lash said that this presentation was discussed at length during the Executive Committee meeting and the plan was to give a brief history of the committee and to talk some about the bigger projects that have already been completed, along with a short description of database development efforts. There will be some discussion about the agencies spearheading specific database development efforts along with mention of the databases that lack clear agency leadership at this point. Those databases will provide the opportunity for the NITC to become involved in this arena if they so choose.

Larry said he has already made a presentation to the NITC Technical Panel. He is on the agenda to speak to the NITC State Government and Community Councils, as well as the NITC itself. If there are any thoughts or specific concerns that need to be highlighted to the NITC those should be addressed at this meeting.

Larry said he told them the Steering Committee would probably be coming back to them for their endorsement of the local government guidelines that are in the process of being developed as well as potentially the technical assistance concept under consideration. They seemed very interested in both.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOLLOW-UP.

Executive Committee Report: Lash said that during the last Executive Committee meeting there was a lot of discussion about the level of frustration that seems to stem from attempting to reconcile differing visions of the Steering Committee's role and how it should work. Many of the Committee's priority projects are dependent on what the Committee is and what it means to agencies and local government which leads to a need for further discussion within the Committee about what direction to go and what purpose the Committee serves. There is considerable dissatisfaction about the fact that every time the Committee tries to do something, the initiative winds up getting squashed and that raises the question of whether or not that is appropriate and where the future of this body is. It may be that the Committee needs to seek further development and empowerment.

Larry added that this discussion was precipitated by the diagram he presented at the last meeting that attempted to illustrate the relationship of key spatial data infrastructure organizational/policy components to one another. The Committee charged the Executive Committee with the responsibility of framing relevant questions to be addressed with respect to those relationships. Larry drafted two papers as a result of that discussion. One addresses the status of priority database development. The other speaks to interrelationship issues about these organizational policy components.

Larry said because the questions related to the interrelationships between the policy components were so fundamental, the Executive Committee suggested that a good starting point for the Steering Committee's discussion of these issues would be the question of whether this body is needed and if so what its structure should be.

Lash said that he entertained questions about the necessity of maintaining this body, if it is possible for some of the state organizational elements to be placed elsewhere. Eight years ago, there was no high level of coordination

among the major agencies but that has changed. As for strategic initiatives, there has been little progress in that arena.

Blaine said he believes there is still a role for the Committee to discuss some of the larger scope projects. Perhaps it should no longer be a stand-alone entity, but a subcommittee beneath a more formal, finance committee. As far as identifying specific projects to be done, it seems that various departments are going to do whatever they want to without any direction from the Steering Committee.

Duane said that implementation of GIS on a statewide basis is a huge issue. Unless steps are taken, GIS will continue to develop in the more populated areas but will not have any impact anywhere else.

Dayle said that he strongly supports the development of the regional center concept as a step that needs to be taken if rural counties in Nebraska are going to be involved in GIS and offer cost effective products to the taxpayers. No one is going to help them do it unless regional centers are developed.

Lash said he also likes that project but sometimes feels that the Steering Committee gets in the way of someone championing that project because of its political nature and the nature of the agencies involved. With its current structure and resources, he feels that there just appears to be no way for the GIS Steering Committee to be the launching pad for this effort.

Steve Schafer said that the development of standards and guidelines are an important part of the function the Steering Committee serves and is a piece not being done on a coordinated level. The second major task for the Committee is coordinating the development of databases. Continued focus on those framework databases, identifying and communicating specific barriers to their development can only aid in bringing those efforts to completion in a reasonable, timely fashion. The third, more nebulous area is to identify opportunities to obtain greater value out of the efforts already in process.

Larry Worrell said that this committee began ten years ago as an ad hoc committee with four members. It came together because there were so many proprietary systems that no one was ever going to be able to communicate. That is no longer an issue. The goal at the time was to provide guidance, advice, and help to smaller communities to people who couldn't afford it because the state had the money, the expertise, and the ability to go ahead with whatever projects they wanted to. That hasn't changed. Smaller counties do not have the capacity to develop GIS, particularly operating under the tax lids. If the Committee chooses to no longer provide guidance, assistance, communication, and help in the legislature to acquire funding, then the efforts of this body are a waste of time.

Lash asked Larry Worrell to discuss some of the early meetings. Larry said that the first meetings were comprised of himself, Jim Brown, and two University professors. The only concern at that time was building a GIS and how that could be accomplished. Larry was able to convince his county to build a GIS from the ground up, only because of outside contacts the county commissioners had. Lash asked when Terry, Mahendra and the Legislative Research people became involved. Larry indicated that it was happening all along, that they just kept pulling various people into their circle. The NRC, with their broad use of information, was a key player.

Larry said that a major issue facing counties on a two to three year basis is maintaining a current cadastral subscription. Counties pay ten to thirty thousand dollars a year to maintain an updated subscription and it is already outdated by the time it is paid for. A regional service center, whether it is divided by Department of Roads districts or four or five centers throughout the state, the money that the counties are wasting now could provide one part of a shared concept.

Blaine said that Lash makes a good point, that the Steering Committee doesn't do any of those things. If someone else took the initiative and took on the project, the Steering Committee would back them but typically it does not take the lead. The purpose of the Committee is good and needs to exist but its present structure, capabilities and how it operates hasn't accomplished very much toward meeting its own goals. There are no educational centers out there, there have been few outreach efforts, there are not many GIS created, published standards in use right now. There is no funding and no ability to accomplish much of what the Committee has expressed the desire to do.

Scott McIntyre said that they experienced some of the same frustrations in Omaha. They have city and county departments that have developed applications and a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge and information. However, when a department tries to implement GIS for the first time, they find that almost everything they need to build the application is there but not located in a central repository or easily accessible. A regional GIS service bureau sponsored and supported by the government would provide a place for agencies to obtain the necessary expertise and advice that is now too widespread to be usable and would prevent the necessity of paying for a consultant to become versed in agency specific applications.

Larry Zink said that what has been expressed to this point is a lot of frustration but there has been no mention of the organizational policy issues that were brought up in the strategic plan, such as a regional mapping center, a service bureau, improving the clearinghouse etc. The question is whether these are the elements that need to be attached to this group in some way to improve the weaknesses inherent in the organizational structure. Does the Committee want to pursue regional mapping centers? Are additional technical GIS services in state government attractive to the Committee? Does the Committee want to enhance the clearinghouse so that people can more easily reference and find that data? The federal government is beginning to call for increased coordination with the state and local level and is beginning to look to the state to spearhead those efforts. Where does the growing role of the federal government fit into the structure of GIS in Nebraska?

The questions everywhere seem to revolve around getting and maintaining data and what the organizational structures that need to be put in place to do that are. It is no longer a technology issue, it has become a data issue with the question of how to put new structures in place to support it on an ongoing basis.

Jim Brown commented that perhaps the questions being asked were the wrong ones. While asking how many centers should be created, who should staff them, and what type of services they should provide are all excellent questions, there is still one overriding question. That is how does the Steering Committee promote this concept and move it forward.

John Craig, NDOR, said that land use planning is an issue that comes up over and over for the Department of Roads because of the scope of their work. It was the main impetus behind propelling Roads into developing an internal GIS strategic plan.

Recently, he placed one of his former deputy state directors in Omaha to do long-range collaborative planning, which provides a resource for directing development in the counties. Sarpy County wants to grow in an intelligent way and it is clear that the metropolitan area planning association who is supposed to be doing a lot of that planning is not all it can be. They are working on a 20-25 year plan that is due to be released soon. That brings the question back to what is the organizational structure to actually move something forward and advocate it to make it happen. The feeling is that the Steering Committee possesses valuable experience that should be leverageable assisting with the implementation of GIS planning.

As Roads begins to work its GIS plan and integrate it as part of its longer range planning efforts, the idea is to develop a model in Sarpy County and then execute it in the remaining districts. This is a new way of looking at things, a cultural shift that does not come easily but is being forced upon agencies.

Another piece of the puzzle beyond long-range collaborative planning and land use is how can the data be used. GIS is the answer. Having data is useless without a way to manipulate it.

Roads is also partnering with the University this spring to have a 'how to do long-range collaborative planning' conference. Without a doubt it will come back to land use planning, the necessary data sets, and a GIS.

Another aspect in the transportation business is a vested interest in transportation management centers. A better way to respond to accidents and to clearing hazards needs to be developed, which means using GIS and GPS. Consequently, they are looking at setting such a center up in Omaha within the next two or three years. There may be a way to set up a GIS model in this county along with the Transportation Management Center.

Lash said that one thing that the GIS Steering Committee lacks is a tie in with a heavily motivated, heavily funded

agency. Some of the early successful projects stemmed from the NRC's motivation and coordination. If Roads is beginning to move into a position to get to a level of coordination, that might be a good avenue to develop advocacy. John Craig commented that the real message here is that there is a legitimate requirement that drives GIS.

Dayle said that counties are beginning to accept the concept of land use planning much better these days than they used to. That is the only way to get things done in a quality fashion, to bring GIS in and overlay them. John Craig said that was a good way to articulate the problems with GIS. A lot of nay-sayers believe that implementing GIS use is pouring money down a black hole.

Larry said that one question that came out of the Executive Committee meeting in terms of how to promote GIS is that perhaps the Steering Committee needs to step back as a group and take a look at using the statutory definition of the body. It is designed with the directors of several very powerful state agencies and/or their designees. Due to the technical nature of GIS, the membership has evolved to include many middle level, technology people. One option toward making progress on Steering Committee goals is to return to the statutory make-up of the Committee and use those positions as leverage. For example, the surface water database is one with many interested parties but no agency who claims ownership. If the Steering Committee brought the heads of these agencies together as members of the Committee along with policy makers, practical solutions could potentially be reached.

Dick Nelson said that the Steering Committee was set up as a steering body, not as an implementation body, consequently, a certain amount of frustration is going to result. The strategic plan that has been put together serves a very valuable purpose. It has a lot of people interested in these issues around the table to discuss pertinent points. He was most interested in the comment about the state agencies being well served and the local entities being left out because that is a perspective he lacks. HHS is in a position to move forward in large part due to the information that has come available through the work done by the Steering Committee through the ability to collaborate with other agencies and that is a very significant accomplishment.

The Steering Committee does not have regulatory authority HHS has, but most people are intelligent enough to know that it won't do any good for them to build a system that does not use standards. By providing standards, the Steering Committee is giving people the opportunity to buy into the system.

The Committee has accomplished a great deal in its time and the best thing to do at this point is to continue working through the collaborative process because this type of thing evolves over time. John may be offering significant opportunity but his advances have been made through a collaborative process. The Steering Committee's relationship with the NITC is less clear. The NITC may be able to accomplish a lot more than the Steering Committee but the Committee has valuable experience to offer.

Scott McIntyre said one of the real benefits of this body is coordination and cooperation that results out of having people brought together and information shared. The frustration expressed seems to center around an inability to help those agencies that are not in this group. Most of the people on the Steering Committee have taken the initiative and been assertive enough to develop GIS within their department, which means that most departments are doing what they want to do. It may be appropriate for the Steering Committee to go to the Governor with recommendations, a proposed cost and some idea of where a regional center should be housed.

Jim Brown said that this is an important enough issue to set it as the Committee's highest priority. He moved for the GIS Steering Committee to set as its first priority the advocacy of the development of regional service centers for county and local government assistance. Duane Stott seconded. Scott asked if this motion entails a state sponsored and funded initiative. Jim said it did though funding the initiative is less important than getting the issue out there.

Cliff said that a state initiative may be required to get things going with consortiums forming once it has been created. Once the centers are in place, there will undoubtedly be many people interested in pitching in on the funding. The problem is getting started. Jim said the Steering Committee has a track record of beginning projects with little or no money and bringing on partners after the fact. Nebraska needs these centers to attain all its important goals in addition to providing cost benefits, saving money property taxes, and making assessment more equal.

Steve asked if property tax savings is documentable. At this point, he is uncertain whether to support the motion or to begin posing arguments. From his perspective, what would be more useful would be to assign a group of people to build the business case for this concept. The other issue here is that this concept promotes a solution rather than bringing forth the problem. The problem is not how to establish GIS service centers, it is how to accomplish land records modernization statewide.

Jim pointed out that his motion simply states that the Steering Committee develop a method of advocacy to facilitate county and local government assistance. That may be the best means to advocate it.

Part of the business case is that people across Nebraska keep designing the same business case over and over. A service center would eliminate that redundancy. Jim said that the questions that keep rising are how many service centers should there be, who should be in charge of it, and how should it be funded. Those questions are never answered and this issue never gets addressed.

Steve said that the bottom line is that this is not the group that has the political power to make these things happen. If these local technical assistance centers to be developed, the real question is how much political capital the League of Municipalities and NACO are willing to spend to accomplish it. That is where the impetus for these centers has to come from. It cannot come from state government.

Cliff said that the state stands to gain as much benefit from these centers as local government does. Steve said that his understanding was that this was a local issue and the question is more what information can this body do to support NACO and the League in their efforts to advocate an appropriate solution.

Cliff said that one of the prime examples of cost benefits from GIS is economic development. Once that is online, it can be expensed at any time. Most of the data contained in the priority databases will be utilized via service centers. That would provide a service not only to the constituency but also provide a return service back to the state by improving the quality of the data available through the priority databases.

Duane added that cadastral mapping has been the key focus of GIS development across the state but for the most part, cadastral maps are out of date. That process is one that could be presented as a need across the state.

Larry Zink said that the biggest argument for state involvement and ownership is that state and federal agencies will benefit from having that cadastral data developed and moved into geospatial format. They need and use the data and it is only going to happen statewide if there is some kind of partnership.

Money is being spent on property tax assessment so it is not a new budget allocation. Ultimately, the case will be based on economic development issues related to the Department of Roads. When they do work, they need to know who owns what and where.

Blaine said that the discussion has come back to what a great idea this all is and that if Jim's motion passes, the Committee will feel like something important has been accomplished. Unfortunately, next year nothing will have changed and there will still be no educational outreach programs. A different approach needs exploration. The concept of lending Steering Committee support to an agency that is going to move forward with it is a good one. If this motion is passed today, then the real issues will be swept away and not be discussed.

Jim said that the purpose of his motion has been misunderstood. The purpose of the motion is to set this issue up as being of primary importance so that it is the focus of all other meetings. This is a concept whose time has come. The GIS Steering Committee is not a state agency group, it is composed of power districts, local governments, municipalities, etc. and was set up as a steering body. Setting this issue as most important for the Committee to address is a critical act of steering.

Larry Zink pointed out that there are two core databases that need extra work and those must be kept in mind when working on priorities. Those are the PLSS/Property Parcel database and the surface water database. Jim said his motion was prefaced with the idea that none of the other issues were less important or should be left out.

Dick Nelson said that funding issues are not going to disappear until a business plan is drafted. The Governor is besieged with requests for money every day, all with the promise of saving him money. A business case would provide necessary legitimacy.

Lash asked if any of the Committee members want to add any amendments to Jim's motion that would include some of the issues brought up by Dick Nelson and Steve Schafer.

Greg Fetterman, coordinator for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance, said that prior to working for the Alliance he worked for local government as a clerk and an assistant city administrator. Coming from that end, it is fairly clear what is needed. Cities and counties are required to report a number of things to the state and a Regional Center could provide the means to facilitate the transfer of that information as well as making it more accessible. A template to use when reporting would allow all the information to be the same statewide and to be entered into a statewide GIS system. If a regional center is established just to promote a GIS system, local government will very likely say they do not have the money or the time to deal with it. A template that includes demographic and zoning information would allow specific requirements to be fed into the system to locate matching geographic areas. Such a system would be invaluable in bringing new business to Nebraska.

Jim proposed an amendment to his motion that the GIS Steering Committee to set as its first priority 'designing and advocating a system' for county and local government assistance'. That would include developing avenues of funding and the methodology.

Steve said that his major concern with the motion stems from not being certain that this avenue actually addresses the core need as well as the sense that the cost for these centers will not be shared proportionally with local government. Also, the Committee has repeatedly discussed a desire to avoid prioritizing because of the difficulty of placing one initiative above another. Instead, the approach has been to identify opportunities for steps that can be taken to move each initiative forward. His idea of a replacement motion would be to support that approach and ask the Steering Committee to spend its time identifying those steps and opportunities toward advancing each of the initiatives in the GIS Strategic Plan.

Scott McIntyre commented that service centers implies a number of small offices across the state and that may not be the best approach. Jim said that his motion did not address the number of centers, simply that service centers be developed. Scott asked if the centers were intended to support state and local government or just local government. Jim explained this was directed specifically for local government because the state is well situated with respect to GIS. Scott suggested adding some terminology into the motion about the GIS Steering Committee working with local government to advocate the service centers.

Larry Zink pointed out that a resolution was passed at the last meeting addressing the importance of land records modernization and the need for state/local partnership. This resolution was a solidification of what has already been included in the strategic plan. Duane said Jim's motion does not eliminate the priorities that have already been established, it simply emphasizes the fact that those goals are unlikely to be realized without a strong effort to develop regional service centers.

Jim said that his intent was for this to be a collaborative work with local government and any addition to the motion to clarify that would be welcome. He does not want to get involved in the details of determining how many centers there should be and who should be in control of it. Larry Zink stated that it was his understanding that the motion Jim was proposing was mainly intended to be an internal Str. Cmte. statement of priority as opposed to an external expression of priorities relative to the multiple initiatives proposed in the GIS Strategic Plan. Jim agreed that this was his intent.

Editor's Note: Tape of meeting discussion unavailable at this point and minutes drafted from rough notes of Str. Cmte. Coordinator.

Following further discussion, a vote was called on Jim Brown's motion, as amended by Jim, "The GIS Steering Committee sets as its first priority the designing and advocating of a system of regional service centers for county

and local government assistance." The motion passed. (*see vote # 2 on Voting Record sheet*).

REVISION OF RESOLUTION ON IMPORTANCE OF LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION AND THE NEED FOR A STATE/LOCAL PARTNERSHIP. Larry Zink noted that in the process of amending and passing a draft resolution at the last meeting on land record modernization the Str. Cmte. made what he feels is probably an unintended grammatical misstatement. He suggested that he thinks the resolution would probably be more consistent with the Str. Cmte.'s intent if the words "will cooperate" were changed to "should cooperate" in Section 2. of the resolution. Larry asked if it okay to make this change. Str. Cmte. members indicated their support for Larry's suggested editorial change and did not feel that a revote was necessary.

Editor's Note: Taping of meeting discussion resumed at this point.

LAND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT. Larry reported that there is discussion within NACO about land record modernization in local government and a possible fee to support such an effort. The Steering Committee's subcommittee is entering into this dialogue with them in order to share with them the thinking of the committee on land record modernization efforts.

In addition, it was note that Jim is exploring the possibility of obtaining federal funding for this effort with the Bureau of Land Management.

BECOMING AN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OMB INITIATIVE.

Larry explained that the Office of Management and the Budget (OMB) is becoming increasingly interested in GIS. Previously, only the FGDC has expressed interest. The OMB seems to be indicating that they will be attaching strings to federal agency expenditures to do more and more coordination among federal agencies as well as state and local entities. They will be asking for reports from coordinating bodies about what is being done with respect to framework or priority issues. These reports will include what has been developed, what hasn't been developed, what the plans are, how much money is being spent on these initiatives and who the individual contacts are.

Larry requested information about the amount of money spent on GIS as he does not have access to budget information.

The OMB is also wanting a federal champion. Larry is not sure what that entails, if it is someone from a federal agency or if it is someone to interface with their federal coordinating efforts. They are also planning to set up a financial team liaison where they will pull together budget people to determine where the resources are and how they can be moved around. It is very conceptual but seems to be some new, serious interest.

Larry asked if the Steering Committee is comfortable with Nathan acting as the federal representative if they are seeking someone from the federal government or Larry if they are seeking an interface from the state/local level.

Dayle commented that Nathan has been promoted and is now stationed in Texas. Larry said that means the Steering Committee is without a formal federal representative. Nathan was elected by federal agencies then appointed by the governor so that process will have to be explored again before a new federal representative can be appointed to the Committee.

Larry observed that this may be a good time to attempt to leverage any initiatives that the Steering Committee might be interested in obtaining federal funds for, such as the surface water database, the property parcel/cadastral database, and possibly the street address database. The Census Bureau called recently to ask if the Steering Committee was working in this area because they are interested in partnering. Larry indicated that to the extent he has the time, he will attempt to follow-up on and develop something for the Str. Cmte. to consider in this regard.

REPORTS ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES. Dick Nelson introduced Steve Fredrick. He is the administrator of the data management section within HHS's Regulations and Licensure. John Erickson used to be the GIS data management expert but he moved over to the Policy Research Office. Steve is heading up a team within the HHS system that is looking at their applications for GIS.

HHS has installed a server and is working with a contractor/consultant. They have trained a number of people in both the financial support agency and the services agency. Now they are beginning to do some rudimentary mapping of health data. It is being used for various kinds of services and programs. Other than at a very high level of aggregate, that sort of mapping will be confidential. They intend to be producing some materials fairly soon.

One of the programs Steve is working on is the agencies vital records: marriage, divorce, death, etc. They anticipate coming out with some GIS data on their web site this year.

John Miyoshi reported that they are working on two GIS projects in the Lower Platte North. Last fall, through a grant with the DEQ they put a well head protection coordinator online. The Coordinator goes out and works with towns to define their well head protection area. They do a contaminant source inventory of potential contaminants within the twenty year time of travel of the municipal well. All the data and all the potential contaminant source in town are put on a GIS system and then onto a CD for easy access. Two cities are now complete.

They have also been attempting to do some regional GIS work. The three NRDs that are in the Lower Platte Corridor alliance include Papio Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte South in Lincoln, and Lower Platte North in Wahoo are putting GIS information on a server housed in the Lower Platte North area. The server should arrive this week and they will be running the Internet Map Server software, similar to what Game and Parks has purchased. Currently there is no data up but they plan to have a great deal of information for the farmers to access, such as DOQs and soil information where available. It has been expanded to include any counties or cities that want to either contribute or access the data. All GIS processing will take place on the server at the NRD's Wahoo shop. It is a much simpler program and the users will not have to purchase licenses to use it.

Dick Genrich reported that they are finishing up their GIS Strategic Plan. Twenty-nine projects were identified and spread across a five-year timeline. The total estimated budget for these projects was approximately 3.2 million dollars over the five year span. As soon as that is finalized January 24, they will be back with the final presentation. Work that is being done includes a process of taking the patterning off to develop graphics for the local roads that the department has committed to completing by 2002. Doug Laney has been working on putting E911 road names on county maps. They will be available on the server. Ed has been working the past couple of years on SIDs and that effort is coming along well. They have not done as well as they promised in terms of corporate limits.

Mele reported that Game and Parks has acquired Internet Mapping Server Software with a grant from the State Records Board. It hasn't been set up yet but it will be within the next month or two. They plan to serve up Game and Parks land records and hunting information to allow users to do interactive mapping and access data.

Dayle said that with respect to the groundwater database wells, DNR has a large backlog of work to be done and has been unable to make any progress in this arena. The tagging issue might be a good place to start until DNR has a better opportunity to move on that. For the next meeting, Dayle suggested that John bring in a presentation on the progress they've made in Abbey.

Mahendra reported that DNR is the lead agency for returning population estimates in between census' and also to review the census count itself. The final review of census data will be complete next month and the information will be released to the states. The second generation of DEMs is complete and has been sent to Rolla, Missouri for their evaluation. USGS has changed their standards since the last time DEMs were done. They discovered that different states used different units of measurement, feet, meters, decimeters etc. so they standardized that element into decimeters. The maps were returned in decimeters, which Nebraska cannot use. Dayle Williamson is looking into this issue.

Steve Schafer said that he has heard reports from several agencies and local entities talking about developing databases and asked what assurances there are that all of these databases will interconnect easily and allow for exchange of data. John said that vendors have more or less solved those issues. Steve asked if entities are all using the same software. John said the software will read the data however the databases are set up. Larry said that no one has invested the time and energy into making sure that all the data is accessible from different areas. Steve asked if that would be a useful discussion to have. Larry agreed it would.

Lash commented that at one point, the Committee had a small group of people who were looking into standardizing some of the processes. Then it was more software issues, but by the time the document was published, it was already obsolete. There probably should be a renewed effort at coordinating these things. Jim said that there is no problem unless a local government comes in with a coordinate system that is not standard or if the same entity is given two different names. Lash asked for this issue to be put on the agenda to discuss a possible new strategy.

Paul reported that they have had an ongoing cooperative agreement with CSD to go out and obtain GPS coordinates for all of their facilities. The current term for these areas is 'environmental interests', which means any facility or area DNR has an interest in.

DEQ has also opened up regional offices throughout the state within the last year. There are five offices in Nebraska now and Paul has been charged with the task of getting regional offices access to GIS. He will be getting them access to Arcview starting next week and getting them started on training. Lash asked where the regional offices are located Paul said Chadron, North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk and Omaha.

Blaine explained that all the electrical facilities digitized and have implemented an application that allows them to graphically track outages across the system and customer reports of problems. They are working on web enabling that application so that customers can take a look where the outages are. They are also creating a real time network so that they know the exact configuration of the electrical network at any given time.

Scott McIntyre said that they are doing a couple of things to update the base maps. The planning department recently cleaned up the street center line coverage by correcting the spelling of street names and inserting missing address ranges. They hope to fly the city this spring to update the orthos. This would be the third version. It was originally flown in 1993 and again in 1998. They wanted to do it last year but the weather was not good enough until after the trees had leafed out. They will get 1/4 meter imagery for the developed area and 1/2 meter for the rural areas.

Erik Hubl reported that Lancaster County voted on the merger of the Assessors office with the Registrar of Deeds and that will take place in two years time. They are working to get models in place to help facilitate a smooth transition in that regard. On the GIS front, they are using a spatial analyst to model areas of the city to show hot spots to obtain a more homogenous flow. They have begun to map mobile homes, because these are also considered real property. A different parcel id structure for it because mobile homes can move to another part of the county.

Scott Richert reported that most of the Association's energies have been focused on the organization of the Symposium. Membership renewal letters were sent out last month.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2001, 1:00 PM at the Nebraska Dept. of Roads.

Vote Tallies for 1/4/01 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Minutes #1	NHD #2	Reg. Map #3					
DAS - Steve Schafer	P	+	NV	NV	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling, Paul Yamamoto	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Jim Merchant, Jim Lacy	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - <u>Mele Koneva</u> Bruce Sackett	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <u>Dayle Williamson</u> Mahendra Bansal	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill Dan Hoffman	A/P	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> (John Craig) Jon Ogden, Ed Kelley	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Clk. Of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Nathan Mc Caleb Kelly Klenke, Steve Peaslee	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi	A/P	.	NV	+	.	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinwiddie Steve Larson	P	+	+	-	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Dick Nelson Steve Frederick	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	14 - P /16 - P	14 +	14 +, 2 - NV	13 +, 1 -, 2 NV	.	.	.	.	.

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

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- March 1, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote +):

Judy Backhaus	+	Clerk of the Legislature
Mahendra Bansal	+	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
McKenzie Barry		LPNNRD
Lash Chaffin	+	League of Nebraska Municipalities
Blaine Dinwiddie	+	Omaha Public Power District
Steve Frederick	+	Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Dick Genrich	+	Nebraska Department of Roads
Erik Hubl		Lancaster County Assessor
Ed Kelley		Nebraska Department of Roads
Carl Kinkade		Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Dept.
Mele Koneya	+	Nebraska Game and Parks
Mark Kuzila	+	Conservation and Survey Division - UNL
Bob Martin	+	Department of Property Assessment and Taxation
John Miyoshi	+	Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Chris Nelsen		Sarpy County Surveyor Office
Dick Nelson	+	Nebraska Health and Human Services System
James Richardson		National Geodetic Survey
Scott Richert		Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Steve Schafer	+	Chief Information Officer
Duane Stott	+	Scottsbluff County
Stu Sutherland		Sarpy County Surveyor's Office
Wayne Vanek		Natural Resources Conservation Services - USDA
Cliff Welsh	+	Nebr. Association of County Officials
Dayle Williamson	+	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Paul Yamamoto	+	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Zink		GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

Multipurpose Land Information System Guidelines
Dept. of Roads GIS Strategic Plan
NITC Technical Panel Request
Election of Officers
Update on Legislation
OMB E-Teams

National Hydrographic Dataset
LPNNRD Water Well Contamination Demo
Str. Cmte. Symposium Booth
Future Meeting Schedule
GIS/LIS Association and Symposium
Voting Record

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 Thursday, February 22, 2001.

ROLL CALL: Chairperson Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Twelve duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

MINUTES: Chairperson Lash Chaffin asked for any comments or corrections on the minutes from the January meeting. Dayle said that the second generation of DEMs have been completed for a block, not statewide. Dayle Williamson moved for the minutes to be approved with corrections as noted. John Miyoshi seconded. The motion passed (see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT MULTIPURPOSE LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

Erik reported there are three new draft sections available for Steering Committee's review, the introduction (I), a section describing GIS in general (II), and a section dealing with other data layers (IX). Any comments or suggestions should be submitted to the Advisory Committee by May so that this document can be presented for the Steering Committee's approval.

In addition, the Advisory Committee noted the need to periodically review the entire document for needed revisions and requests authorization from the Steering Committee to return to previous, already adopted drafts, to make corrections and edits as necessary. Any significant structural or policy changes would be referred back to the Steering Committee for approval.

Lash asked if there were any problems with allowing the Advisory Committee editing authority. No concerns were expressed.

Erik noted that the Advisory Committee is committed to completing sections on "Implementation Plan and Strategies" and "Needs Assessment" and some additional items in the Appendix. Once these two sections are completed, the Advisory Committee will have completed at least a couple more sections than it had set as its initial goals and commitments relative to this project. Due to other time commitments, the Committee would like to dissolve itself in June or July of this year. Erik noted that this will still leave sections 10-13 of the original hypothetical outline unwritten. However, the Advisory Committee feels the document will stand alone, as it is, and that may be these sections can be written by another group.

Erik also suggested, that the Steering Committee needs to think about how the document will be maintained in the future and how the guidelines or standards adopted by the Steering Committee and incorporated in the document will be enforced.

The Steering Committee members expressed their appreciation and thanks for all the good work of the Advisory Committee.

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATASET (NHD): Larry reported that Josh Lear, DNR, has completed the revised line work for the high resolution NHD pilot project in the Logan Creek Watershed in NE Nebraska. In the next month they hope to arrange additional onsite training and complete the conflation of the attributes for this initial NHD pilot project.

Larry noted that the Steering Committee had previously approved the concept of a grant proposal to be submitted to the NITC Community Technology Grant Funds to seek grant funding for development of NHD for at least another watershed. Larry has been working with Lower Platte North NRD, DNR CSD, and DEQ to lay plans for follow-up proposals to build on what has been learned by and the momentum of the initial NHD pilot project. From the pilot project, it has become clear that the bulk of the staff time required to develop a high resolution NHD involves the on-screen digitizing of the stream locations and shapes. This is necessary because currently there does not exist comprehensive hydrographic digital line work, at the 1:24,000 scale, for Nebraska surface water features. In light of this, the agencies involved in this effort have decided to explore the feasibility of utilizing student labor for this part of the development process. Mark Kuzila, CSD, has been very helpful in exploring this approach. This new approach is reflected in the LPNNRD's NITC grant proposal, which is focused on the Salt Creek Watershed in Lancaster and Saunders County. It is hoped that the NITC will fund this next NHD watershed project, and that this will serve to build on the interagency cooperation and momentum, while more comprehensive funding for a statewide effort is explored.

In pursuit of more comprehensive funding for a statewide effort, Larry has also been working with these same agencies to develop a draft prospectus to share with Rep. Bereuter, in an effort to explore the possibility of securing federal funding for a statewide NHD effort. This prospectus is built around the same concepts in the LPNNRD NITC grant proposal, including the use of student digitizers, but expanded statewide. This prospectus estimates that a high-resolution NHD could be developed for the entire state for approximately \$1.8 million, over a 4-5 year period. This estimate compares with a USGS estimate of approximately \$5 million.

Erik Hubl observed that there are two separate issues involved here. One is the completion of the Salt Creek project the other is completion of the hydrographic database statewide. If the state initiative goes through, then the question becomes would the Salt Creek initiative be threatened. Larry commented that they are operating on two different time lines. John Miyoshi added that the team working in this area needs to be kept together and working in case something does happen.

Larry noted that a major unknown with this project is how the use of student labor will affect the project and its outcome.

Larry and John Miyoshi indicated that the grant process has been helpful in terms of getting the interested parties together to get this project going. There appears to be support for moving forward with the project concept as developed from the Logan Creek project. Larry indicated that if the approach to Rep. Bereuter does not pan out, the next recourse will be to attempt to organize state, federal and local agency support for a watershed-by-watershed development effort. It appears likely that USGS will be very limited in terms of the resources that they will be able to apply to this effort.

Lash said that Mary Harding from the Lottery Commission is interested in funding an intergovernmental project with environmental impact.

Steve Schafer commented that it would be a good idea to keep Lieutenant Governor Maurstad informed about the progress of this project.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW: Dick Genrich reported that the Department of Roads hired a consultant and began development of their strategic plan last October. It was completed in January.

The reason they began creating the plan was to redefine GIS use in NDOR for the next five years. Dick indicated that he is getting close to retirement and there was a need to lay a solid organizational base and direction for the future of GIS within the agency. In addition, there was the intent to expand GIS use to the branch offices. The consultant approached the plan with a two step process. The first step was completion of a needs assessment, the second was creation of a plan.

The needs assessment began with educational meetings, visionary workshops, interviews with pertinent personnel, and prioritization workshops. Out of this assessment came a GIS vision for the department and a set of strategic goals. These include developing a realistic plan with a budget, establishing the use of GIS as an integral part of doing business, continuing to add to the GIS base map, building a widespread GIS team and attaining agency-wide buy in.

The main issues that surfaced were improvement of data access and creation of a GIS repository as well as the development of an easy to use web interface. The next step was to identify potential GIS projects and prioritize them. The criteria used were the degree of impact on business functions, the amount of data available, the number of possible uses for the data, and the frequency of use. From these criteria, the top applications to emerge were web access to a data repository, a GIS digilog, GIS base map enhancement, GIS pavement management interface and bridges. Dick noted that the commitment to incorporate the local road networks into the base map was included in the strategic plan.

The final recommendations ended with 29 stand-alone projects proposed. Each project has defined steps, a specific budget, schedules, expected benefits from completion, and duration. The consultant indicated that one of the most important elements to projects of this type is to obtain early success and follow through.

The proposed budget will be \$3 million across a span of four years. To make the plan work, they need to keep up buy in at all levels and involve upper level management in the process as well as allocating appropriate staff. In addition, they will maintain realistic expectations and generate user involvement.

The guiding principal for the planning effort was to focus on the purpose of the application rather than on the technology.

Lash asked if they had any idea what it might cost to complete the proposed projects in a different way. Dick said they didn't know what the costs might be, but he did note that the bulk of the projected cost is for consultant labor and the department may not use that much consultant labor.

LOWER PLATTE NORTH ABIE WATER WELL CONTAMINATION PROJECT: John Miyoshi introduced Mackenzie Barry, wellhead coordinator for LPNDRD. She is here to explain how contaminants are located and how GIS is used to provide this information to the general public. Dayle added this is a good demonstration of how larger communities can help smaller ones.

Mackenzie explained that she works with three communities of varying sizes, Abie, population 100, Skyler, population 300, and Fremont, a much larger community. She noted that GIS graphic demonstrations were the easiest way to show them what is going on.

The federal government has mandated wellhead protection. The act is designed to help communities protect their public drinking water. Coordinators identify all sources of potential contamination in the last 20 years.

Abie is largely a farming community, including both a dairy farm and a hog farm. Specific points of contamination are marked with owner information and potential contaminants. Abandoned wells are also marked and are slated to be plugged.

Blaine asked how cooperative people are about giving out information and how she obtains her information. Mackenzie said that in small towns, people are readily willing to talk about such things. Steve asked how much time and effort it took to put the database together. Mackenzie said that Fremont took the longest to complete but Abie did not take much time.

Lash asked how they locate the abandon wells. Mackenzie said through old hand pumps and people who remember.

Larry asked if the data is available via a web. John says it is.

Erik asked if this presentation has been made to the city. Mackenzie says it has been. Erik asked what their reaction was. Mackenzie said they are amazed by the technology. They knew they had problems and that they were under federal mandate to clean it up so there was no ill will there.

Erik if there were any other issues or programs beyond well capping stemming from these database efforts. Mackenzie said that in Skyler, there were a lot of people interested in mapping sand points and in zoning.

Blaine asked if there were any privacy or regulation concerns by the citizens. Mackenzie said there were none.

NITC TECHNICAL PANEL REQUEST: Steve Schafer explained that Larry gave an update on the Steering Committee activities to the NITC's Technical Panel. Many things that are occurring with this body tie in well with efforts being made by the NITC, particularly in terms of standards and guidelines. The NITC has several work groups in place, but there is no one working on GIS standards. Because of this, the Technical Panel has adopted a formal resolution requesting the Steering Committee come forward with standards. They will then invite comments from the community and other interested parties and recommend adoption.

The main advantage to this action is that the NITC has the authority to set standards and agencies will be looking to them to serve this function.

Lash asked if reworking what has already been done and submitting it in the appropriate format would be acceptable. Steve said that the MPLIS committee has already done the initial work and that the federal government has completed standards regarding metadata.

Larry said the MPLIS committee is working on land record modernization and that the Steering Committee has already passed a resolution to forward the federal standards on metadata to the NITC. He noted that there is probably a need for a committee to be formed to look into Internet access guidelines. There are agencies working to web enable their GIS but little interagency dialogue is occurring.

Blaine said that developing statewide GIS guidelines is a very broad undertaking. It might be feasible to develop standards for a few databases but it is not really possible to create standards statewide. Steve said that standards are less important for a single entity developing a database or a series of databases. A database that relies on a number of entities needs to meet more stringent requirements in order to facilitate data sharing. The first question that needs to be answered is whether standards are needed in the first place.

Larry said there is merit in recommending the surface water database efforts follow the National Hydrographic Database guidelines.

Blaine said he is uncomfortable with the Steering Committee taking on such a major chunk of responsibility.

Mark asked who will be doing the work.

Larry explained this is more of an invitation than a request and there is no one better suited to fill the gap than the Steering Committee. If there is wide discomfort with attempting to address guidelines statewide, one option would be to address a single area the Steering Committee would be comfortable working with. Steve added that if this issue is too large, the only way to make any progress is to throw resources at it. The Steering Committee can begin this process and provide much needed direction and guidance.

Duane commented that one means of funding an initiative toward creating GIS guidelines statewide would be the Regional Centers.

The Steering Committee agreed to explore the need for forming an Advisory Committee on Internet mapping. Lash said interested parties should contact Larry. This is an opening for the Steering Committee to address issues that have come up over the past three years but not resolved.

GIS STEERING COMMITTEE BOOTH: Larry said that the Nebraska 2001 Symposium will be held May 7-10. Currently

the Steering Committee is registered as a benefactor cosponsor and the Committee needs to decide whether to sponsor a booth. It is an additional \$125 to have a booth.

Mark commented that CALMIT will have a booth as will CSD.

Cliff moved for the Steering Committee to have a booth. John seconded. The motion passed (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet).

Mark asked who would be staffing the booth. Larry said he envisioned having brochures on the table without anyone manning the booth. He added that it would be worthwhile for the Committee to consider investing in a reusable banner. Lash asked how much it would cost. Larry said in the neighborhood of \$150. Lash volunteered to buy one for the Committee.

ELECTIONS: Larry explained that Steering Committee elections occur once a year with officer terms running from July to July. The May meeting is the last meeting before July, therefore, elections are scheduled for that meeting. A copy of Committee voting procedures has been included with the agenda packet for review.

PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE: Larry said that in the last few years the Committee has adopted a twelve month meeting schedule based on meeting the first Thursday of every other month. Larry noted that he was proposing such a schedule for the next twelve months. The only exception would be the May meeting, which will occur immediately following the close of the Symposium on May 10th.

Dick Nelson moved to adopt the proposed schedule. Dick Genrich seconded. The motion passed (see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet).

UPDATE ON LEGISLATION: Larry noted that he had compiled a list of proposed legislation that he thought might be of interest to the Steering Committee and it was attached to the agenda. He said that LB170/171 are of interest to the Committee. This is legislation submitted by Cathy Lang to add language that would provide the Dept. of Property Assessment and Taxation with the authority to use a particular fund for a land records modernization initiative. Larry indicated that it was his understanding that this would include all counties, not just the ones for which she has assessment responsibility.

LB617 is NACO's bill to add a \$5 filing fee. \$3 would go to the counties for an IT fund. This bill was killed in committee, largely because county officials were not in agreement. Larry quickly reviewed the other pieces of proposed legislation on his list.

NEBRASKA GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION AND SYMPOSIUM: Scott Richert reported that they have received 100 membership renewals for the GIS/LIS Association. He also noted that it is time for election of officers and the Association is looking for nominees. He also reported that there is still room for more presentations at the symposium if anyone is interested. Also, registrations are being accepted online now. Scott also reported that they have arranged for registrants to the ArcView class to receive three continuing education credits.

Larry said that the Steering Committee receives one free registration for being a sponsor and another free space for sponsoring a booth. Larry plans to use one of the free spots, which leaves the other one available for another Committee member.

BECOMING AN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (I-TEAM) IN CONJUNCTION WITH OMB INITIATIVE: Larry explained that the OMB has launched an initiative designed to provide them with a more active role in encouraging and facilitating intergovernmental coordination. Up until now, the FGDC has tried to get coordination efforts moving but had limited real authority or motivating power. The OMB has significant influence over agency budgets and indicate they plan to use that influence to spur further spatial data coordination efforts.

A major conceptual tool OMB and FGDC are proposing to use is the formation of what they are calling "Implementation Teams" or I-Teams. The concept involves pulling together the relevant state, federal and local agencies for a given geographic area to identify and develop specific plans or proposals for developing priority spatial databases. As part of the concept, the OMB will then work at the federal budget process level to attempt to integrate support for these plans into the different federal agencies budgets.

Larry reported that some states are already moving in the direction of I-Team development, but the door still seems to be open. Larry noted that this initiative started in the final days of the Clinton Administration, and it still is not clear what level of support it will have from the new Administration. The Steering Committee's strategic plan could provide the foundation upon which to build an "I-Team" plan. Overall coordination with the federal government agencies has the potential for being

highly beneficial, though up to now not much has been done to that end on either side.

Duane asked what the process is to initiate action on this issue.

Larry said there is no set defined process at the moment. OMG/FGDC seem to be opening a door and looking for state and local GIS organizations to create the process. One of the problems has been a desire at the top level of federal agencies to coordinate but little information seemed to flow down to the lower levels. At this point, the initiative is entirely at the Steering Committee's discretion. One approach would be to convene a broader meeting of interested agencies to discuss the I-Team initiative, priority databases, and identify individuals interested in working to develop more detailed implementation proposals. We would need to be careful so that we don't just spend time duplicating what we already have done with the Strategic Plan. We could possibly start by getting feedback on the concepts and proposals put forward in the Strategic Plan. Larry also noted that since Nathan McCaleb has moved out of the state, it could also be a good time and process to identify a possible replacement federal agency representative to the Steering Committee.

Larry commented that from his perspective there appeared to be three main areas that could potentially really benefit from increased collaboration: a surface water database, local land records, and roads.

Duane said that it is important for the Steering Committee to take advantage of this invitation. It was generally agreed that Larry should pursue this avenue to the extent that he has the time.

REPORTS ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES: Mahendra reported that in working with the DEMs, the USGS changed their scale measurement from feet to decimeters. The first generation was done in feet and they have agreed to continue to do the DEMs in feet but will also have them done in decimeters. The national database will be in decimeters, the state in feet.

Dayle said the USGS is looking at a 22% cut in funding. That could stall many cost sharing programs that they are involved with. Mahendra added this is the last time the USGS will provide training at no charge.

Larry commented that the potential cuts are one reason the NHD grant proposal includes minimal USGS involvement.

Dick Genrich reported that they have 51 maps online now and are working on getting all 500 city maps online.

Larry noted that Jim Merchant has in the past represented Nebraska during planning sessions for the regional MidAmerican Symposiums. However, Jim has indicated that he is currently over committed and can not take on this responsibility. Larry indicated that he felt Nebraska should be involved and that he will assume that role unless someone else is willing to do so.

Dayle Williamson said he is retiring and this will be his last Steering Committee meeting. The other Steering Committee wished Dayle well and thanked him for his involvement and leadership in Nebraska GIS development.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10th, 1:30 pm in the Cornhusker Hotel, immediately following the close of the GIS Symposium.

Vote Tallies for 3/1/01 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Min. #1	Symposium Booth #2	Prop. Meeting Schedule #3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <u>Steve Schafer</u> (Lori McClurg)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling, Paul Yamamoto	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Jim Merchant	A/P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - <u>Mele Koneya</u> Bruce Sackett	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <u>Dayle Williamson</u> Mahendra Bansal	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - <u>Cathy Lang</u> Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill Dan Hoffman	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> Ed Kelley, (John Craig)	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Pat O'Donnell Judy Backhaus	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Nathan McCaleb Steve Peasley, Wayne Vanek	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
<u>John Miyoshi</u> Doug Steinke	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Blaine Dinwiddie</u> Steve Larson	A/P	NV	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Dick Nelson</u> <u>Steve Frederick</u>	A/P	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	12/15 - P	13 - +	15 - +	15 - +	.	.	.	.	.

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

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- May 10, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote +):

Judy Backhaus	+	Clerk of the Legislature
Mahendra Bansal		Department of Natural Resources
Jim Brown	+	State Surveyor
Lash Chaffin	+	League of Nebraska Municipalities
Rob Christian		Department of Property Assessment and Taxation
Blaine Dinwiddie	+	Omaha Public Power District
Brian Dunnigan	+	Department of Natural Resources
John Erickson	+	Policy Research Office
Steve Frederick	+	Health and Human Services
Dick Genrich	+	Nebraska Department of Roads
Erik Hubl		Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Mele Koneya	+	Nebraska Game and Parks
Mark Kuzila	+	Conservation and Survey Division
Jim Langtry	+	Lancaster County Engineer
Bob Martin	+	Department of Property Assessment and Taxation
Scott McIntyre	+	City of Omaha
John Miyoshi	+	Lower Platte North NRD
Jeff Peake		University of Nebraska - Omaha
Steve Peaslee	+	USDA - NRCS
James Richardson		NGS
Shaula Ross		Lower Platte North NRD
Shelley Sileh		USGS, MCMC
Brooke Stansbury		Nebraska Game and Park Commission
Duane Stott	+	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Greg Vossler		Adams County Highway Department
Darryl Williams		USGS, MCMC
Larry Worrell	+	Lancaster County Engineer
Paul Yamamoto	+	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Zink		GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

Multipurpose Land Information Systems
Election of Officers
Developing an I Team
State/Tribal Workshop
Voting Record

Public Comments
Advisory Committee on Interactive Internet
ESRI Bulk Discounts
Member Reports

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 Thursday, May 3, 2001.

ROLL CALL: Chairperson Lash Chaffin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 pm. Ten duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

MINUTES: Chairperson Lash Chaffin asked for any comments or corrections on the minutes from the March meeting. There were no comments. Mark Kuzila moved to approve the minutes as submitted. John Miyoshi seconded. The motion passed(see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The floor was opened for public comment on the symposium or other items. Jim Langtry said that this event was well attended. It was good to see so much interest in GIS and to share information about ongoing projects.

Jim Brown moved to issue ten 'atta boys' to the GIS/LIS Association from the GIS Steering Committee. Lash seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT MULTIPURPOSE LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Erik Hubl reported that the Committee is formally submitting sections 1, 2, and 7 for official approval. Erik also noted that the 'Planning for a Successful GIS Implementation' section is now available in draft form for comment.

Yesterday, the Committee sponsored a session on standards that was well attended and lasted more than an hour past the end of the day. There appears to be growing interest in and understanding of the need for a document of this type.

Larry Worrell moved to formally adopt sections 1, 2, and 7. Brian Dunnigan seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Lash announced that officers terms end in June. Larry added that the rules and voting procedures have been included in the agenda packet. Common practice in years past has included taking nominations for chair and vice chair with multiple nominations resulting in election by secret ballot. Officers are elected for a term of one year with unlimited terms permissible and are selected for the person, not the agency.

Lash declared the nominations for Chair open.

John Miyoshi commented that he likes to rotate the chairperson every two years and proceeded to nominate Jim Brown. Blaine seconded.

Larry Worrell moved to cease nominations. Judy Backhaus seconded. As there were no other nominations for the position of chairperson, Jim Brown was elected chair by acclamation.

Lash opened nominations for Vice Chair. Larry Worrell nominated Duane Stott. Scott McIntyre seconded.

Dick Genrich moved to cease nominations. Larry Worrell seconded. As there were no other nominations for the position of vice chairperson, Duane Stott was elected vice chairperson by acclamation.

CREATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERACTIVE INTERNET: Larry explained that the Steering Committee received a request from the Technical Panel of the NITC to address standards in several areas. The Steering Committee charged Larry with determining if there was a need to create an advisory committee to look into this. To this end, he sponsored a meeting of interested parties and the attendees did determine that creation of an Advisory Committee would be beneficial. Larry then drafted a resolution on the matter.

John commented that the group's feeling was that this is the future of GIS. Some entities are struggling while others are already there and some sort of users group to offer mutual support and expertise is required. John moved to authorize the formation of an advisory committee. Judy seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #4 on Voting Record sheet)

Lash asked if formal committee members would be selected. Larry said it was the consensus of those attending the initial scoping meeting that a free floating committee comprised of interested agencies and individuals rather than a structured entity would be something they would like to try. This approach meet with the approval of the Steering Committee.

DEVELOPING AN I TEAM: Larry commented that this item has been on the agenda for the past few meetings and is an initiative that came out of the US Office of Management and Budget. Larry suggested that if the Steering Committee is interested in obtaining federal funds for geospatial development efforts, then it is probably worth a significant effort to pursue this concept to pave the way for that collaboration.

Because the I-Team or Implementation Team concept was introduced in the Clinton administration, there was some question as to whether it would survive the transition. It appears to have done so. It is still in the concept stage but there is at least an I-Team template set up.

Larry noted that the USGS has expressed interest in working with and helping to support the Steering Committee to develop an I-Team plan for Nebraska. Larry also noted that the Steering Committee's Strategic Plan outlines plans for several databases and for those, it should simply be a matter of translating those plan into I-Team format and implementing the action plans. However, he noted that there are others that could benefit from more dialog. Among those databases he highlighted the following: cadastral databases, property parcels, surface water, transportation and street addresses. One suggestion was to possibly convene a broader meeting later this summer to discuss the current strategic plan, determine whether it meets the needs of everyone concerned, and if not organize some working groups to develop further plans.

Darryl Williamson and Shelley Silch from the USGS in Rolla stated USGS's interested in working with Nebraska to develop an I-Team Plan. They indicated that USGS is willing to provide Shelley's time between now and the end of Sept. 2001 to work with Nebraska to develop an I-Team Plan. They are also willing to provide up to \$50,000 in expense reimbursement for costs associated with developing or implementing the Nebraska I-Team Plan. The parameters for the use of these funds are fairly flexible, with the exception that they can not be used for data development.

Shelley and Darryl provided an overview of their understanding of the I-Team concept. The I-Team concept was developed by the OMB and is based on the desire to make Framework/NSDI work, as well as to make federal agencies work together in pursuit of the NSDI. The idea is to encourage collaboration efforts to occur horizontally and vertically rather than coming from the top down. The FGDC sees these collaboration efforts as working through state-level "Implementation Teams", partnered with a Federal Partners Team, a Financing Solutions Team, and a Technology Advisory Group at the Federal level.

The new OMB paradigm includes the idea that that NSDI should be grown from the bottom up and include both public and private partners. By partnering and collaborating, resources can be pooled to leverage investments. This type of arrangement will allow data to be shared and costs to be allocated fairly.

Because the federal government does not have sufficient resources to collect data at the scale needed by cities, counties and states, the new federal role has been reengineered to allow them to be a resource for agencies and to provide guidance, not to dictate. The first step is to identify the state's needs and because Nebraska already has a strategic plan in place, any I-Team efforts would be focused on working to build on these plans already made.

It is envisioned that the state level I-Teams will implement the new paradigm, including public/private partnerships, as well as develop, test and use standards that will guide federal actions. The I-Teams will identify the state framework along with needed steps that will become the "implementation plan". They will also aggregate their efforts and plans with other I-Teams, in addition to working with the FGDC.

The Federal Partners team will consist of senior officials and key Federal agencies and will focus federal efforts. It will further coordinate with I-Teams and energize framework development at the federal level.

The Financing Solutions Team is to help the I-Teams address the mismatch between the need for long-term financing and the reliance on short-term annual funding and will explore intergovernmental and public/private financing options. It will also be aimed at helping the Congress and legislatures to understand the benefits of aligning investments, exploring better use of the existing appropriation and procurement structure, and exploring interagency and cross-cutting mechanisms.

The Technical Advisory Group will be a resource for I-Teams that is technology neutral and open to all vendors designed to help solve common challenges. It will be a mechanism for keeping all the partners informed of cross-cutting and innovative solutions. It will assist the I-Teams in developing and testing new products and solutions as well as transfer knowledge of how to build interoperable networks and systems.

The end goal is leverage investments for all partners.

Shelly Sileh said that the Steering Committee has a nice strategic plan in place that can be translated into an I-Team plan without a lot of extra work.

Larry commented that during development of the strategic plan, there was some discussion about naming specific dollar amounts and resources needed but in the end this was never addressed because of time constraints. The I-Team planning may provide a reason to take these further steps in detailed planning. The I-Team concept seems to provide a vehicle for getting more open planning and resources sharing channels with the federal government agencies. Everyone is interested in developing databases and acquiring information but few have the resources to do it alone and this appears to be a means to enhance partnerships with the federal agencies.

Duane added that it sounds quite a bit like the regional center concept that was discussed during the strategic plan development.

Erik Hubl asked when the I-Team concept surfaced. Larry explained that last year at the NSGIC meeting it was discussed but the Steering Committee was in the midst of creating the Strategic Plan. After that was completed, the administration changed and there was some question about whether the program would survive at all.

Larry also indicated that it has been three years since we held a meeting of federal agencies working with Nebraska-related geospatial data and the I-Team process may dovetail with that need very nicely. Larry also suggested that we need to have a federal agency's meeting to nominate someone to replace Nathan McCaleb, since Nathan has been transferred out of Nebraska. A federal agencies meeting may be a good time to review the Strategic Plan and see if it matches federal data development priorities and to explore avenues for further collaboration.

It was decided that the timeline was too short to make definitive decisions related to the I-Team and the USGS offer of assistance at this meeting. It was suggested that a meeting of the Executive Committee should be convened by early June to further discuss these issues. Lash added that the agencies most affected should also be present at that meeting.

NEBRASKA GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION SYMPOSIUM: There was general discuss of the success of the Symposium and the great job that the planning committee did in organizing it. The earlier motion of congratulations was noted. John Miyoshi also noted that Larry Zink had been given an award in recognition of his special contributions to the GIS community and stated his opinion that the award was a well deserved recognition for his efforts on behalf of the symposium and the Steering Committee in general.

ESRI BULK DISCOUNTS: Larry explained that ESRI offers a bulk discount for the purchase of software and that with the significant changes in the new version of ESRI software he was wondering whether this was something the Steering Committee wanted him to pursue. Larry noted that the discounts do not apply to software upgrades. He spoke with the DAS Material Division about possible efforts on their part to pool resources for the state but there didn't seem to be much interest in doing so at that level.

IM Services is willing to funnel money through their accounts to purchase in bulk if agencies are interested in working that direction. The cost savings is potentially significant. Larry asked how many new systems agencies see buying in the next six months and how much of his time should be allocated to investigating this area.

Jim Brown commented that the major cost with ESRI is the maintenance agreements.

Lash suggested Larry speak with ESRI about anticipating a year's worth of sales to determine if a deal can be made that way. If not, no further action is necessary. There was a concern about the amount of Larry's time that such an effort might take.

Larry added that discounts are also available for online training. The price per class drops from \$100 to \$80 per class at quantities of 50 classes or more.

STATE TRIBAL GI WORKSHOP: Larry explained that there is federal interest in stimulating further GIS coordination involvement between state governments and tribes. About a year ago at the cadastral workshop in Utah, Larry had the opportunity to do some fairly extensive outreach to tribes here in Nebraska. He did discover that there is some GIS work being done by Nebraska tribes and he expected some tribal representatives to attend the cadastral workshop, but they did attend. The FGDC is helping to facilitate a regional meeting of state GIS and local tribal governments on August 21 and 22 at the Eros Data Center in Sioux Falls. Larry has been invited to participate.

Lash suggested a tribal government representative should be added to the Steering Committee membership. Larry agreed but indicated that doing so would result in increased travel reimbursement costs. Larry noted that currently the Committee possesses only enough funding to reimburse two members for their trips to Lincoln. An additional member requiring reimbursement would mean decisions about resource allocation would have to be made.

REPORTS ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES: Mahendra reported that due to requests from several NRD's, the DNR is reorganizing census data by natural resource district. They will have that data soon.

Larry added that Jim Castenera of the Census Bureau offered to come and do training on uses of census data. There must be at least 15 people interested. Larry noted that NDOR may take the lead in organizing such a training session. Lash asked Duane to take that information to the Election Commission and to NACO and also asked for John Gayle's office to be notified of the opportunity.

Mele said that Game and Parks created a properties map two years ago and are now working on the second generation. Hundreds of properties are listed. Larry commented that this is the most important map to have come out of the needs assessment.

John Erickson said that some time this summer, the governor's office will be meeting to discuss state agency GIS collaboration efforts. Larry added that the meeting was initiated in response to a suggestion by John Craig at Roads.

Jim Brown said that his agency's website was finally hacked and apologized for any untoward messages that may have appeared before the problem was corrected.

Also, Larry Z. and Duane S. were involved in drafting letters of support for legislation introduced by a senator from North Carolina to seek additional resources for the BLM to support efforts to develop the PLSS layer. The initial push came from the Western Governors Association and support will be solicited from Bereuter's office if it comes up. The feeling is that the funding has a good chance of coming through. Jim Brown indicated he would like the I-Team to get started and begin to collaborate with the BLM. The GIS Steering Committee will need to come up with an implementation plan for the PLSS layer development to have a chance at any federal funding.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned.

Vote Tallies for 5/10/01 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Min. #1	"Atta Boy" for Symposium #2	MPLIS Guidelines #3	Internet Adv. Cmte. #4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - Steve Schafer (Lori McClurg)	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling, Paul Yamamoto	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Jim Merchant	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Mele Koneva Bruce Sackett	A/P	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.
NRC - Brian Dunningan Mahendra Bansal	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	A/P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill Dan Hoffman, John Erickson	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
DOR - Dick Genrich Ed Kelley, (John Craig)	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Cik of Leg. - Pat O'Donnell Judy Backhaus	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Nathan McCaleb Steve Peasley, Wayne Vanek	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi Doug Steinke	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinviddie Steve Larson	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Chiff Welsh	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	A/P	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.
Dick Nelson Steve Fredenck	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	10/17 - P	10 - +	14 - +	15 - +	16 - +	.	.	.	.

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

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- July 5, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote *):

Jim Brown	+	State Surveyor
Lash Chaffin	+	League of Municipalities
Blaine Dinwiddie	+	Omaha Public Power District
Brian Dunnigan	+	Department of Natural Resources
John Erickson	+	Policy Research Office
Dick Genrich	+	Nebraska Department of Roads
Lance Hedquist		City Administrator, South Sioux City
Mark Kuzila	+	Conservation and Survey Division - UNL
Tom Lamberson	+	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Langtry	+	Lancaster County Engineer
Bob Martin	+	Department of Property Assessment and Taxation
John Miyoshi	+	Lower Platte North Natural Resource District
Steve Peaslee	+	USDA - NRCS
Steve Schafer	+	Chief Information Officer
Paul Yamamoto		Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Zink		GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

National Hydrography Dataset
GIS/LIS Association
Member Reports

Developing an I-Team
State-Tribal Regional GIS Forum
Voting Record

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 Thursday, June 28, 2001.

ROLL CALL: Larry announced that Chairperson Jim Brown would be late and that Vice Chairperson Duane Stott would be unable to attend the meeting. Mark Kuzila was designated acting Chairperson until Jim's arrival and called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Eleven duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

MINUTES: Acting Chairperson Mark Kuzila asked for any comments or corrections on the minutes from the March meeting. There were none. John Miyoshi moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Tom Lamberson seconded. The motion passed(see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATASET:

a. Status of Current NHD Pilot Project (Logan Creek). Larry announced that this project is close to completion. The main hurdle is getting the time and attention from the USGS personnel for final evaluation.

b. Status of LPN NRD Salt Creek Watershed Project. Because the funding to develop this dataset for the entire state is not available at this point, funding for additional watersheds is being sought on an individual basis. The intent is to maintain both the interagency interest and momentum that has been generated in developing this database. John Miyoshi, Lower Platte North NRD has applied for and received a grant to fund the development of a second watershed, Salt Creek - Wahoo Watershed. This is to be a joint project of DNR, CSD and the Lower Platte NRD and will be a first trial of the efficacy of

using student digitizers.

c. NITC State Council Collaborative Grant Fund Application. According to Steve Schafer, there is an additional grant opportunity available through the State Government Council for collaborative projects that might be used to develop another watershed. Larry indicated that the NHD working group was interested in applying for a State Government Collaborative Grant for further NHD development and that the Dept. of Natural Resources would probably take the lead in applying for an NHD grant. Larry Zink asked if there was any possibility of obtaining financial support, in the range of \$5,000, from other interested agencies. It was Larry's opinion that the ability to place collaborative money on the table will strengthen the Committee's position with the NITC and improve the chances of obtaining funds from them. There was a generally positive response from the Committee. Tom suggested approaching the NRD's with potential watersheds to be developed for funding.

Larry offered for the Committee's consideration a resolution confirming the Steering Committee's endorsement of the NHD project, the specific NITC grant application, and worded in a general enough fashion to allow it to be used by anyone applying for money related to the development of the NHD database.

Mark Kuzila suggested applying for trust grants from the Environmental Trust Fund which are required to be dispersed across the state. Larry indicated that the working group had considered this possibility but had gotten some negative feedback regarding the likelihood of funding this type of project. John Miyoshi agreed to follow up on that.

John Miyoshi moved to approve the resolution. Tom Lamberson seconded. Steve Schafer commented that while he strongly supports this effort, he will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet).

Larry also shared with the Committee an NHD strategy paper that had been drafted for Rep. Bereuter's consideration in support of funding for statewide development of NHD. The response from Rep. Bereuter was apparently very on the concept, but that the budget was very tight at this point. Steve Schafer indicated that he really liked the way this statewide proposal was put together.

DEVELOPING AN I TEAM: Larry gave some general background about the I-Team concept as it was developed by the US Office of Management and Budget. Larry noted that the general thrust of this effort is to facilitate and encourage the development and implementation of intergovernmental plans for the collaborative development of core Framework geospatial data. Larry also noted that the feedback he has received is that the Steering Committee's Strategic Plan is precisely the right direction to go to begin development of an I-Team in Nebraska.

During the last meeting, the USGS set forth a proposal to work with the Steering Committee in getting an I-Team plan created. Pending Steering Committee approval, they will allocate one of their staff member's (Shelley Silich) time toward that endeavor, as well as pay any expenses she might incur through September 30th. In addition, there is \$50,000 of additional federal funds available for use by the Steering Committee for efforts directed toward developing or implementing an I-Team. The one exception is that these funds can not be used for data development.

The Steering Committee elected to have the Executive Committee look into this issue. The Executive Committee determined it was in the Steering Committee's best interest to accept the proposal advanced by the USGS. Shelley will be asked to focus her efforts on converting the Strategic Plan into I-Team verbiage and to arrange a second meeting of federal agency representatives. The federal representatives meeting will serve two functions; it will allow the Steering Committee to better assess opportunities for collaboration and funding and it will allow the selection of a new federal representative to replace Nathan McCaleb who has been reassigned out of the state.

At this point, the Steering Committee needs to take formal action to adopt a resolution to develop an I-Team and to accept the USGS proposal.

Lash Chaffin moved for the Steering Committee to develop an I-Team for Nebraska and adopt an I-Team Proposal paper outlining the Steering Committee's intent. Steve Schafer seconded. The motion passed (see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet).

Lash Chaffin moved to adopt a resolution outlining the Steering Committee's acceptance of the USGS proposal. Dick Genrich seconded. The motion passed (see vote #4 on Voting Record sheet).

Jim Brown offered the following options discussed at the Executive Committee meeting as possible uses for the available \$50,000.

- Travel expenses

- Meeting of federal agencies
- Pilot project for well based mapping
- Development of a model inter-local agreement
- Education and outreach
- Consultant to develop a model for creating regional map centers
- Enhancing current clearinghouse
- Exploration of web mapping with possible support from the Emergency Response Team

Jim Brown noted the benefit of hiring a consultant to draft a model regional map center is that no one agency will have the resources to do this and will directly address completion of one of the Steering Committee's goals, assistance to local government. If this concept is ever to seriously be broached with legislators and the Governor, the Steering Committee must have a detailed plan with estimated costs to present to them.

Steve Peasley stated his opinion that another issue that could and should be addressed is enhancement of the state's geospatial clearinghouse. Steve suggested that regional GIS centers will depend on the clearinghouse to find and share data. Larry agreed that clearinghouse is in definite need of improvement and noted that this issue was also raised in the Strategic Plan the Steering Committee adopted last year.

Jim Brown also agreed that the clearinghouse is in need work. Jim stated his belief, that in hindsight, the Steering Committee probably made a mistake when it decided to base its clearinghouse on Nebraska Online, when it was transferred from the Nebraska Library Commisison. To be effective and current, the clearinghouse needs at least a minimal level of on-going support. With the clearinghouse based just on Nebraska Online, the needed institutional/staff support is just not available. Jim raised the question as to whether the Dept. of Natural Resources would be will to take on the responsibility of hosting and maintaining the entire state geospatial data clearinghouse, instead of just their Data Bank Clearinghouse.

Brian Dunnigan indicated that he would raise this issue with the DNR directors.

Jim Brown also noted that the USGS money is to assist in the completion of a one-time project rather than to provide an ongoing funding source. Jim stated his view that study on the development of Regional Mapping Centers would be a finite project while the Clearinghouse is an ongoing concern. In the course of the on-going discussion, it was agreed that Steering Committee needed to focus some attention on enhancing the Clearinghouse and that the Executive Committee was probably a place to begin that discussion.

Tom Lamberson moved to submit the following as potential projects to the USGS and to empower the Executive Committee to work with USGS to further define a specific proposal.

1. Land Records Modernization to include hiring a consultant to develop a model regional GIS center.
2. Use of GIS for Emergency Planning and Response.

Lash Chaffin seconded. The motion passed (see vote #5 on Voting Record sheet).

NEBRASKA GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION: No representative was present to give an update.

Steve Schafer asked if there was any word about the success of the symposium. Larry indicated while he didn't have the exact figures available, he thought that overall most folks felt that the Symposium was a great success. It was his understanding that overall the Association's Symposium budget was comfortably in black overall, but they did have some higher than expected expenses due to the large mailing list. Mark Kuzila seconded his concern about the size and cost of the GIS mailing list. Larry reported on current discussions of ways to pare down the list and maybe move to electronic copies of the newsletter. Lash offered to assume the cost of mailing to municipalities if a list could be prepared separately.

STATE TRIBAL GI WORKSHOP: Larry reminded the Committee that he has been invited to participate in the State Tribal Workshop that will be held on August 21 and 22 at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Larry said that this regional forum was being underwritten by the FGDC and was being organized by the GIS coordinator from New Jersey. Larry invited anyone with concerns or suggestions in this area to share them with him prior to this meeting. Mark Kuzila indicated that he would check on information that might be useful related to available funding related to Native American colleges.

REPORTS ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES: Tom Lamberson announced that he has been appointed to the National Data Standards Committee and commented that one main priority for them seems to be locational standards. They may be interested in utilizing Steering Committee expertise.

Lash Chaffin introduced the South Sioux City Administrator, Lance Hedquist. Lance gave a brief overview of South Sioux City activities related to online, digital local government.

Bob Martin said his office is prepared to take up the fight for land records modernization.

Steve Peaslee said the NRCS is looking at a nationwide purchase of GIS software. One of the main issues they will be facing at that point is training as ArcInfo/View is installed in all their field offices. SURGO is bottlenecked due to a major revision that has proven to be buggy.

Larry Zink asked the Committee members to mark September 5 as the federal representatives meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned.

Vote Tallies for 7/5/01 GIS Str. Cmt. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Min. #1	NHD Resolution #2	I-Team Proposal #3	Resol. on USGS I-Team Coop. #4	Priorities USGS \$50,000 Proposal #5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <u>Steve Schafer</u>	P	NV	NV	+	+	+	.	.	.
DEQ - <u>Tom Lamberson</u> <u>Dennis Burling, Paul Yamamoto</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
CSD - <u>Mark Kuzila</u> <u>Jim Merchant, Jim Lacy</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
NGPC - <u>Mele Koneya</u> <u>Bruce Sackett</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <u>Brian Dunningan</u> <u>M. Bansal (Roger Patterson)</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
PTD - <u>Cathy Lang</u> <u>Bob Martin, Scott Gaines</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
PRO - <u>Dan Hoffman</u> <u>John Erickson, (Lauren Hill)</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> <u>(Roger Craig)</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
St.Surv - <u>Jim Brown</u>	A/P	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - <u>Judy Backhaus (Patrick O'Donnell)</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Nathan McCaleb</u> <u>Steve Peasley</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
<u>John Miyoshi</u> <u>Doug Steinke</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
<u>Blaine Dinwiddie</u> <u>Steve Larson</u>	A/P	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
<u>Chif Welsh</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Larry Worrell</u> <u>Jim Langtry</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
<u>Lash Chaffin</u>	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
<u>Duane Stott</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Scott McIntyre</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
HHIS - <u>Dick Nelson</u> <u>Steve Frederick</u>	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	11/13 - P	10 + 1 NV	12 + 1 NV	13 +	13 +	13 +	.	.	.

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

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- September 6, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote *):

Ryan Axman	Lower Platte North NRD
Jim Brown	+ State Surveyor
Lash Chaffin	+ League of Municipalities
Steve Gaul	+ Department of Natural Resources
Dick Genrich	+ Nebraska Department of Roads
Ed Kelley	Nebraska Department of Roads
Roger Khem	Nebraska Department of Roads
Mele Koneya	+ Nebraska Game and Park
Ronda Lewis	Nebraska Department of Roads
Bob Martin	+ Department of Property Assessment and Taxation
Ronald Matzner	FGDC
Scott McIntyre	+ City of Omaha
John Miyoshi	+ Lower Platte North NRD
Steve Schafer	+ Chief Information Officer
Chris Stanton	+ Nebraska Legislature
Duane Stott	+ Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
James Richardson	NGS
Scott Richert	Lancaster County Assessor
Paul Yamamoto	+ Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Cliff Welsh	+ Nebraska Association of County Officials
Larry Zink	GIS Steering Committee Coordinator

[Complete Meeting Agenda](#)

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

[National Hydrographic Database](#)
[Advisory Committee on Interactive Internet](#)
[Developing an I Team](#)
[USGS/GIS Steering Committee Agreement](#)
[GIS Clearinghouse](#)
[GIS/LIS Association Report](#)
[Voting Record](#)

[Tribal Workshop](#)
[Report on and Discussion of Federal Meeting](#)
[Land Records Modernization](#)
[Federal Representative](#)
[NACO Annual Convention](#)
[Member Agency Reports](#)

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 Thursday, August 30, 2001.

ROLL CALL: Acting Chairperson Duane Stott called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05. There were nine duly authorized members present therefore a quorum was present to conduct business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATASET: Steve Gaul reported that DNR has essentially completed the Logan Creek watershed NHD pilot project and is ready to start on the Salt Creek watershed. They are looking at starting two student digitizers in the next two weeks. Josh Lear is doing some of the early technical work and the remainder of the technical work should be completed by the end of March.

A NITC grant application was submitted at the end of August to develop NHD for the Lower Elkhorn watershed as an additional project. Beyond that project, they hope to work with the DEQ to obtain 319 funds for an additional basin.

The committee met and discussed possible means for getting the hydrography database onto a more stable financial footing. Original estimates to complete a state hydrographic database came close to two million dollars. Suggested options include demonstrating the value of having the data to respective stakeholders utilizing the completed Logan Creek watershed.

Larry added that the DEQ grant is a very strong possibility. The agreement has not been signed but they have committed \$50,000 per year for up to 4 years to further this project. In the latest grant application, the Lower Elkhorn NRD contributed \$3,000, Roads contributed \$5,000, and \$5,000 was taken from the DEQ grant.

Paul said that the Forest Service entered into an agreement with the USGS to do NHD work across the nation but are planning only on acquiring data within national forest boundaries.

John Miyoshi commented that none of this work would have been possible without Larry and extended a thank you for his efforts.

STATE TRIBAL GI WORKSHOP: Larry reported that there was a meeting last month organized by the FGDC in South Dakota. It was a six-seven state regional meeting designed to get more coordination/dialogue between tribes and state coordinating bodies. This meeting served to open the dialogue.

The BIA does have some people on staff to do GIS work. BLM recently assigned one of their staff to work with the Winnebago tribe to develop their property parcel coverage. The Logan Creek watershed runs through their territory and they are interested in acquiring the data developed through that project.

Larry anticipates another meeting will take place in northeast Nebraska sometime around the end of the month.

INTERACTIVE INTERNET MAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mele reported that the committee had two meetings. The first was a brainstorming session where initial issues were discussed that the Steering Committee may want to consider. Among those were issues such as map projections, vendor software, infrastructure, security, and a host of other things. Following that meeting, Mele met with Larry and Larry helped organize those issues into five general categories.

- Standards and Guidelines
- Education
- Data Support Center
- Infrastructure
- Security

From those groupings, tasks were assigned and the committee is working to come up with recommendations to bring to the Steering Committee. Some of the efforts of the group may not result in policy.

Duane commented that this appears to be an excellent vehicle for outreach to less populous counties who are trying to acquire some GIS expertise.

Steve Schafer asked what the time frame was for making recommendations. Mele said no time frame has been set. Some issues will be more easily addressed than others.

Larry indicated he does not necessarily believe a final report will be forthcoming from this group because of the relative complexity of the issues involved. There is no reason to delay taking action on those issues the group can handle easily rather than waiting for a final report. John stated there should be consensus on some of the issues by the end of the year.

MINUTES: Lash moved the minutes from the July meeting be approved as submitted. Dick seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #1 on Voting Record sheet).

FEDERAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE MEETING: Larry reported there were 65 attendees with presentations from 16 individual agencies. Because of the limited time available, the presentations were short and the representatives asked for the next meeting to be scheduled for two days.

The main consensus seemed to be that there is little money available for basic framework data creation though there is recognition that many agencies need the same data. The expectation is that someone else will develop the data but there is an increasing

interest in coordination.

Jim Brown added that some of the larger agencies are giving up on creating and building databases in favor of capturing that information from other people's data. The money is simply not available anymore to develop this data without working collaboratively. Also, they agreed to return in six months for another meeting.

Steve Schafer commented that he was impressed by the volume of activity already accomplished by these agencies. A searchable database incorporating all the information from the meeting would potentially be of great benefit. Larry Z. agreed with Steve, but expressed his concern about the difficulties of getting all of that information in a database, as Federal meeting participants did not provide printed or digital copies of their materials. Steve suggested developing a web based application whereby participants could enter their own material. Ron Matzner indicated that he like that concept and said he would pursue its possible development with FGDC I-Team staff.

Dick agreed that the scope of what is being done is amazing. Department of Roads was planning on having some counties flown around the area but the FSA is having everything from the Missouri River to Buffalo County to Dodge County flown at one meter accuracy. Larry said many people were surprised to discover that the FSA was developing color DOQs.

Ron Matzner explained that compiling a comprehensive list of activities is something the FGDC has wanted to do for some time but has never been able to manage, in spite of the great potential for savings. Larry added that this is not just a matter of the state being unaware of what the federal government is doing but of the federal government not being aware of what individual agencies are doing.

RON MATZNER: The Bush Administration seems to have recognized that GIS is critical to e-government and e-government is one of their priority. In addition, agencies have less money to work with, which has led to recognition that agencies cannot get things done alone.

The underlying purpose of this initiative is the same as it has always been, to develop current, accurate and upgradeable geographic information and make it easily accessible. In order to do this, the most basic components are identifying and promoting the most effective means of collecting, maintaining, and distributing data. Efficient data collection will be encouraged and rewarded by funding.

The steps involved in implementing the I-Team plan are designed to result in a National GIS Strategy. Those steps include

1. Inventory Data Assets
2. Needs Analysis
3. Identify Business Processes
4. Develop Data Content Standards
5. Develop and Maintain Data using efficient business practices and data content standards

In addition to the participation of the states, there will be a Financing Solutions Team whose function will be to determine how to arrange funding to complete long term projects. To do this, they will explore the alignment of existing resources, build a business case to help justify the receipt of adequate future resources and explore other Intergovernmental and public/private financing options.

While the I-Team effort is designed to be led from the lowest levels, there is support from the highest levels and the Federal Partner's Team will be comprised of agency directors from the relevant agencies.

The Technology Advisory Group will be comprised of 250 vendors who will provide technical assistance to all eligible members. Eligible members will include all participating cities, counties, states and other governmental entities.

Nebraska's Database Advisory Committee's will perform the core of the I-Team work and that will include looking at the Strategic Plan with a view toward the five steps to building an I-Team. In addition, they should determine if in an ideal world, the concepts outlined in the strategic plan are the most efficient way of doing things or simply the cheapest. The next step is to evaluate existing priorities in terms of making a business case.

Lash asked what safeguards there might be to keep this from becoming another situation where local government is left out of the process. Ron explained that representatives from state, local and federal agencies are already looking into it. Currently there is no incentive for agencies at any level of government to cut their budgets and that is something that needs to change.

Larry said that if the Steering Committee decides to pursue the I-Team concept and the development of an I-Team Plan very aggressively, a significant amount of his time could be required. Consequently, this is a point where a decision must be made as to where his time is best focused.

Steve Schafer stated that the Steering Committee's best move at this point is to continue to focus on developing the highest priority databases and developing a basic understanding of what needs to be done. At that point, the Committee will be better able to leverage resources. Jim Brown agreed, adding that the Committee can afford to expend some time and effort on the I-Teams but there are two databases where no efforts have yet been made, Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries. Prior activities have the Steering Committee largely committed for the next six months.

Larry asked if the Str. Cmte. was comfortable with pursuing the I-Team concept in line with the "[Structural - Procedural Proposal for On-going Nebraska I-Team Coordination](#)", that had been attached to the agenda for advance review. Larry noted that this proposal had been shared with the Federal representatives and they were supportive of the concepts. The proposal calls for the Nebraska GIS Str. Cmte. to continue in its role as the primary entity responsible for overall coordination in Nebraska. In addition, the proposal calls for semi-annual broader I-Team meetings. In response to the Federal meeting input, we would probably try a 2-day I-Team meeting on March 6-7, 2001. The other I-Team coordination vehicle would be existing or new Advisory Committees created by the GIS Str. Cmte. In response to Larry's question, the Str. Cmte. indicated its general support for this approach to I-Team development and coordination.

Ron indicated the federal partners would keep the Steering Committee informed about their efforts and opportunities.

LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION STUDY: Larry reviewed the terms of the \$50,000 grant received by the Steering Committee from the USGS for development of an I-Team. The funds can be used for anything but data development. The Steering Committee elected to use the money to hire a consultant to create a business plan for how to move forward on creating the Land Records modernization database and the Emergency Response database.

The Executive Committee was charged with refining the consultant's task and drafted a [project charter](#). No money is in hand yet but a draft agreement has been completed with the USGS. The hope is that the consultant will look at regional mapping center concept, and others, and investigate funding options.

Scott McIntyre asked if there were enough funds to complete a study of this type and if not, if any further funding sources might be available. Jim Brown said there is no further money available so the project will have to fit into the funds allocated to it.

Steve Schafer moved to endorse the project charter. Scott seconded. The motion passed. ([see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet](#))

DRAFT INTERAGENCY MEMO OF USGS AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE: Larry noted that a [draft MOA agreement with USGS](#) had been made available as an attachment to the agenda. Larry pointed out that one change to this agreement is that Steve Henderson will need to sign because he will be the one handling the money. No action is required from the Steering Committee but Larry wanted to make sure there were no concerns about Jim Brown signing on behalf of the Steering Committee.

Steve Schafer moved to endorse the draft USGS/Steering Committee agreement. Lash seconded. The motion passed. ([see vote #3 on Voting Record sheet](#))

FEDERAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: Jim Brown reported Sonia Sebree was nominated as the federal agencies' representative to the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee. There were three nominees for the federal agency representative position, Sonia Sebree from the USGS Water Division, Milbert Krohn from the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming, and Steve Peaslee from the NRCS. Larry commented that all three of these people need to be kept involved with the Steering Committee, so as not to lose their support. Steve Schafer suggested designating both Steve and Milbert as alternates. Sonja's nomination will be forwarded to the Governor for consideration.

GIS CLEARINGHOUSE: Larry noted that Steve Peaslee had expressed an interest and concern about the need to enhance the Nebraska geospatial clearinghouse and brought it up as an alternate project for some of the USGS grant money. Larry also noted that in last years Strategic Plan the Str. Cmte. had noted some of the weaknesses of the current clearinghouse arrangement and had suggested the establishment of a subcommittee to explore and make recommendations for enhancing the current clearinghouse situation. General discuss on the nature of the needs followed and alternative solutions that might be considered. One of the alternatives that was raised was the possibility of combining the Nebraska Geospatial Data Clearinghouse with the one operated by DNR. Larry was asked about the resources that might be needed. Larry said that could vary widely depending on the level of services that were desired and noted that he doesn't have much of experience upon which to base an estimate. He

offered an estimate that maintaining a minimal level clearinghouse might require 1/3 FTE. That amount of time could easily be spent working with agencies to obtain or develop current metadata.

Larry asked if there was any concern among Str. Cmte. members about exploring the possibility of housing the Nebraska Geospatial Data Clearinghouse at DNR. Chris Stanton asked why DNR. Jim Brown explained that at one time, the Library Commission and DNR were both interested in housing the GIS Clearinghouse. The decision was made to award Clearinghouse responsibilities to the Library Commission (now Nebraska Online) but subsequently, he has had the feeling that might have been a mistake. The Library Commission (Nebraska Online) does not have the expertise in spatial data that DNR does and has not provided the support necessary to maintain a comprehensive clearinghouse node.

Steve Schafer asked if a document defining the scope of the expectations involved with housing and maintaining the Clearinghouse had been drafted yet. Steve Gaul agreed that DNR would like to look at such a document on this subject to help facilitate discussion within the agency before they commit to taking this project on. Larry indicated that he would work with Steve G. to try to outline the options and possible range of expectations.

NACO ANNUAL CONVENTION: Jim Brown asked if the Steering Committee planned to have a booth at the Convention this year. Steve Schafer was in favor of obtaining separate space for the Steering Committee close to the State Surveyor's booth to allow for staff sharing.

Ron Matzner requested I-Team information be included in the booth materials.

NISGIC REPRESENTATIVE: Jim asked if there were any other volunteers to serve as NISGIC Representative for the Steering Committee. There were none. John Miyoshi moved to appoint Larry Zink as the lifetime representative to NISGIC. Steve Schafer seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #4 on Voting Record sheet)

GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION: Ed Kelley reported that the newsletter is being mailed. They are trying to pare down a mailing list that consists of over 2200 people. This edition will include a card asking people to indicate if they are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter via mail. In this fashion, they hope to cut postage costs.

The symposium went over well this year with 350-375 attendees and included a NASA workshop on the fourth day. The Association realized a \$3,000 - \$4,000 profit.

An upcoming September Board meeting will be held in Lincoln.

The Association has been asked to host the 2003 Regional Arc Info Users Convention, which consists of a 13-14 state group. Scott McIntyre volunteered to look into it. Ed noted that there has been some concern about the potential conflict with the 2003 Nebraska GIS Symposium. They are looking for a core group to run that effort and would welcome fresh input. Scott indicated that he has received support for MAPA in the Omaha area and has pretty much made a commitment to host the 2002-3 event.

For the October meeting, the Association is looking to build more support and involvement from the Western part of the state. In order to help accomplish this, they will be holding their monthly meeting in Scottsbluff, in conjunction with the Arc View Training and Western Users Meeting, October 22-23.

There was a Board vacancy due to the departure of Chad Kudym of HDR. Chris Stanton of the Nebraska Legislature was selected to fill that vacancy.

Jim Brown asked if membership was increasing. Ed said it has been, especially during the Symposium.

REPORTS ON MEMBER AGENCIES : John Miyoshi said that the IMS server Ryan Axman is working on is up sporadically.

Chris Stanton reported the Legislature is in the process of redefining the position of GIS staff in Nebraska Legislature.

Steve Gaul reported that the DNR is starting to make progress on digital water rights.

Jim Brown extended a thank you to Ron Matzner for attending both the federal meeting and the Steering Committee meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned.

Vote Tallies for 9/6/01 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Min. #1	Land Records Mod. Study #2	USGS/Str. Cmte. Agmt. #3	NISGIC Rep. #4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <u>Steve Schafer</u> (Lori McClurg)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Paul Yamamoto (Mike Linder)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Jim Merchant, Jim Lacy	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - <u>Mele Koneya</u> (Rex Amack)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
NRC - Brian Dunnigan, <u>Steve Gaul</u> , (Roger Patterson)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill Dan Hoffman	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <u>Dick Genrich</u> , Ed Kelley Jon Ogden (John Craig)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
St. Surv - <u>Jim Brown</u>	A/P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - (Pat O'Donnell) Judy Backhaus, Chris Stanton	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Nathan McCaleb Steve Peaslee	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>John Miyoshi</u>	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinwiddie Steve Larson	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Dick Nelson Steve Frederick	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	12/13 - P	13 +	13 +	13 +	13 +	.	.	.	.

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

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes -- November 1, 2001

Present were (authorized to vote +):

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mahendra Bansal | + Department of Natural Resources |
| Alan Beiermann | + NPPD |
| Jim Brown | + State Surveyor |
| Stephen Frederick | + Health and Human Services |
| Dick Genrich | + Nebraska Department of Roads |
| Ed Kelley | Nebraska Department of Roads |
| Mele Koneya | + Nebraska Game and Park |
| Jim Langtry | + Lancaster County |
| Scott McIntyre | + Omaha |
| Steve Schafer | + Chief Information Officer |
| Sonja Sebree | + USGS - WRD |
| Duane Stott | + Scotts Bluff County Surveyor |
| Paul Yamamoto | + Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality |
| Rex Wamsley | Nebraska Emergency Management |
| Cliff Welsh | + Nebraska Association of County Officials |
| Larry Worrell | + Lancaster County |
| Larry Zink | GIS Steering Committee Coordinator |

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>National Hydrographic Database</u> | <u>NDOR Geospatial Advisory Committee</u> |
| <u>Advisory Committee on Interactive Internet</u> | <u>Nebraska Emergency Management Agency</u> |
| <u>Land Records Modernization</u> | <u>I-Team</u> |
| <u>GIS Specialist Classification</u> | <u>Master Street Address Database</u> |
| <u>NSGIC Annual Meeting</u> | <u>GIS/LIS Association Report</u> |
| <u>Member Agency Reports</u> | <u>Voting Record</u> |

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 Thursday, October 25, 2001.

ROLL CALL: Acting Chairperson Duane Stott called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05. There were nine duly authorized members present therefore a quorum was present to conduct business. There were several new members to the committee so Larry asked that introductions be made.

MINUTES: Dick Genrich moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Paul Yamamoto seconded. One typographical error was noted. The next federal GIS meeting will be held March 6 and 7, 2002 rather than 2001. The motion passed.

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATASET : Mahendra reported that the Logan Creek watershed has been completed and they are now beginning work on the Lower Elkhorn Creek watershed.

A methodology has been set up but has not yet been perfected. The work to create revised stream vectors is time consuming and there are features that are not always clear on the DOQ's. In addition, there are questions regarding what features should be included in the database and in some cases how they should be coded.

Larry indicated that an informal NHD Technical Advisory Group has been formed to solicit interagency input on these questions and to make decisions about which features to include as necessary.

Mahendra explained that the USGS has a standard set of features they use but other agencies may need additional information that could be difficult to integrate.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION ON NDOR GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY TEAM: Dick Genrich explained that as a result of Roads GIS strategic plan, a NDOR Geospatial Advisory Team was created. To ensure appropriate representation on this Team, they

have Dan Cady to represent the local element and Larry Zink, as temporarily appointed by Jim Brown, to provide Steering Committee representation. Recently, Roads determined it would be prudent to obtain an official appointment for Larry.

Larry Worrell moved to appoint Larry Zink as permanent representative to the Department of Roads Geospatial Advisory Team. Mahendra seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #2 on Voting Record sheet)

INTERACTIVE INTERNET MAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mele reported that the committee has met several times. The last time he gave an update to the Steering Committee, he identified the issues the Advisory Committee had selected as priorities.

Education and Sharing Knowledge. Involves sharing of ideas throughout the group. They have also done some investigation into training.

Security Issues. Much of the documentation they have found has not been Internet mapping specific. The belief is that much of this area will be covered by NITC guidelines. They plan to continue to watch how this area develops.

Software and Database Format Compatibility. Many people doing web mapping are using ESRI products. At this point, not much testing has been done but they are hoping that it will be addressed by the Open GIS Consortium. In Nebraska the main concern seems to be interfacing with NDOR Integraph products. The Advisory Committee is still working to identify these issues.

Guidelines and Standards for Web Mapping. These would be turned over to the NITC upon completion. Larry has created a preliminary draft for Steering Committee review. The recommendations include

- Use of a common projection, namely the State Plane Coordinate system
- Creation and inclusion of metadata
- Information about map metadata should be made available online
- Inclusion of appropriate cites if outside sources are utilized
- Disclaimers/intent of mapping service, something of a composite of what other cities, counties, and agencies are using

Larry indicated that if this document is to be forwarded to the NITC, action needs to be taken however, some discussion should take place regarding the Advisory Committee's recommendation of a common measurement unit in the State Plane projection recommendation. Currently, some agencies use meters, some agencies use feet and the Advisory Committee determined selecting one standard for data sets would eliminate the need for continual reprojection. The Committee recommended the use of meters. Jim Brown indicated there may be additional technical problems involved, specifically related to raster projections and it may not be possible to select a single standard unit.

There was no objection to recommending the use of State Plane.

Jim added that this recommendation can be made but the end result will be that individuals will do what they want, much as happened when the federal government attempted to move to the metric system.

Larry agreed that there is a difference between recommending that the specific data sets that are in the process of being created by significant coordinated effort such as the hydrographic, roads, DOQ's, soils etc. be made available in this projection.

Mahendra Bansal moved to adopt the standards, guidelines, and recommendations as presented by the Interactive Internet Advisory Committee with the correction of US Survey foot/meter to US Survey foot or meter. Scott McIntyre seconded.

Steve Schafer asked if this resolves the software compatibility issues or if it is not a relevant issue. Larry indicated it is relevant but they are not able to resolve that issue at this time. They would like to wait until that is resolved to forward the recommendations on to the NITC.

Dick Genrich asked for clarification on the source citation recommendation. Mele explained that data sources could be linked to a FAQ page rather than listed on each individual page.

Steve Schafer asked what role handicap accessibility played in these guidelines. In html pages, an alt tag defining the map as a map is required.

The motion passed. (see vote #4 on Voting Record sheet).

Data Access and Support Center: This idea is designed to assist smaller entities either in getting into GIS or getting data published in a central clearinghouse. While this concept is somewhat similar to the Regional Center, the Regional Center will be designed with more of a data development focus than access and support. This issue is of such a scope that the Internet Advisory Committee wanted to suggest that the Steering Committee create a separate committee to investigate the potential for establishing this type of center.

Mahendra commented that the concept as a whole is a good one but that the data to be accessed should be stored and processed by the individual agencies.

Larry explained that the concept is actually a proposal to establish a committee to explore issues of this type.

Duane Stott objected to the formation of a new agency to handle this issue.

Jim Brown pointed out that the clearinghouse issue is one that keeps coming up. Because this is a state issue, Jim proposed a committee

comprised of Dick Genrich, Dan Hoffman, Mele Koneya, Steve Fredrickson, Mahendra Bansal, and Jim Brown. Paul Yamamoto and Sonia Sebree volunteered to serve as well. The purpose of the subcommittee is to discuss the creation of a support center for access to Internet mapping and support.

Scott said the first step in this process is to go to the governor and request funds. Larry Zink said if this committee could address the process involved in creating this entity and determine where it should go, then the area of resources can be explored.

Mele moved to adopt the resolution to create a subcommittee with membership as defined. Paul seconded. The motion passed. (*see vote #5 on Voting Record sheet*) Additional committee membership is as follows; a representative from NEMA and Steve Schafer.

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:

Larry Zink explained that in the aftermath of the September 11 events, NEMA has become quite interested in GIS. Larry noted that he has meet with Rex Wamsley, NEMA, and had invited Rex to share with the Steering Committee NEMA's current GIS plans.

Rex Wamsley explained that in 1998 the Federal government issued Presidential Directive 63 naming FEMA as the lead federal agency to coordinate basic awareness activities for the Nation's fire and emergency services sector. At that time, they were given a directive to identify critical infrastructure. As of September 11, fulfilling that directive became a crisis and they have been forced to quickly find an integratable system. NEMA needs a system that will take the intelligence information provided by the FBI and distribute it to law enforcement in order to provide protection. That system is an ESRI program called Visualrisk map and it brings in a lot of different layers.

At the moment, NEMA is being overwhelmed with GIS information that is being uploaded into that system. Much of the base information has already been loaded such as roads and highways, bridges, tunnels, powerlines, feedlots, hog producers, poultry etc. DNR has assisted in converting sections of townships into GIS coordinates. Jack Daniels is assisting with water information, DEQ with hazardous materials facilities, NRD with dams, etc. Currently they have three data loaders working to put all the information in as soon as possible.

Many organizations have come to NEMA and requested that NEMA take responsibility for some of the information traditionally housed in different agencies. Due to the freedom of information act, they do not feel comfortable being responsible for keeping it safe. That provides a single point of contact for obtaining information as well as a control point for determining if that information should be shared with the requesting party. NEMA is willing to be the clearinghouse.

NEMA does not maintain a large staff and depends on other agencies to provide information that is then entered into the database and becomes a layer. They would like to update all their information annually and through funds acquired for anti terrorism efforts, can potentially contribute to the development of a data access and support center.

Locally, NEMA has over six hundred directors in the state encompassing every city, county, village, and region in the state. They were asked to coordinate with their law enforcement and other responder organizations to come up with their list of critical infrastructure. Information has been coming in from all over the state. This database is available to all Steering Committee member agencies, though that access will be granted after their system has been placed behind the protection of the National Guard's firewall.

Larry asked if NEMA has any way of getting maps to local governments so that they can then be annotated and returned to NEMA. An ESF layer can be printed off with an attached spreadsheet and any problems with the data can be noted and returned in that fashion. Until the firewall is in place, they do not want anyone accessing the data and then only if they have a need to know. Other uses for this data exist as well for emergency management in situations like tornado tracking.

Larry asked if any thought had been given to data maintenance yet. Rex said there is no way they can update all the databases and will be counting on other agencies to help them.

Alan Beiermeir indicated appreciation for the real world example of the benefits of GIS. Currently, NPPD is lagging behind in GIS development and they need more examples of actual usage to educate the people in upper management.

ANNUAL REPORT:

Larry said the Annual Report is not done yet but he plans to update the Strategic Plan for that purpose.

LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION:

Larry reported that the agreement with the USGS for the \$50,000 grant money has come upon a series of snags. Initially, the understanding was that distribution of funds was not connected with the end of the fiscal year. That subsequently proved to be erroneous and there have been some issues to arise out of that misunderstanding.

It is still our belief that eventually, the money will likely be sorted out and distributed, there is simply no telling when that may happen or how it will be given. Larry indicated that he would try to get the ball rolling on this among the various players.

Jim Brown added that there were additional difficulties in that the USGS also wants justification for requesting the funds.

I-TEAM:

Larry reported that he met with Sonya who is the new federal representative about the federal meeting that was held. They recommended having a two-day meeting, potentially March 6 and 7, 2002. The intent would be to hold a one to one and a half day meeting that would culminate in the Steering Committee meeting. That would provide the opportunity for federal as well as local government to collaborate in identifying any holes in the data and how to move forward.

Steve Schafer stated it would be helpful to have the database of federal activities proposed by Ron Matzner completed before the next federal agency meeting.

CLASSIFICATION FOR GIS SPECIALIST:

Dick reported that as a result of Roads' strategic plan, some restructuring of his department took place. In the wake of that, one of his cartographers switched jobs, leaving the task of rewriting the job specs from a cartographer's position to that of a GIS specialist.

The three people currently employed by Dick's department downtown are all classified under IT. Although they do some programming, they should not technically fall into that category.

State Personnel is under a directive to eliminate job titles but GIS is a unique field that is beginning to come into its own and these jobs needed to be classified and compensated accordingly. A statement of need from the Steering Committee would be welcome as well as any comments on how these specifications should be written. Another possibility would be to form a committee similar to the one responsible for developing guidelines and standards.

Jim asked if the Association was involved at all in this endeavor. Ed Kelley said there have been some discussions about how to classify different types of jobs as well as university classification of their courses and programs. This would allow employers to better understand what type of skill sets and knowledge are coming out of the schools and help the students understand what jobs are available and what skills they need to develop.

Larry asked if the Committee needs to draft a letter of support. Dick said it would not hurt.

Jim asked if there was any time frame associated with this effort. Larry said they hope to have something together within the next two months.

MASTER STREET ADDRESS DATABASE:

Larry introduced Marcus Tooze as the principle contact for GIS Workshop, a private firm in Lincoln. That company has been engaged in a dialogue with Alltel to create something called the master street address guide to be used in E911 integration.

Marcus said that a push has begun at the county level to develop accurate E911 or GIS databases. The motivation behind this push is that all the phone companies are being forced by the FCC to install selective routers and to do so, they are in need of accurate street information.

Marcus also noted that there has been a demand across the state for a truly accurate street address database. Because of this new effort, Marcus was interested in exploring how to leverage this E911 effort to put the data together to create a statewide database.

This effort will be addressed on a county by county basis and there will be good compatibility between counties because all counties use the same E911 system. It appears to be a good opportunity to piece together all the information for a comprehensive statewide database. Marcus indicated willingness to assist in the effort.

Larry explained that the FCC regulations begin in October and November and will require progressively more and more information to be automatically available from cell phone calls, up to the point the origin of a call to within 100 feet. Part of that process includes requiring new cell phone users to register their address so it can be verified against the master street address database.

Last year, LB585 was passed to set up the Enhanced E911 Advisory Committee, directed by the Public Service Commission. There is the potential for the Steering Committee to get involved in this effort or allow it to proceed without any attempt to create a comprehensive statewide master street address database. The counties in Nebraska that wish to participate in E911 will need to have a street address database completed individually.

Larry pointed out that maintenance will be an issue, regardless of what happens. Marcus said that the counties will be expected to maintain their own information and that could then feed into a main database.

Steve Schafer said it is worth a call to the Public Service Commission to determine what the status of this endeavor is.

NATIONAL STATES GEOGRAPHIC COUNCIL MEETING:

Larry attended the annual NSGIC meeting in September. At that meeting, he discovered that the USGS is moving ahead with the concept of an all digital national map. The main challenge with this is to get updated information fairly rapidly and then to get that information integrated in a timely fashion. This is the biggest conceptual leap to have taken place recently in terms of how agencies will work together to collaborate. The USGS has virtually said they will take that role on but it is still at the concept stage.

Another issue that rose at the meeting relates to GIS efforts made by the Bureau of Land Management. There has been considerable cadastral

work done in the Western states, largely because of the BLM and U.S. Forest Service holdings in that region but little has been accomplished in the East. Partly in response to that, a new movement has formed known as the Eastern States Cadastral Initiative to work with BLM and Congress to get funding to develop land records in the Eastern United States. 'East' has been defined to all states not part of the Western Governor's Association.

Within the Western Governor's Association, there has been a great deal of work with federal agencies. However, there is a tier of states from North Dakota to Texas, including Nebraska, that has not been a part of that initiative because there is minimal federal ownership of land. However because these states belong to the Western Governors Association, they are not a part of the new Eastern States Cadastral Initiative. In order to facilitate cadastral work in Nebraska, representatives need to either become more vocal within the Western Governors Association or get involved with the Eastern States Cadastral Initiative.

In terms of transportation, there appears to be new dialog between the Census Bureau, USGS and the Bureau of Statistics to find some common transportation database format. If that happens, they would be looking to states to develop and maintain that data.

There is also interest in initiating more dialog between the NSGIC, the national coordinating body of GIS coordinating groups and the national body of state CIOs.

NSGIC has changed their dues structure. In the past, Larry has been an individual member but the Council is now encouraging state membership. State memberships cost \$250. Membership in this organization is of value to the Steering Committee and Larry recommended paying the state fee.

Dick moved to pay the state membership fee to NSGIC. Cliff seconded. The motion passed. *(see vote #5 on Voting Record sheet)*

GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION : Ed Kelley reported that the last Association meeting was held in Scottsbluff. It was an effort to demonstrate more interest in the issues facing Western Nebraska.

There was some discussion on Education and classification. Carl Kinkade agreed to head an educational subcommittee to look into what universities are offering in terms of GIS training and assessing how that relates to the target group or work areas are used in the field.

Another issue that was addressed at the meeting was potentially getting a voice in policy issues. Larry agreed to draft a statement for the creation of a policy research or policy initiative subcommittee.

The next issue of the GIS update newsletter will be available by the end of the year. The Association is working to pare down its address list and to facilitate that, requested recipients return cards indicating whether they wished to continue receiving the newsletter. That has assisted in streamlining the process.

The Association will hold its Annual meeting in May of this year. An independent Annual Meeting is held each year there is no Symposium. This year it will be hosted at UNO.

There was a Western Nebraska users group meeting in the afternoon following the Association meeting. It was well attended. Senator Adrian Smith spoke to the group and assured them that GIS was not one of the things in danger of suffering budget cuts. Duane commented on how pleased he was at the diversity of people in attendance at that meeting.

Following that meeting, there was ArcView Training session. Several people expressed interest in attending a full ArcView training session.

November 14 is National GIS Day. This would be a good time to get outside people involved in GIS. There is a letter waiting for the Governor's endorsement about a GIS Proclamation. Nothing has been heard thus far. There is a gentleman in Chadron who will be sponsoring GIS Day activities on November 10.

Jim Brown said that he would appreciate some additional support from the Association's Education Committee as he is on the SECC Board and requires assistance in getting more GIS coursework in place there.

REPORTS ON MEMBER AGENCIES:

Mahendra reported that DNR is redesigning their website. That process should be complete in two months.

Dick said that he committed to taking the city and county maps and remove all the patterning on the local roads to form a graphic representation of local roads. That project is coming along. Some of the graphical work will already be done for the street address database.

Roads is moving forward in implementing their strategic plan. They have hired a company called Geodecisions to put together a prototype web map.

Jim Brown said that the Farm Service Agency provided the field boundaries from Fillmore County. Their data is extremely good.

Steve Fredrickson said that while his agency is a large agency, they are minor GIS users and do not have a lot of resources. Some of the Internet maps are being taken offline and there will likely be more dialog coming on what really needs to be publicly accessible.

Larry Zink reported that four more counties requested the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation do property tax assessment for

their counties.

Rex formally requested that NEMA be considered for membership on the GIS Steering Committee. Larry explained that is a statutory decision and should begin with the Governor's office. Additional members have been added over the past few years and Dan Hoffman would be a good contact for getting something going.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned.

Vote Tallies for 11/01/01 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call #1	Min. #2	NDOR Geospatial Adv Team #3	Internet Map. Com. Recnd. #4	DASC #5	NSGIC Dues #6	#7	#8	#9
DAS - Steve Schafer (Lori McClurg)	A/P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Paul Yamamoto (Mike Linder)	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila, Jim Merchant, Jim Lacy	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Mele Koneya Bruce Sackett (Rex Amack)	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
NRC - Mike Thompson Mahendra Bausal (Roger Peterson)	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
PRO - Dan Hoffman (Lauren Hill)	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Rob Christian	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - Dick Genrich (John Craig) Ed Kelley	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	A/P	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - (Patrick O'Donnell) Judy Backhaus	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sonja Sebree	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
John Miyoshi	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Alan J. Beierman	P	NV	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
Chff Welsh	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	NV	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	-	+	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	A/P	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.
IHS - Dick Nelson Steve Frederick	P	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.
TOTALS	10-P 13-P	9+ 2-NV	12+	13+	11+ 1-	10+	.	.	.

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