

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 Silch		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 Silch 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 McChurg)	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling, Paul Yamamoto	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila Jim Merchant	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Mele Koneva Bruce Sackett	A/P	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.
NRC - Brian Dunnigan Mahendra Bansal	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	A/P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill Dan Hoffman, John Erickson	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
DOR - Dick Gennrich Ed Kelley, (John Craig)	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Jim Brown	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Pat O'Donnell Judy Backhaus	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Nathan McCaleb Steve Peasley, Wayne Vanek	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi Doug Steinke	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinwiddie Steve Larson	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre	A/P	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.
Dick Nelson Steve Frederick	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	10/17 - P	10 - +	14 - +	15 - +	16 - +	.	.	.	.

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