



Nebraska State Records Board

440 S. 8th St. Suite 210, Lincoln, NE 68508 402-471-2745

John A. Gale, Chairman

APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. **Name of agency applying for grant :** Harlan County NE
2. **Grant amount requested** \$ 25,000
3. **Title of project:** Assessor GIS and County WebGIS
4. **Brief description of project:** The project includes building a county-wide land records GIS database and WebGIS application that will link to the existing Orion database in use in the Assessor's Office to promote online access to public records by citizens, businesses, other County departments and other local/county/regional/State agencies.

The Nebraska State Records Board is sponsoring a grant program for Nebraska government agencies for the development of programs and technology to improve electronic access to Nebraska government information and services by citizens and businesses with emphasis on web-enabled services. The State Records Board has set the maximum amount of any grant awarded at \$25,000.00 for this grant period. The grants may be used for the creation or enhancement of electronic access and delivery of government services and information, but not to fund ongoing operations. Nebraska government agencies wishing to apply for these grants may want to first contact Nebraska.gov to establish feasibility and scope of the project.

NOTE: Loss of Funding. The NE State Records Board may be unable to award grant funds, in whole or in part, in the event funding is no longer available.

Responses are required to all questions in Parts I & II and all associated documents that may be requested must be included in this submission in order to be considered for funding.

Grant Criteria

Grant projects requesting funding must meet criteria #1-3.

1. Enhance the delivery of local government agency services and improve the public and business access to those services with emphasis on web-enabled services.
2. Meet the all applicable Nebraska Information Technology Commission Standards and Guidelines. State's technology access clause for providing equal access to services for persons with disabilities. A copy of the technology access clause is available at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html> under 2. Accessibility Architecture.
3. If the project or service created or improved pursuant to the grant application involves the licensing, permitting or regulation of businesses, then the project or service must allow integration with the State of Nebraska's Business Portal at: <http://www.nebraska.gov/index.phtml?section=business>, and the One-Stop Online Business Registration System at: <http://www.nebraska.gov/osbr/cgi/domestic.cgi?osbraapplication/init/init/None>.

In addition, the following criteria will be considered when reviewing applications:

- Does the project enhance the delivery of state/local government agency services and improve the public, government and business access to those services?
- Does the project enhance or create an online presence?
- Does the project span more than one office or agency?
- What is the size of the customer base for this service and the geographic impact?
- Is there financial and or in kind contribution from other partners?
- Is there documented community support for the project?

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Part I. Grant Detail

- 1. Please describe the project in detail, to include your vision for the project (you may attach additional pages if necessary).**

Harlan County has chosen to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) database and web-enabled mapping interface and database query tool (or WebGIS). The WebGIS application will provide an intuitive interface for citizens, businesses, County departments and other local/county/regional/state agencies to easily find public records data. The attached proposal (see Attachment 1) illustrates the specific data layers and the WebGIS application features.

The County selected GIS Workshop, Inc (GISW) as the vendor for this project. The project will include data development tasks for parcels, land use and legal land base (lot, block and subdivision) layers. The parcels will be developed from the best available source data (survey plats, legal descriptions, cadastral maps, etc) and assigned a parcel identification number to match the Assessor's Orion database system.

The land use layer will be developed using a combination of available data sources including the Orion database parcel records, air photo interpretation, etc. The land use classes will match those defined by the Nebraska Property Assessment Division. Land use classes will include dryland crop, irrigated crop, grass, CRP (optional), tree (optional), homesite, farmsite, road, exempt and waste. This layer will also be very useful for agencies such as the Natural Resource Districts.

GISW will also assemble other datasets such as SSURGO soils, FSA aerial photography and any available high-resolution photography.

The WebGIS application will provide an intuitive interface for users to search for public records using either the text search menu or the map tools. Users will be able to toggle layers on/off individually, click on a parcel to see its Record Card, click on a parcel to see all available photos/sketches, measures distances/areas, print to PDF or export to Microsoft Excel. The WebGIS will provide 24/7/365 access to public records for citizens, businesses and government employees.

The WebGIS application will also include a highly specialized tool for the Assessor's Office to calculate land value for new parcel splits or verify the land use and soil characteristics of an existing parcel. The Land Use Calculator is very valuable for fast, efficient and equitable tax assessment.

Other County departments will also benefit from the WebGIS application. The Clerk, Treasurer and Register of Deeds Offices will all benefit from easy access to land records information. The Weeds department will use it for determining property owners and property location for spraying noxious weeds and issuing notices to landowners. The County Election Office will better determine exact voter precinct maps and voters will be able to access the redistricted commissioner boundary maps that the County contracted with GISW to build late I 2011. The Harlan County Board of Commissioners is excited

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about the opportunity for offices such as Planning/Zoning, Roads, Treasurer, Weeds and Register of Deeds to build upon the land records foundation to create a one-stop web-enabled interface to County data. They feel that the timing of developing the GIS with the transition of moving from State-assessed to County-assessed is optimum for ease in staffing and processes.

Installing the system in the Assessor's Office will assist dispatch in determining exact locations for 911 calls and emergencies. It will also benefit our Fire Departments and Ambulance Departments to aid in their quick response to emergencies.

Other GISW clients have cited a 50-75% reduction in phone call volume after implementing the WebGIS application. The application will provide better service to County's over 3,400 residents while increasing the efficiency of multiple County departments.

2. Please describe who the beneficiary or recipient of this service will be.

Anyone interested in land records information for Harlan County will benefit from this project. County offices of Assessor, Clerk/Elec Commissioner/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Emergency Manager, Sheriff, Roads, Planning/Zoning, Surveyor and Weeds will benefit from this program. Property owners, banks, insurance companies, appraisers, realtors and attorneys will have access to the property assessment and valuation information at no extra cost to them. Partner agencies such as the Natural Resources Districts, the City of Alma and various State agencies will also benefit from easy access to the County data. Efficiencies realized from 24/7 access will result in increased productivity and cost savings for both public and private entities.

3. Based upon your answer to question 2, what do you project the adoption rate to be in 1 year, 3 years and 5 years?

Based on input we have received from real estate professionals and other government agencies we believe the adoption rate of the WebGIS technology will be immediate. County department staff members have attended Board meetings to express their support. NRDs have also expressed their support for this project to build collaboration.

4. Timeline for implementation of the project (a specific completion date (MM/YYYY) must be provided). Grant funds may lapse if not expended prior to completion date.

GIS Workshop confirms the project to be completed no later than June 30, 2013 (06/30/2013).

5. Does the project require additional statutory authority (explain)?

No.

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- 6. Specify (in detail) what the grant money will be used for. Include a complete cost breakdown of the project. Please attach bids from vendors (if applicable) and describe the relationship, if any, between a vendor and you or your agency. *These documents are mandatory for the application to be considered for funding.***

We will contract with vendor GIS Workshop, Inc. to develop a GIS for Harlan County. Attachment 1 contains an overview of the project in GISW's Proposal document. The Proposal is for development of a GIS for Harlan County, updating of the GIS and development of a WebGIS site for the County, which will make information available 24/7. The total amount of grant money awarded to Harlan County will be used to defray the following initial GIS development expense. See attached proposal by GIS Workshop for this project.

- 7. Collaboration. Please specify in detail any other public or private contributions for your project (financial, labor, equipment etc.) from other sources. Identify contributors and/or partners and specific dollar amounts.**

Harlan County Assessor and Clerk Offices will be assisting in compiling information, data entry and maintaining current data to assure all information is correct and up to date. The Surveyor will also be contributing data as the project progresses. GIS Workshop will be compiling data, scanning cadastral maps, designing and building the GIS. Harlan County assessor staff will participate in GIS training provided by an approved Esri trainer from GIS Workshop, Inc.

- 8. Why is the grant money needed for the project and how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended?**

The grant money is needed to allow the public access to important County information and to increase efficiency in the future. Harlan County will agree to maintain the program and any fees that go along with it to keep the system up and running for future years through budgeting of this County-wide GIS project and by making it a priority.

- 9. Should available funding not allow the NSRB to grant the full amount requested, but a reduced amount, would this project still be financially feasible?**

The full amount will be necessary to initially defray the cost to Harlan County of implementing the GIS. The County fully anticipates being able to fully meet annual maintenance costs of the GIS after it is implemented.

- 10. Please describe how this project will enhance the delivery of on-line government agency services and improve the public and/or business access to those services.**

The WebGIS application that is included as part of this project is a proven system for delivering tax assessment and related information. The application allows the user to submit queries to the Orion database containing tax assessment information. The

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Property Record Card component of the WebGIS has several customized reports, derived from the Orion database, containing land record information that are valuable to real estate professionals, citizens and other government agencies. The web-enabled application also shows photos and sketches from the Assessor's database.

In addition to textual database information and photos/sketches the WebGIS application also includes GIS data layers such as land use, soils and aerial photography which are all valuable for visualizing information associated with government records.

- 11. Does the project involve the licensing, permitting or regulation of business? If yes, explain how the project or service will allow integration with the State of Nebraska's Business Portal, located at: <http://www.nebraska.gov/index.phtml?section=business>, and the One-Stop Online Business registration system located at: <https://www.nebraska.gov/osbr/index.cgi>**

No, this is not applicable to this project.

- 12. Community Support. Please include letters of support to document the public expression that has caused you to implement this application.**

Attachment 2 contains numerous letters of support from the Harlan County community. We have received much support from community business professionals and taxpayers.

- 13. If the grant is to create an on-line application, is the application to have a fee associated with its use for accessing public records, or is the application free for use by the public, businesses and other governmental agencies?**

As a result of the 2011 SRBG application discussions, GISW developed a subscription-based WebGIS option which would allow Harlan County to offer advanced sales information on a subscription basis to end users such as realtors, bankers, insurance and other business professionals. The County has not yet made a determination if they will select the subscription-based option but will do this during the Scope of Work development process with GISW.

If there is to be a fee, provide any statutory authorization for assessing the fee.
The County has not yet made a determination if they will select the subscription-based option but will do this during the Scope of Work development process with GISW. Any fee will be consistent with other Nebraska Counties who are using a subscription-based format.

- 14. If the grant application is for a Geographic Information System project, do you and the agency you represent agree to share the data collected in that project, without costs, with other interested government agencies in the State that may have a need for such data?**

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Yes.

Part II. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

The construction of the Website is included in the fee with GIS Workshop. Harlan County will purchase the additional years of maintenance fees. These fees include unlimited maintenance, which will continue to keep this program current and to continue to be beneficial.

Access to the data from the GIS program will be throughout the Internet. For persons that do not have Internet access, the Public Library supplies several computers for this service at no charge.

Harlan County believes that this program is necessary to keep the public up to date and informed and to increase efficiency across all departments.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- **Conformity with general accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) must meet NITC technical standards and guidelines. (The NITC standards and guidelines are located at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/>).**
- **Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.**
- **Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).**

The GIS system will interface with the current Tyler Orion (or any other CAMA provider selected in the future) database systems in use in Harlan County today.

Our vendor, GIS Workshop, Inc. has stated to us (informally) that any systems or data they construct meets all the applicable NITC and FGDC standards for GIS data and metadata.

The GISW WebGIS interface is in use in numerous Nebraska counties with proven reliability. Since it is based on Esri technology it is scalable and GISW continues to add features based on input from clients. The WebGIS application also has security features for layers that contain sensitive information and for protecting features such as the Land Use Calculator Tool from unauthorized use.

3. Describe how the project will comply with the State's Technology Access Clause: meet all applicable Nebraska Information Technology Commission Standards and Guidelines. Copies of the Standards are available at:

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<http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html>. under **2. Accessibility Architecture.**

The WebGIS for Harlan County will be built and designed by GIS Workshop, with adherence to standards established by the State of Nebraska. The digital map database has been developed using the Nebraska State Plane Coordinate System, NAD83 as per State/NITC guidelines. The system will comply with any other applicable NITC items.

4. Agencies submitting grant applications for funding of a Geographic Information System (GIS) project must in addition to the standard grant application complete and submit the *Supplemental Questionnaire for State Funded Entities on Land Record Information and Mapping-Related Grant Application* found on the Boards website page "Grant Information" at www.staterrecordsboard.ne.gov.

This supplement is attached.

5. **Describe how technical support will be provided.**

GIS Workshop will edit and maintain the GIS data on our redundant servers. Harlan County will be responsible for sending parcel splits and land use changes to GIS Workshop. GIS Workshop will download a copy of the Tyler Orion data file every 24 hours to ensure that these data are up-to-date on the GIS Workshop server. They have a dedicated technical support staff that is available at any time during business hours to service the County's needs.

Part III. EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the Nebraska State Records Board that the grantee recognize the project as an ongoing effort to make public documents and or transactions more accessible. As this application relates to public documents the goal encompasses not only the availability of current documents as described in this application but the ongoing addition of new and updated documents in a timely manner. This goal recognizes the public's interest in not only historical information but the expectation that current data is obtainable. The Nebraska State Records Board recognizes that this is a long term commitment on the part of the grantee and anticipates the continued financial support of the grantee to maintain these expectations.

Part IV. STATE LAW COMPLIANCE

Nebraska law, sections 4-108 through 4-114 state that no political subdivision of the State shall provide public benefits, to include grants or contracts, to a person not lawfully present in the United States. If this application is awarded in whole or in part, and during the time the grant is in effect, the undersigned, on behalf of the political subdivision grant applicant, by signing this grant application, affirmatively states and acknowledges that the political subdivision will comply with this law.

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Part V. CONTACT INFORMATION & SIGNATURE

Contact person, and title, for any questions regarding this application:

Pamela A. Meisenbach Assessor (State)
Printed Name Title

Phone # 308-928-2177 E-mail pam.meisenbach@nebraska.gov

Physical Address: 706 West Second, Alma. NE 68920

I, the Authorized Representative of Harlan County, certify to the Nebraska State Records Board that the applicant/agency has the necessary authority to undertake the proposed project, will comply with Affirmative Action requirements and provide a drug free workplace environment.

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2012

Pamela A. Meisenbach
Agency Director

Please return completed application to:

**Executive Director
Nebraska State Records Board
440 South 8th Street, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508-2294
(402) 471-2745
(402) 471-2406 (fax)**

(Last updated 02/08/2012)

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**Supplemental Questionnaire for State Funded Entities on
Land Record Information and Mapping-Related Grant Applications**

Numbers refer to specific NITC Land Record Information and Mapping Standards

For a complete listing of these standards and guidelines please see:

<http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/3-202.html>

- 1.1 Datum.** Local government multipurpose GIS/LIS (Geographic Information System/Land Information System) and their associated geospatial data layers should be based on the North American Datum (NAD) 83 and the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) 88. Any existing systems developed based on other datums should consider conversion to these datum.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: All GIS data that are constructed or converted as part of this project will use the specified datums.

- 1.2 Projection.** The Nebraska Plane Coordinate System, NAD 83, should be used as the primary map projection system for the recording of positions in local land-data systems in Nebraska. Selection of any other projection should be done reluctantly and only after most careful consideration. The plane coordinate values for a point on the earth's surface may be expressed in either meters or feet.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: All GIS data that are constructed or converted as part of this project will use the specified projection.

- 1.3 Geodetic Control.** GIS/LIS systems developed with the goal of providing a multipurpose cadastre for local government use should be referenced to a local geodetic reference framework that is properly connected to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The GIS data will reference the available geodetic control in the project area as gathered from the NE State Surveyor and/or County/local Surveyor.

1.4 Public Land Survey System Control.

- 1.4.1 PLSS Geodetic Framework.** For all land in Nebraska that is subdivided according to the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), the geodetic reference framework for the cadastre should be the section corners of the PLSS for each section.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: All applicable GIS data (cadastre based data) will reference and fit within the NE PLSS.

- 1.4.2 Locate, Monument, and GPS Primary Corners.** At a minimum, local government entities developing a geospatial land information system should initially invest in a precision Global Positioning System (GPS) survey to locate, re-monument as necessary, and obtain the geographic coordinates of the major boundary defining corners that legally define the boundaries of their county jurisdiction(s). These precision GPS survey coordinates for the boundary defining corners should be collected and integrated as framework data into the land information system. This effort should be coordinated with officials from the adjacent county(ies) to ensure agreement on the location of the shared corners.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The project will utilize all available GPS based monumentation from NDOR, NE State Surveyor and the County Surveyor.

- 1.5 PLSS Base Map.** Local governments considering the development of a multipurpose GIS, should consult with the Nebraska State Surveyor's Office to locate and access the best available data on the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) for their geographic area. To assist the State Surveyors Office in maintaining a repository of the best available PLSS data, local governments participating in the Nebraska Land Information System Program should share any enhanced PLSS data, for their geographic area, with the State Surveyors Office so that it might be integrated into the PLSS repository database.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The project will utilize all available PLSS data from the NE State Surveyor. Any new or reset PLSS monumentation/control will be supplied to the NE State Surveyor via the County/local Surveyor.

- 1.6 Ortho-base (Aerial Layer) or Base Maps.** Both a Public Land Survey System base map and an orthophoto (surface features) base map should be used to provide the geospatial reference framework upon which a local government multipurpose land information system is developed. Both base maps should be tied to the National Spatial Reference System and have a level of spatial accuracy appropriate to the range of applications planned for a given area.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The project will utilize the NAIP/FSA imagery as the base imagery and provide the necessary tie to the National Spatial Reference System. By using these data, the project by default will be provided with the necessary level of spatial accuracy.

1.7 Map Scale and Spatial Accuracy.

- 1.7.1 Minimum Horizontal Accuracy Standard.** Public entities developing a GIS/LIS program should conduct data collection and development in a manner to achieve at least the minimum level of horizontal spatial accuracy consistent with the National Horizontal Map Accuracy Standards corresponding to a 1:12,000 (1"= 1,000') scale map (90% of the "well defined" horizontal locations must be within ± 33.3 ft. of their real world location).

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The project will utilize the NAIP/FSA imagery as the source base map. These data meet or exceed the stated accuracy requirements, thus the GIS data constructed using these based map data will meet or exceed these stated minimums.

1.8 Legal Lot and Parcel Layers. Two graphic data layers are necessary to provide the foundation for a wide variety of local government GIS/LIS applications that involve land subdivision and/or ownership.

a). The legal lot layer consisting of legal land subdivisions. These are aliquot portions of the PLSS, filed subdivision plats and irregular tracts defined by filed deeds.

b). The parcel layer that defines ownership tracts of land. These tracts may group multiple legal lots into one taxable account and that typically represents the boundaries of a landowner's property. These data layers include locational coordinates for points representing property corners, lines between property corners representing property boundaries and closed polygons representing the property area.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: Where the source data exists, both layers will be constructed, if applicable to the project.

1.9 Parcel Identifiers.

a). Each county/region should adopt a system of unique, permanent feature identifiers (PID) that provide the link between each graphic land ownership parcel polygon and the attribute information (ownership, size, situs address, value, etc.) related to that specific land ownership property parcel.

b). A county/region PID system must be designed in a manner such that a unique, statewide PID can be defined and maintained for each property parcel by using the county FIPS code (Federal Information Processing Standards Publications) as a prefix to the county/region's PID system.

c). To maintain this unique one-to-one association between a specific property parcel and its related attribution information, new PIDs should be assigned whenever a property parcel is altered by either splitting it into two or more parcels or by combining two or more parcels to form a new parcel. The previous PIDs should not be used for these new modified parcels, but the historical PID associations should be maintained through a parent/child PID reference table.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The PID system currently in use in the project area meets all three requirements.

1.10 Spatial Data Format. A broad range of state and regional applications require property parcel information. Many of these applications require the combining of data across jurisdictional boundaries. To facilitate these applications, the property parcel spatial (graphic) data should be either maintained in a manner that allows it to be readily integrated in a common geographic data format (i.e., shapefile) or be capable of being exported into a common geographic data format (i.e., shapefile), while including the parcel identifiers.

Please describe how you would comply with this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: The data will be maintained in a common format (Esri geodatabase or shapefile). Both these formats are Open GIS Consortium (OGC) compatible.

Data Sharing-Data Integration. A major focus of the State Records Board grant program is enhancing access to public records. Not only the general public, but also other public agencies benefit from facilitating access to public records. As noted in the NITC standard above there are numerous applications for which substantial benefits can be derived by integrating data across jurisdictional boundaries. Please describe whether your agency would be willing to share periodic updates of GIS-enabled property parcel data, such that other agencies might integrate that data into statewide or regional datasets to provide a resource for public agencies and the general public and any restrictions that you anticipate might apply. *(Note: this is not a current NITC standard, but is an interest of the State Records Board)*

100% compliance: Yes, these data may be shared.

1.11 Metadata. All geospatial land record databases, and their associated attribute databases should be documented with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata outlining how the data was derived, attribute field definitions and values, map projections, appropriate map scale, contact information, access and use restrictions, etc.

Please describe how you would comply would this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: FGDC compliant metadata will be created as part of the project.

1.12 Attribute Data. To provide the foundation necessary for a wide variety of local government applications, non-graphic, attribute data should be organized within the GIS/LIS, which describes individual property parcels relative to their basic parcel characteristics, tenure, value, history, buildings and units within the parcel, and tax status. In most cases, much of this attribute data will already exist in separate databases within a variety of local agencies and should be tied to the graphic property parcel via the unique PID. To meet a range of state and regional applications that require property parcel information, the following types of property parcel data should be maintained (for every property parcel?) and (be) available in a manner that allows it to be harvested, translated, and integrated into a statewide property parcel attribute dataset.

PID#.....	Parcel identifier (county FIPS code plus local government PID)
Situs Address.....	Address of parcel (may be multiple fields)
Owner Address.....	Address of property owner (may be multiple fields)
Township	Township #
Section.....	Section #
Range	Range #
Range Direction.....	East or West
Legal Description.....	Narrative legal description of parcel
Assessed Value.....	Total assessed value of property (land and improvements)
Land Value.....	Assessed value of land
Area (Deeded)	Area of parcel according to the deed
Property Class	(Res, Ag, Com, Rec., Ind.)
Property Sub-class	i.e., Ag (Dryland, Irrigated, Grassland/Pasture, Waste)
Ownership type.....	Federal, State, County, Private, Tribal, Exempt, Other and Unknown
Tax District.....	County ID plus Tax Dist. #
School District	State number definition
Landuse	Actual landuse with NPAT defined general categories
Property Parcel Type...	NPAT defined categories
Status	(Vacant, Improved or Improved only) (NPAT defined)
Location	(Urban, Sub-urban, Rural)(NPAT defined)
City Size.....	1 st class, 2 nd class, primary, metro, or village
Source Document.....	Sales/transfer reference or document (book & page)
Recording Date.....	Most recent sales/transfer date
Sales Value.....	Most recent sales value

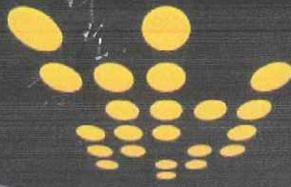
Please describe how you would comply would this standard if you are awarded a Nebraska State Records Board grant.

100% compliance: These data are already maintained and will continue to be maintained and may be readily "harvested" from the CAMA/Administrative database.

Collaboration. In most instances, the development of a local government GIS system and the related geospatial data involves a fairly costly initial upfront investment. These costs are frequently offset by the benefits gained through coordination and collaboration that an integrated GIS can bring to local government and related public entities. For example, with property parcel data and maps the County Register of Deeds, the County Surveyor, and the County Assessor all frequently maintain and make changes to aspects of this data and the data is also commonly used by local public safety agencies, local emergency responders, local transportation agencies and state agencies such as the Dept. of Revenue, Dept. of Roads, and Game and Parks Commission. Please describe the level and nature of any multi-agency/department involvement in the planning and proposed management of your proposed GIS system.

Numerous County departments (Clerk/Elec Comm/Register of Deeds, Planning and Zoning, Roads, Weeds, Treasurer, etc) have expressed interest in collaborating and building upon this initial investment in GIS technology to enhance their service provision to the public. In addition, the City of Alma and applicable Natural Resource Districts actively support GIS development for Harlan County to promote collaboration. We believe the WebGIS will be a valuable tool to those working in public safety because of the Harlan County Reservoir in our County and the lake-front properties surrounding the waterway. The property ownership information will be valuable to them in water safety situations. With six highways routed through Harlan County, we believe the law enforcement and emergency management staff will find value in having immediate access to County mapping.

This project will promote public access to government records and enhanced collaboration between departments and other agencies.



HARLAN COUNTY, NE

ATTACHMENT 1:
Proposal for
Assessor GIS and County WebGIS

*Prepared for Pam Meisenbach, Assessor and
the Harlan County Board of Commissioners*

February 17, 2012



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THE GIS WORKSHOP DIFFERENCE

EXPERIENCE WITH NEBRASKA ASSESSMENT GIS

GIS Workshop, Inc., (GISW) has been providing quality Assessment GIS data and analysis solutions to over 65 assessment offices in Nebraska for more than 14 years. GISW staff has over 75 years combined experience in GIS implementation and are extremely experienced in Nebraska assessment systems. GISW is the only GIS Company in Nebraska that can provide the automatic database linking and other tools necessary to build a complete assessment Geographic Information System (GIS) for Harlan County to ensure compliance with Property Assessment Division (PAD) mandates. We are the only GIS Company recognized by the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO). As you transition from State-assessed to County-assessed, the GIS will ensure you are providing equal, fair, consistent valuation of property in the most efficient manner possible.

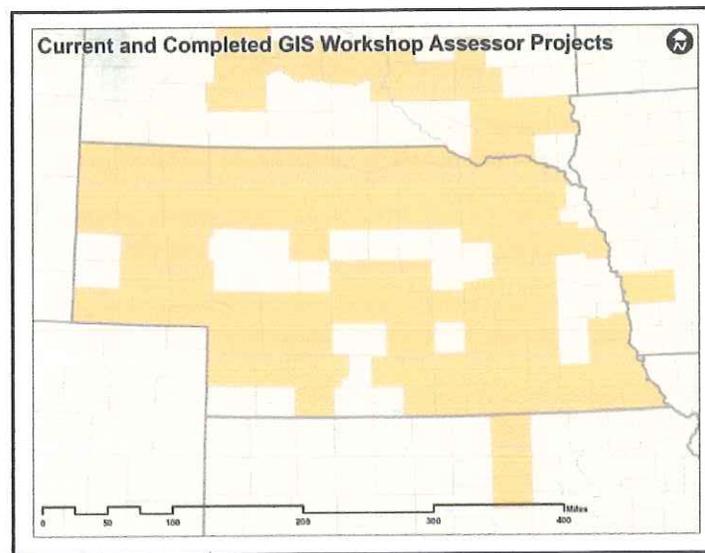


Figure 1: GISW is the most experienced Assessor GIS provider in the State

GISW is a full service GIS provider with a team of technicians ready to build your GIS. We will develop your GIS database, train your staff to use GIS information in their day-to-day workflow, provide unlimited support and develop internet mapping, or WebGIS, sites to make GIS more accessible to all your departments, real estate professionals and your constituents.

GISW specializes in developing GIS datasets and providing easy access to the data. Below is a list of key differentiators:

- **WebGIS** – our product gives everyone ‘Google-like’ access to GIS data. No one else offers web access!
- **Costs** – our costs are lower because our experience translates into efficiency
- **Training** – we provide upfront and ongoing training to ensure clients can make use of their investment

- Support staff – we have a long list of satisfied clients who can attest to our excellent support services. We have a dedicated team of technical support staff ready and waiting on the phone.
- Experience – we are the most experienced GIS company in the State and it shows in the quality of our products and services
- Software tools – we have customized tools we use internally to quickly perform routine operations such as land use calculation, survey data entry, aliquot part splits, etc.
- CAMA integration – we are the only company with tools to link directly into assessment databases such as Tyler, TerraScan, MIPS and County Solutions.
- Complete package – we offer a turnkey solution including data conversion, data development data maintenance and the products to make the data accessible to everyone

GIS Workshop, Inc. is the most experienced Assessment GIS provider in the State. We will become an extension of your staff. Our extensive expertise together with our specialized tools helps us provide superior products and services.

CLIENT SATISFACTION

Please ask our clients about our support staff, training services, how they use GIS on a day-to-day basis, do they use desktop or WebGIS, did GIS help with the recent soil conversion mandate, flexible payment options, oblique photos, etc. We are confident that you will hear our level of service is second-to-none. Here are direct quotes from a sampling of our Assessor clients after implementing GIS in their departments; they are a testimony to the fact that implementing GIS increases revenue through accuracy in landuse calculations and decreases costs through enhanced efficiency and time savings:

- **Merrick County:** “We found 13,000 additional irrigated acres by matching up NRD data with GIS.”
- **Pierce County:** “Our GIS paid for itself the first year” by identifying pivots, new buildings, etc.
- **Phelps County:** “We increased assessed acres through accuracy in landuse calculations.”
- **Cuming County:** “I have confidence in my valuations when dealing with property owners because we can SEE how the value was determined. I also use my landuse calculator to compare deeded acres vs GIS acres to identify inaccuracies in assessment.”
- **Colfax County:** “Our GIS has paid for itself many times over” by using GISW’s oblique imagery along with GIS to identify new buildings and to correct landuse.
- **Platte County:** “We reduced daily inbound phone call volume by 50-70% by having information available online – this has freed up my staff to work more effectively on critical projects.”
- **Madison County:** “We are able to do from our desks things that used to require time in the field. This has resulted in both cost and time savings for my County.”
- **Keith County:** “GIS Workshop staff always answers the phone right away. They are great with support and customer service. I have never heard a single bad thing about their service from anyone I have talked to.”

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

GISW will do all the database development for Harlan County. We will rely on the Assessment staff for their local knowledge and our staff will do all the GIS development. GISW has developed a suite of desktop GIS tools that communicate with your assessment database and help us develop databases

more efficiently than our competitors. **As an Esri (the leader in GIS technology) Gold Business Partner we know GIS better than anyone in the State.**

Once the GIS database is ready we will integrate the GIS data into your existing system. **We not only build the databases but we help you learn how to make them useful to you.** With our online meeting technology Harlan County staff can visit with our technical staff at any point to provide guidance or to view project progress from the comfort of your own office.

TRAINING AND UNLIMITED SUPPORT

We have a team of experienced and skilled technicians dedicated to keeping your GIS up-to-date. Complete training is provided in process flow of updates to the GIS, such as parcel splits or changes to landuse and the use of the WebGIS site and accompanying tools.

WEBGIS

GISW technology greatly increases the value of your GIS investment. We provide true GIS mapping, not just a database of derived information. Our WebGIS product makes your data available throughout the county without the need for expensive training and desktop software. County staff, real estate professionals, banks, insurance agents, potential businesses/residents and Harlan County residents have 24/7 access to assessment information. Easy access to data is great for economic development and reduces phone calls for assessment staff.

PROJECT APPROACH

As Harlan County transitions from State-assessed to County-assessed, the Board recognizes the value of implementing a GIS for analysis and record keeping in the Assessor's Office. The Board of Commissioners has participated in a demonstration about GISW's WebGIS product. As a result, they have requested GISW to provide budgetary pricing on the development of GIS for the Assessor's office and implementation of a county-wide Web-based GIS to provide property information on-line to property owners, the general public and other departments.

The power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) lies in the ability to overlay various datasets and perform complex analysis within a simple user interface. GIS Workshop specializes not only in building systems, but more importantly, helping clients leverage their investment to perform standardized, accurate assessment with limited staffing. Our training and support technicians provide proven results and our WebGIS site gives your constituents access to all their assessment information 24 hours a day.

GIS helps provide equitable and accurate assessment across the entire county. When State statute requires assessment changes, such as the recent NRCS soil conversion, GIS can automate the process of making universal changes to all parcels in the county. A county-wide soil conversion can be accomplished in a day with GIS and would take months to accomplish accurately with paper maps.

GISW will build the Harlan County GIS by:

- Converting the cadastral maps to a GIS layer
- Attributing Parcel Identification Number for each Parcel
- Developing a comprehensive land use layer
- Incorporating soil survey data
- Performing the analysis and conversion from old NRCS data to new soils data (this analysis would take months to do manually but the GIS can automatically calculate the changes!)

DATA DEVELOPMENT – BUILDING THE PARCEL GIS

REFINE PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM DATASET

GISW will utilize all GPS corner control that the Surveyor provides. The system is constructed to incorporate new corner and quarter control the Surveyor may collect in the future. Incorporation of new survey control into the GIS over time will gradually "tighten" the accuracy of the GIS. The base dataset will utilize the Nebraska State Plane Coordinate System [NESPSC], NAD83 coordinate system (note: the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee and Nebraska State Surveyor recommend that counties use the NESPC system for assessment GIS).

PAPER TO DIGITAL PARCEL BOUNDARY CONVERSION

GISW will collect and scan the rural assessment cadastral maps from Harlan County. The cadastral maps together with the best available information will be used to draw the parcel layer based on the data layer described above. An example of this process can be seen in Figure 2 below.

ASSIGN PARCEL IDENTICAL NUMBER

After extracting the property boundaries from the scanned cadastral maps to create the digital parcel layer, GISW will populate the Parcel Identification Number for each parcel.

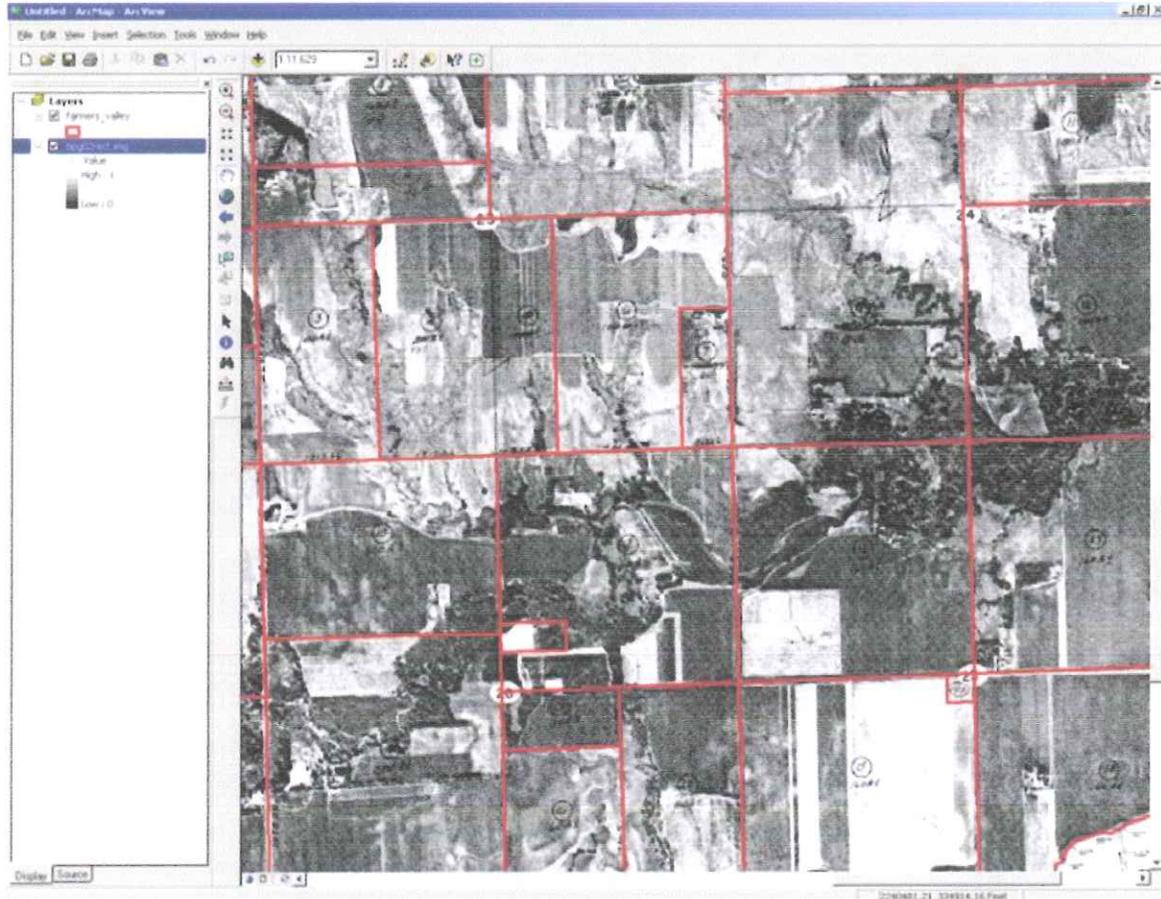


Figure 2: Scanned cadastral map with parcel lines digitized in red

DATA DEVELOPMENT - LAND USE LAYER CREATION

Upon completion of the parcel layer, GISW will create the Land Use layer, which identifies the land use codes for particular areas of a parcel. GISW will identify the various areas of a particular land use, digitize the boundaries of that land use, and incorporate those data into the GIS for analysis and reporting. This layer will also be very useful for agencies such as your local Natural Resource Districts.

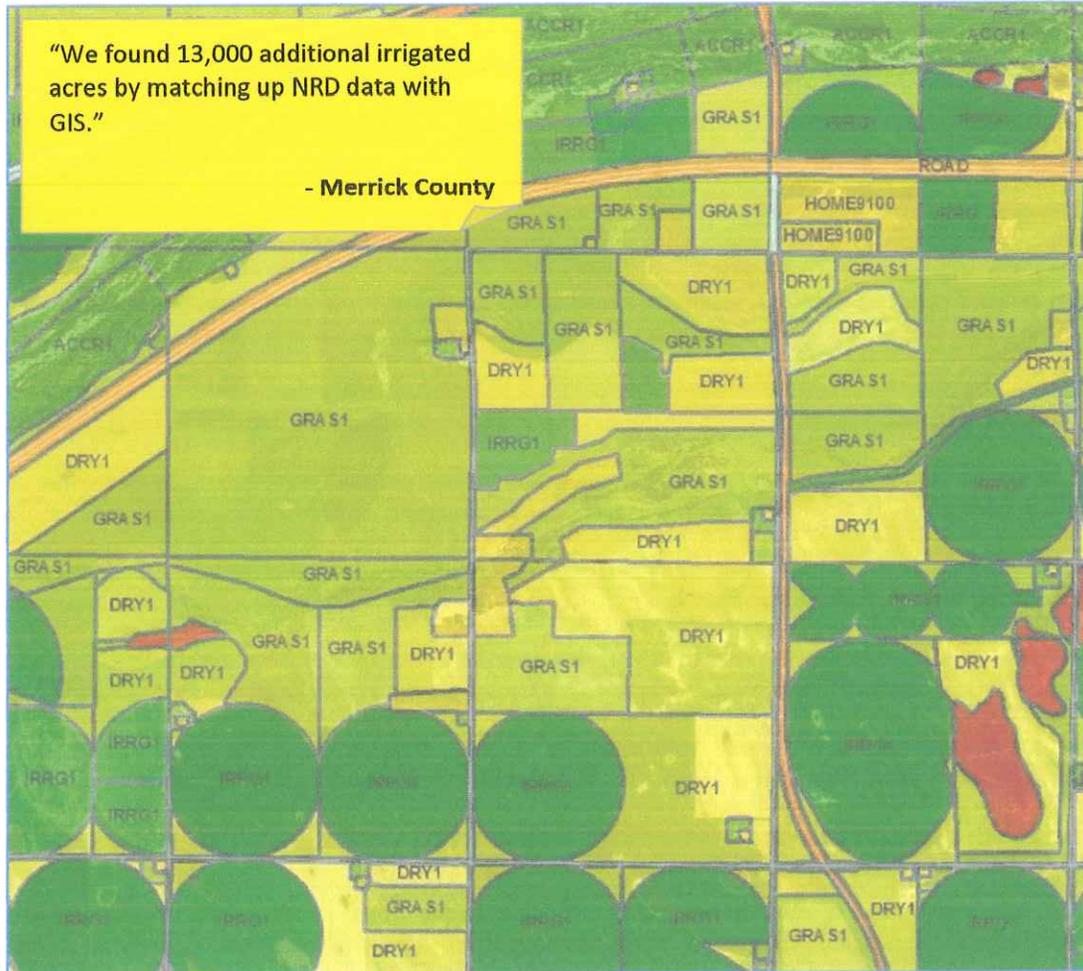


Figure 3: Example Land Use Map

DATA DEVELOPMENT - SOILS LAYER

GISW will acquire both the old and new NRCS soils layers to identify where soils have changed and to calculate the new acreage counts. The GISW land use calculator will help us use the land use, soil and parcel layers to evaluate every parcel in the County. **This type of analysis is one of the most powerful benefits of assessment GIS, it would take months to recount all the soils manually!**

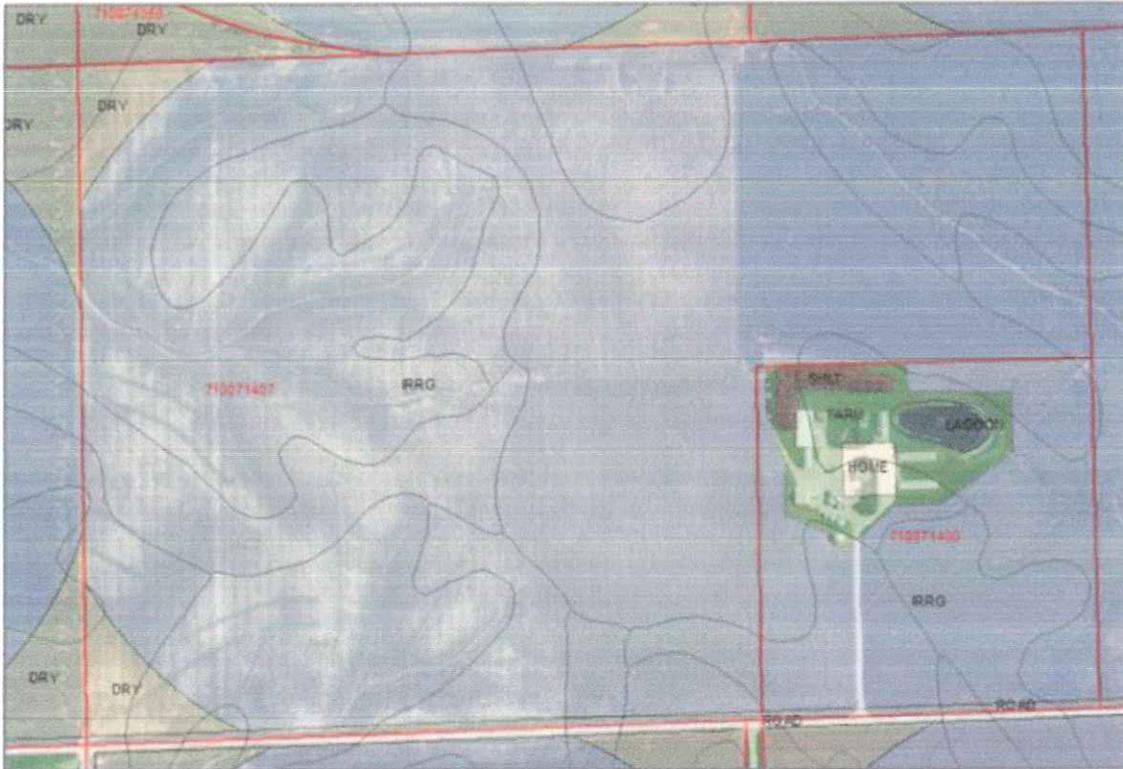


Figure 4: An example in Platte County showing the parcel lines (red), land use layer (transparent colors), and the soils (thin black lines), overlaid together for purposes of rural assessment acreage calculation

GIS DATA MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT

GIS Workshop will edit and maintain all GIS data on our redundant servers. This frees up assessor department staff to concentrate on critical projects and issues. This 100% maintenance web-based approach also eliminates the need for department staff to learn GIS software – this will be important as the County transitions from State-assessed to County-assessed. This 100% maintenance also eliminates the need to pay desktop GIS software licensing fees.

Harlan County will be responsible for sending parcel splits and land use changes to GIS Workshop. Harlan County staff will be able to use the GISW WebGIS Land Use Calculator to estimate the value of a parcel split for a walk-in customers. GIS Workshop will download a copy of the Tyler/Orion (or other CAMA system if a change is made) data file every 24 hours to ensure that these data are up-to-date on

the GIS Workshop server. After an initial introductory period, an annual data maintenance fee will be due. See the Pricing Information section for more details.

GISW dedicated support staff is waiting to field your support call at all times during regular business hours.

TRAINING

GISW will train Harlan County staff to use the GIS data. We provide a wide variety of training options customized to your needs. We support clients on a daily basis so we know what is important to you and how to make the GIS data useful. We will train staff how to use the WebGIS site via an on-line meeting after the site is operational.

WEBGIS

The WebGIS will make the assessment/appraisal information available to other county departments, city departments, real estate professionals and the general public. **Only GISW offers this type of web access to the GIS database in an easy to use web page that will become the foundation for information access at the county.**

The GISW WebGIS:

- Provides 24/7 access to public information for real estate professionals, general public and other city/county departments.
- The GISW Web GIS **REDUCES** the number of calls into the assessor office, allowing staff to get on with the business of assessment. Our Assessor clients say it best: **Phelps County experienced a 50%-75% reduction in the daily call volume related to property tax issues. Kearney County estimated a 75% reduction in call volume when they went online!**
- Promotes information sharing amongst city/county departments and **reduces duplications of effort.**
- Provides the Enterprise GIS foundation so **other departments (roads, planning/zoning, etc.) may start using GIS technology more cost effectively.**

HARLAN COUNTY'S WEBGIS

GISW proposes to design and build an enterprise WebGIS for Harlan County, NE in which other departments within the County will build upon and integrate with the assessment GIS foundation in the Assessor's office. The system is designed to leverage the investment the County made in the assessment GIS to promote online GIS for multiple departments. If a County department is not "enabled" the icon is simply grayed out and unavailable. *Note: assessment and appraisal data are tied to the Assessor support contract which is already in place, as is the Assessor tab on the WebGIS.

The Assessor tab was the first step in setting up the enterprise WebGIS for the County. The tab will feature the data layers and tools specific to the needs of the Assessment staff and general public interested in assessment information. The Assessor tab shown in Figure 5 below illustrates such features as property search capability, a property identification tool and various map layers of interest to the Assessor and the general public. The WebGIS will allow anyone with internet access to search for

and look at maps concerning property ownership and sales information, assessment and appraisal data*, and any other data associated with future tabs. (NOTE: an optional subscription-based version is also available to provide advanced information on a subscription basis.)

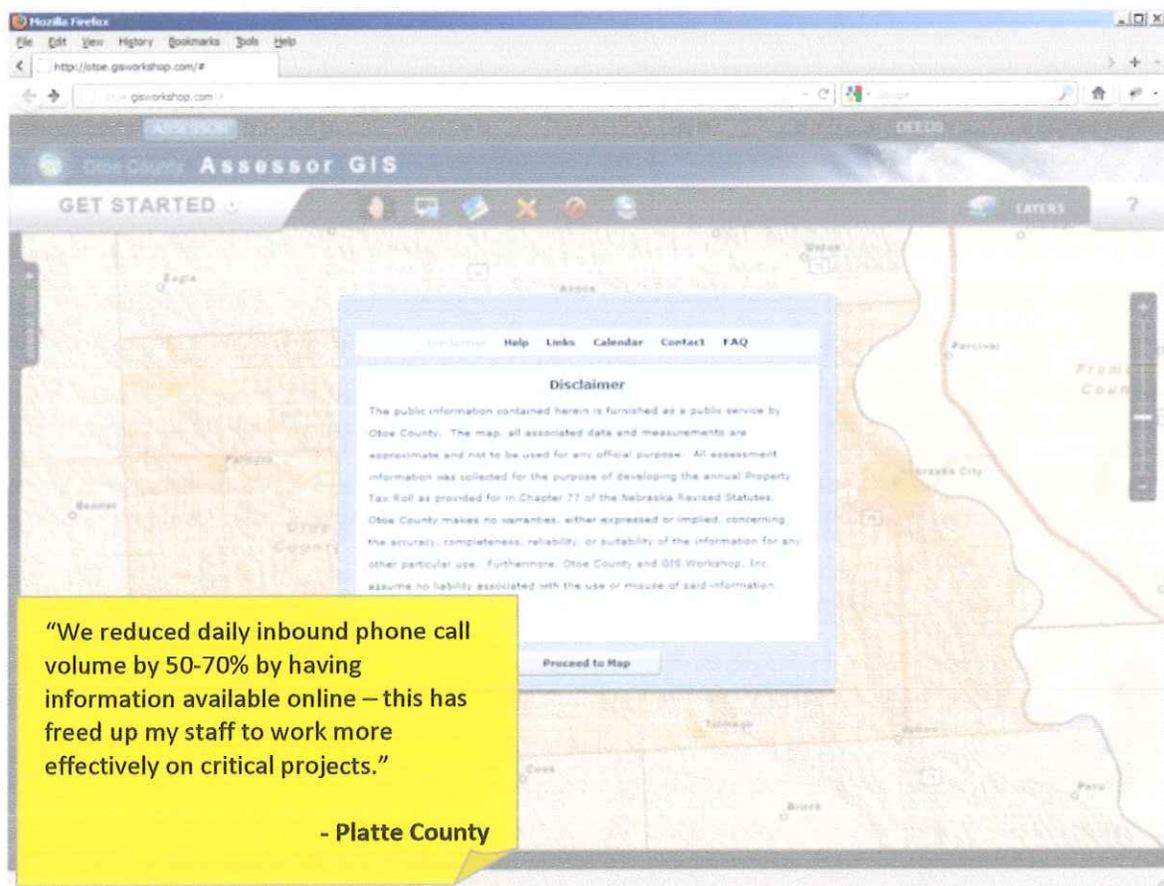


Figure 5: Opening screen (Assessor Tab) of GIS Workshop’s Enterprise WebGIS for Lincoln County, NE.

Additional tabs for this WebGIS project may include Clerk, Treasurer, Roads and Sheriff/Emergency Management. These tabs, over time, will be enhanced to meet needs such as asset management and budget forecasting. *The beauty of WebGIS is that it grows with each Department and continues to become an even greater asset and tool over time.*

ASSESSOR TAB DATA LAYERS

The default data layers include County parcels and public land survey system (PLSS) sections. The parcels will be labeled with their parcel ID (PID) when the user zooms in far enough for the PID to fit inside the parcel boundary. The PLSS section layer is mainly used to help with zooming to a specific section/township/range but it is available as a visible layer on the map.

The WebGIS opens to the Assessor tab with parcels and base map (includes road centerlines, political boundaries, and a shaded relief topography background) layers visible. The user can switch to a satellite view that includes 2010 FSA aerial photography.

SEARCHES (GET STARTED)

Complete property and sales information is available within seconds via the search features. Under the 'Get Started' drop-down menu, find a property options include owner name, parcel ID, address, or legal description.

Sales data is available may be filtered by date range, price range, year built, or other pertinent parameters. For those counties wishing to offer sales data on a subscription basis, GISW offers a subscription-based option (see Optional Items under the Pricing section of this document). Figure 6 illustrates the 'Get Started' options. Figure 6 shows the results table after searching for "Smith" in the owner name field. Figure 7 shows the results of selecting a property. The map has zoomed into the chosen parcel and the parcel polygon is highlighted. Figure 8 shows the full property report card with links to photos, value, sale, building and land information.

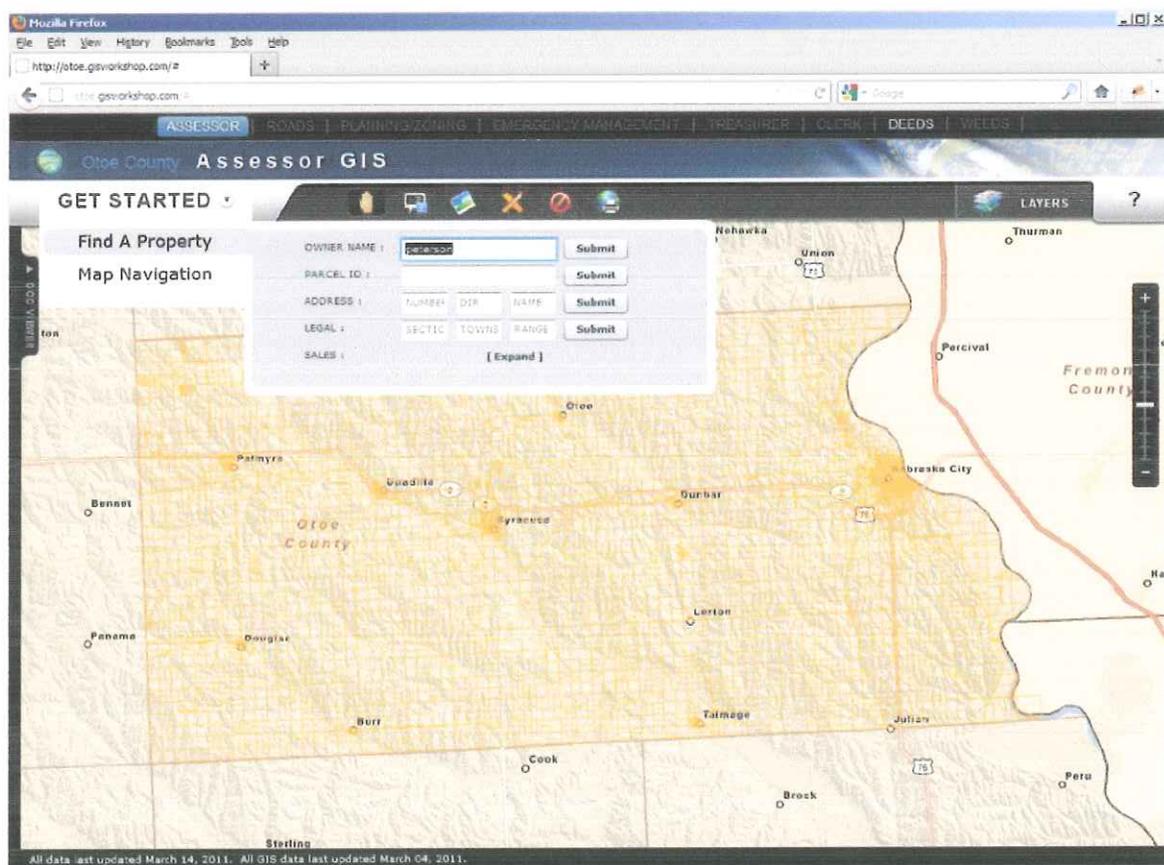


Figure 6: Assessor tab showing property search box

HARLAN COUNTY NE



Figure 7: Property search results

HARLAN COUNTY NE

Search Results 55 PRINT RESULTS: [icon]

Report PRINT REPORT: [icon]

Parcel Information

Parcel ID: 000090000
 Links: [Photo #1](#) [Photo #2](#) [Photo #3](#) [Photo #4](#) [Photo #5](#) [Photo #6](#) [Photo #7](#) [Photo #8](#) [Photo #9](#) [Photo #10](#) [Photo #11](#) [Photo #12](#) [Aerial #1](#) [Aerial #2](#) [Aerial #3](#)
 Map Number: 3707-02-0-0000-000-0000
 Cadastral #: 002-031-008
 Current Owners: PETERSON, A E & C
 & DAWN RENEE PETERSON
 3655 N RC
 NEBRASKA CITY GE 69410-0350
 Sitov Address: 3671 N RC
 Tax District: 145
 Tax ID: 002-031-008
 School District: NEB CITY 111
 Neighborhood: 2000
 Property Class: Agricultural
 Lot Width x Depth: 0 x 0
 Legal Description: 2-0-13 80 AC 63/2 SW/4 LESS A TRACT 5 PLUG A TRACT (N/4) 2 SW/3/4 BELMONT

Year	Total	Assessed Values		
		Land	Improvements	Outbuildings
2011	637,740	130,240	476,100	41300

Sales History

Date	Book/Page	Grantor	Price
2008 11 21	2008 02376	PETERSON DONALD E	50 00

Building Permits

Permit #	Date	Description	Amount
37628	07/31/2008	NEW ADDITION 20'X30 FRAMB	40000
661	04/24/2004	ADDITION TO EXISTING BLDG 22'X43	26000
17372-3201	002-64231-000	ADD SKETCHES NEW TRD	

All data last updated March 14, 2011. All GIS data last updated March 04, 2011.

Figure 8: Property Record Card (note the map zoomed in and highlighted the chosen parcel)

MAP NAVIGATION

A slider bar for general zoom in/out viewing is available at all times. Additionally, under the 'Get Started' drop down menu, the map navigation option allows the user to 'zoom to section/township/range'. Easy panning or the ability to move the map around is possible via the pan tool icon located in the toolbar. Figure 9 illustrates the zoom slider bar and pan tool (hand icon).

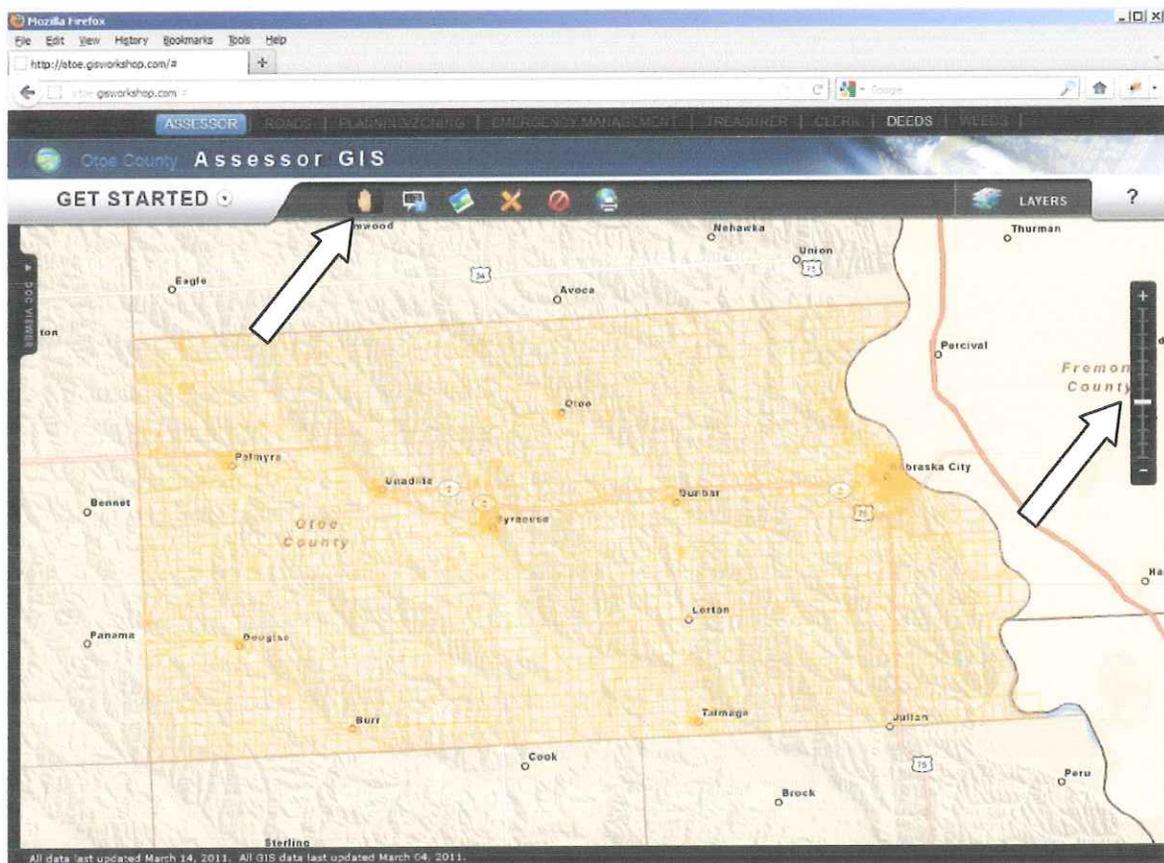


Figure 9: Zoom slider bar (right side) and activated pan tool icon (hand) in horizontal toolbar

Figures 10 and 11 illustrate the Map Navigation feature. The user enters a specific section/township/range and then the map zooms into the specified section.

HARLAN COUNTY NE

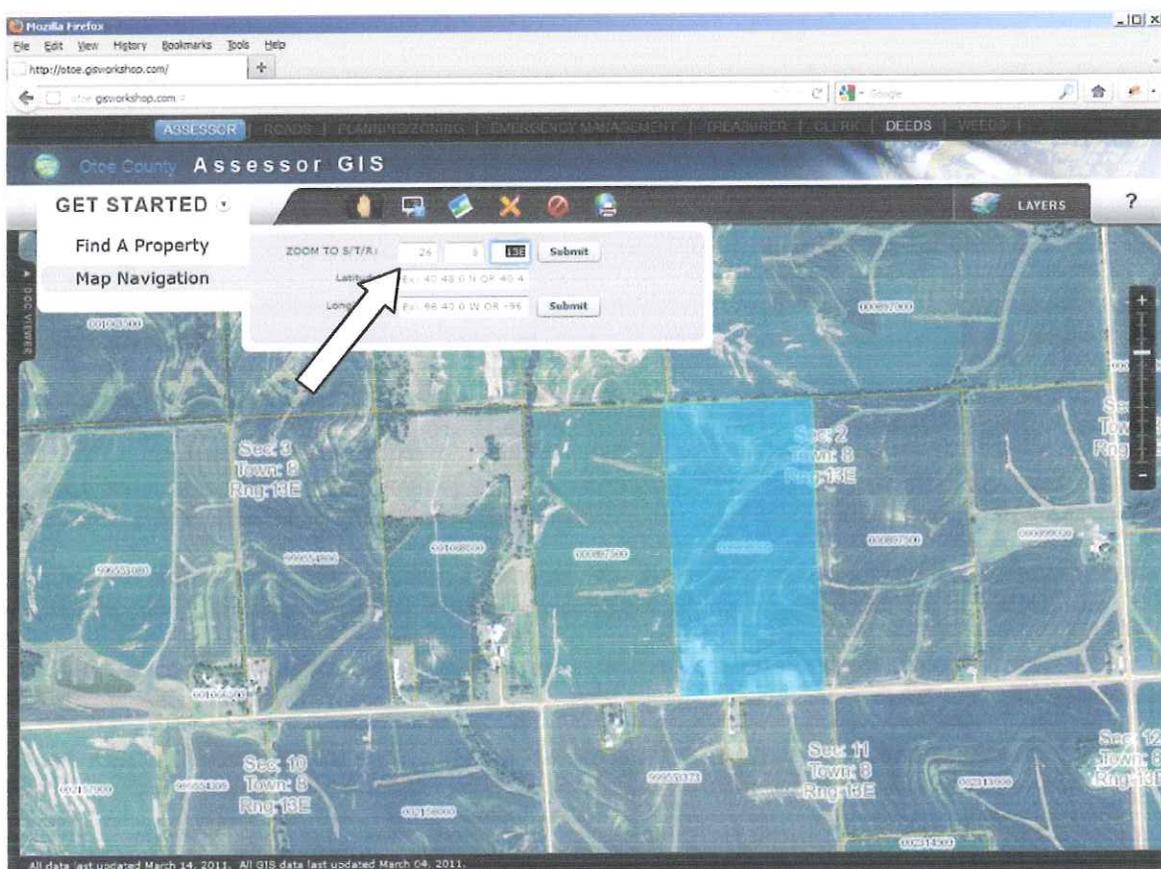


Figure 10: User enters section/township/range

HARLAN COUNTY NE

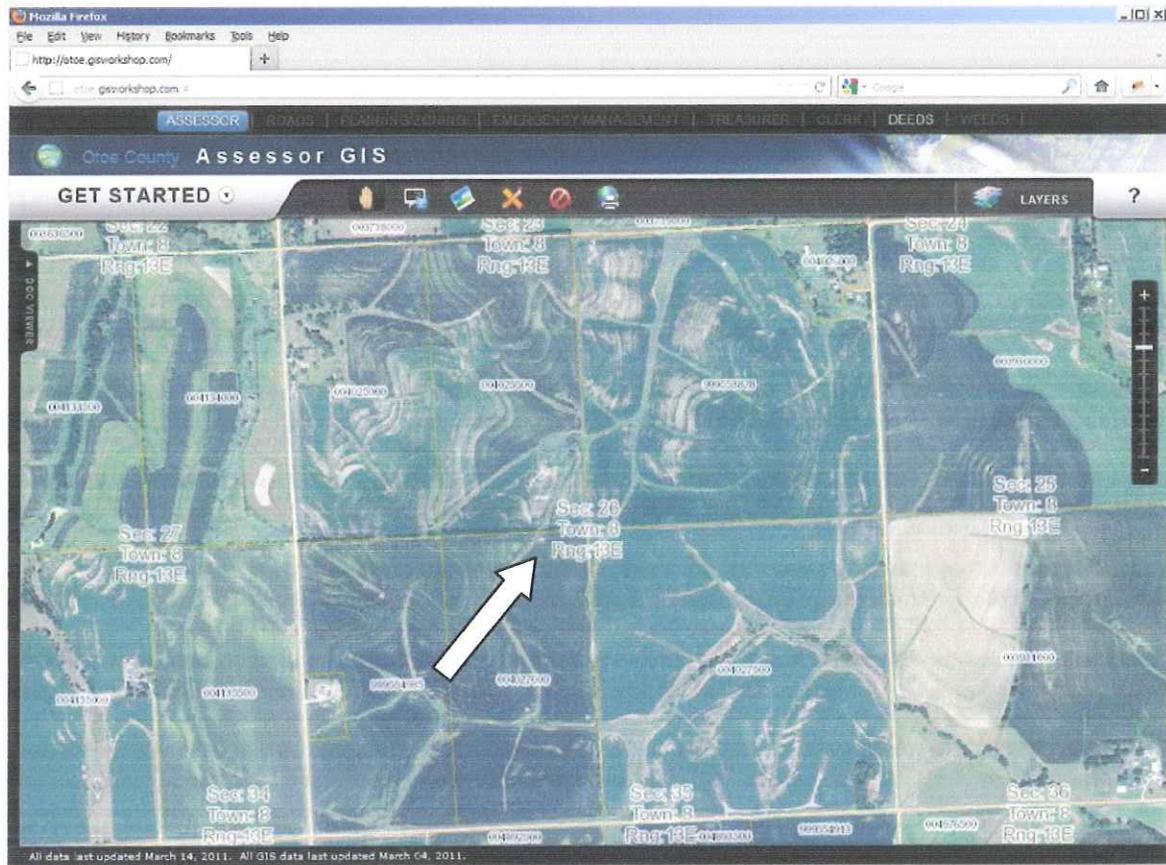


Figure 11: Application zooms into the specified section

QUICK IDENTIFY TOOL

The quick identify tool allows a user to click inside a parcel on the map to see a pop-up window appear with basic parcel, owner name, and address information. The quick identify tool is shown in Figure 12 below. Property card information is also available through the identify tool.

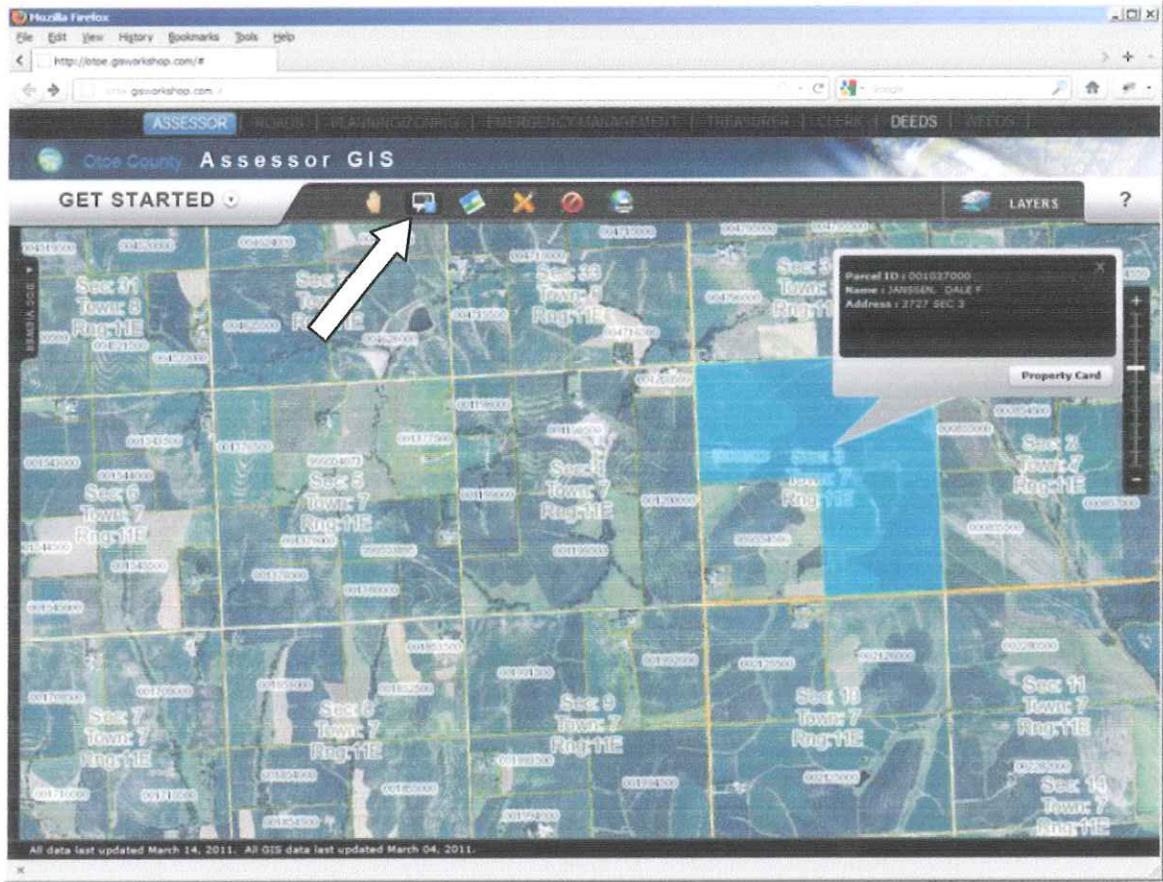


Figure 12: Activated Quick Identifier tool and information box result with link to Property Card

PHOTO TOOL

The photo tool is a great way to view individual building improvements. The tool reads the assessment database for all available photos and sketches and displays them in a photo window. If GISW has flown oblique aerial photography for the County those will also be available in the photo tool.

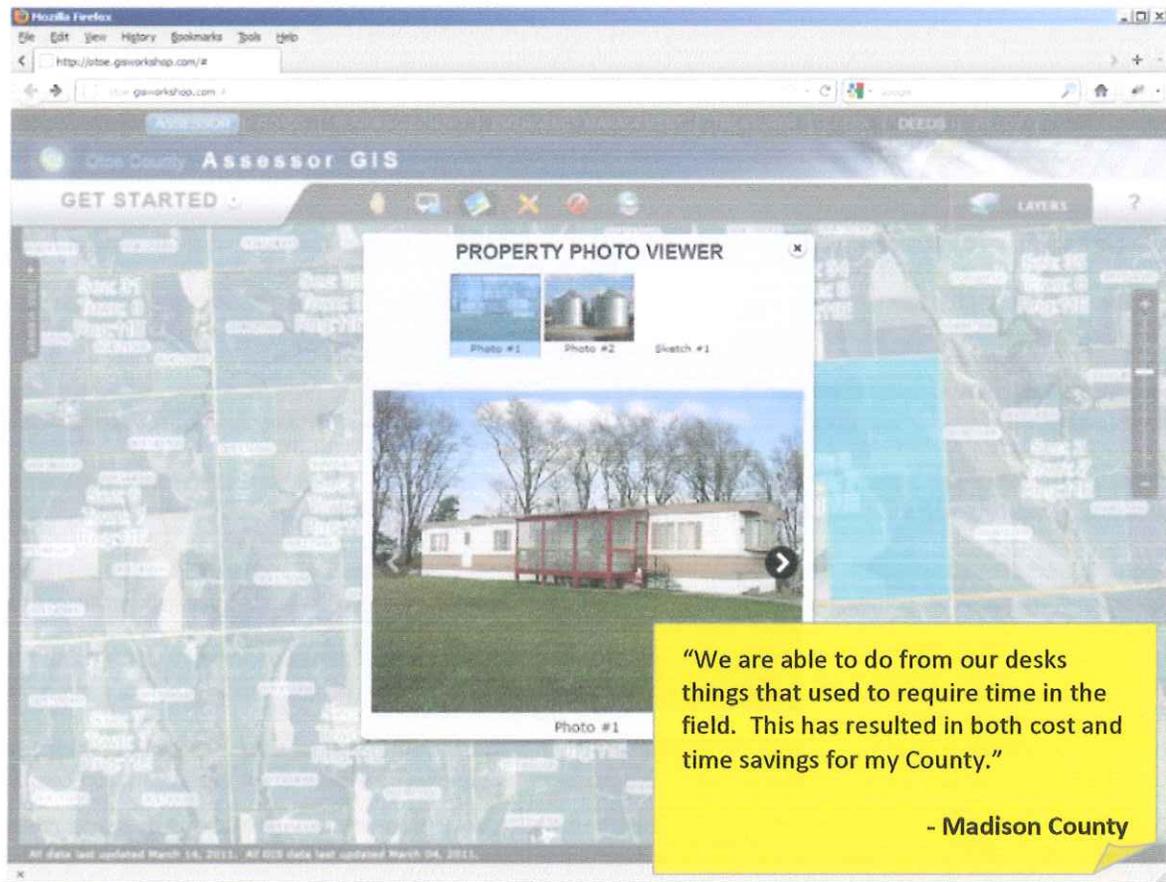


Figure 13: Property Photo Viewer Tool shows all available images from the Assessor's database

MEASUREMENT TOOL

Length (feet, meters, miles, and kilometers) and area (acres, square feet, square meters, square miles, and square kilometers) measurements can be easily performed via the measurement tool. Using this tool, simply click at the starting point and double click at the ending point to measure a length or draw a polygon by clicking at each vertex location to measure the area. The total measurement appears in a box at the top of the screen as seen in the figure below.

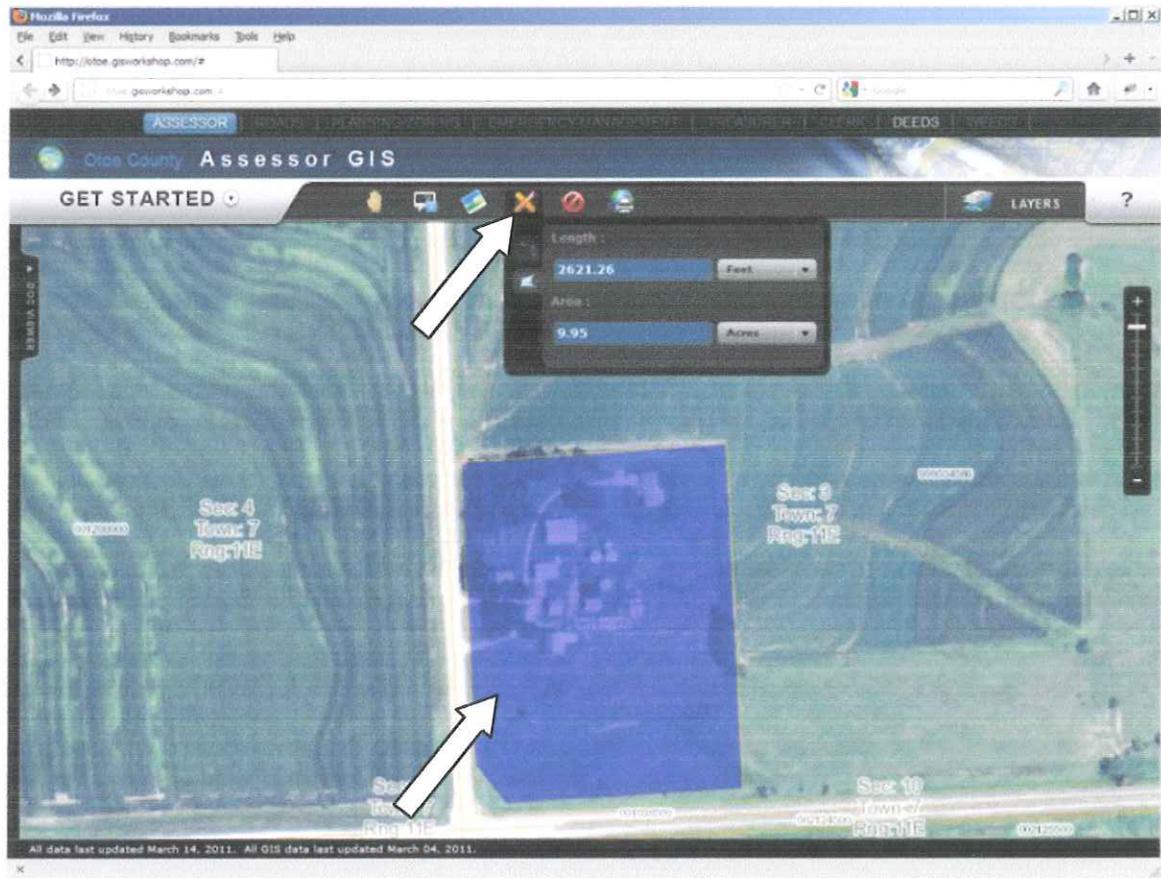


Figure 14: Measurement tool showing total length of the user-drawn line segment along the parcel boundary.

LAND USE CALCULATOR

The WebGIS Land Use Calculator Tool is a power for fast and accurate evaluation. The tool is protected by a simple login feature and allows the Assessor's office to quickly calculate land value and provided a detailed report of the acreage breakdown of each LVG code category.

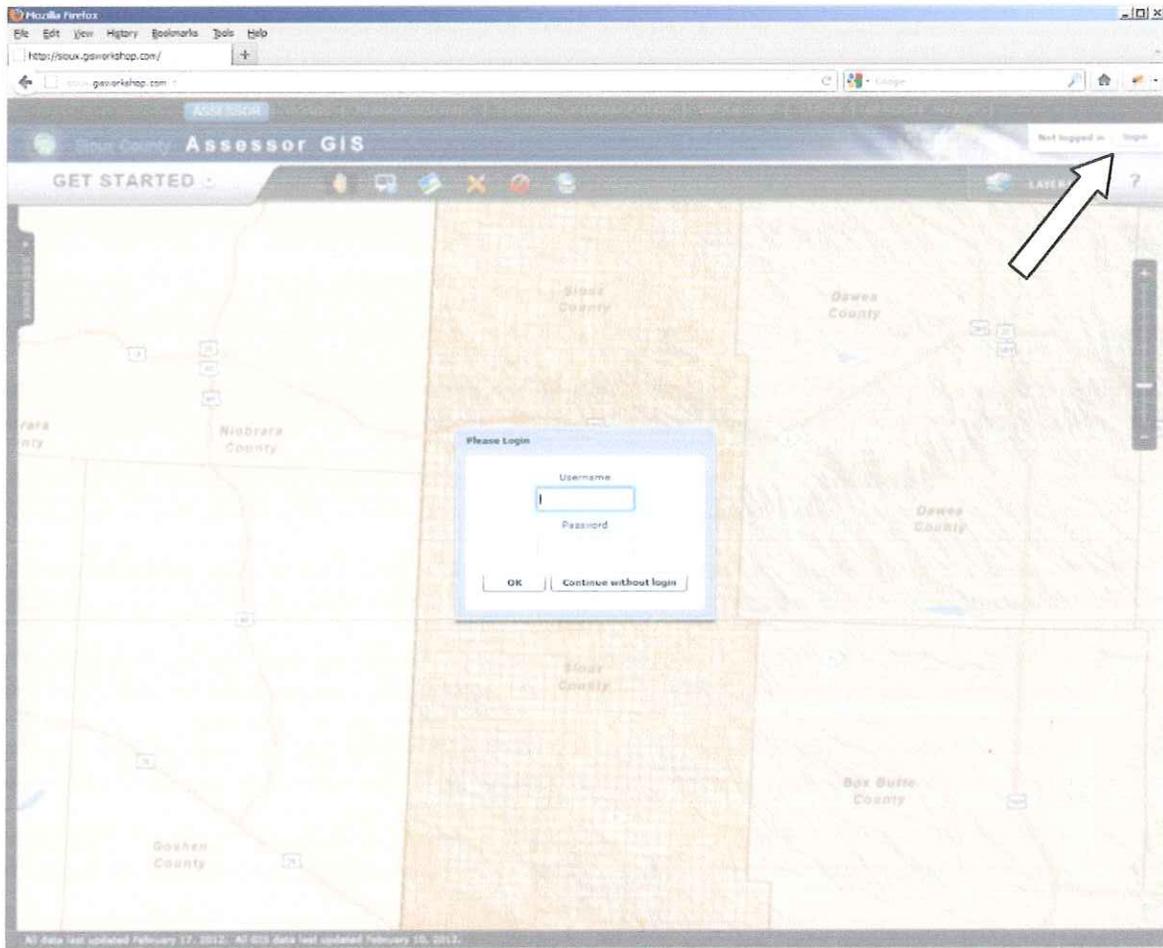


Figure 15: Login Screen protecting the Land Use Calculator Tool

HARLAN COUNTY NE

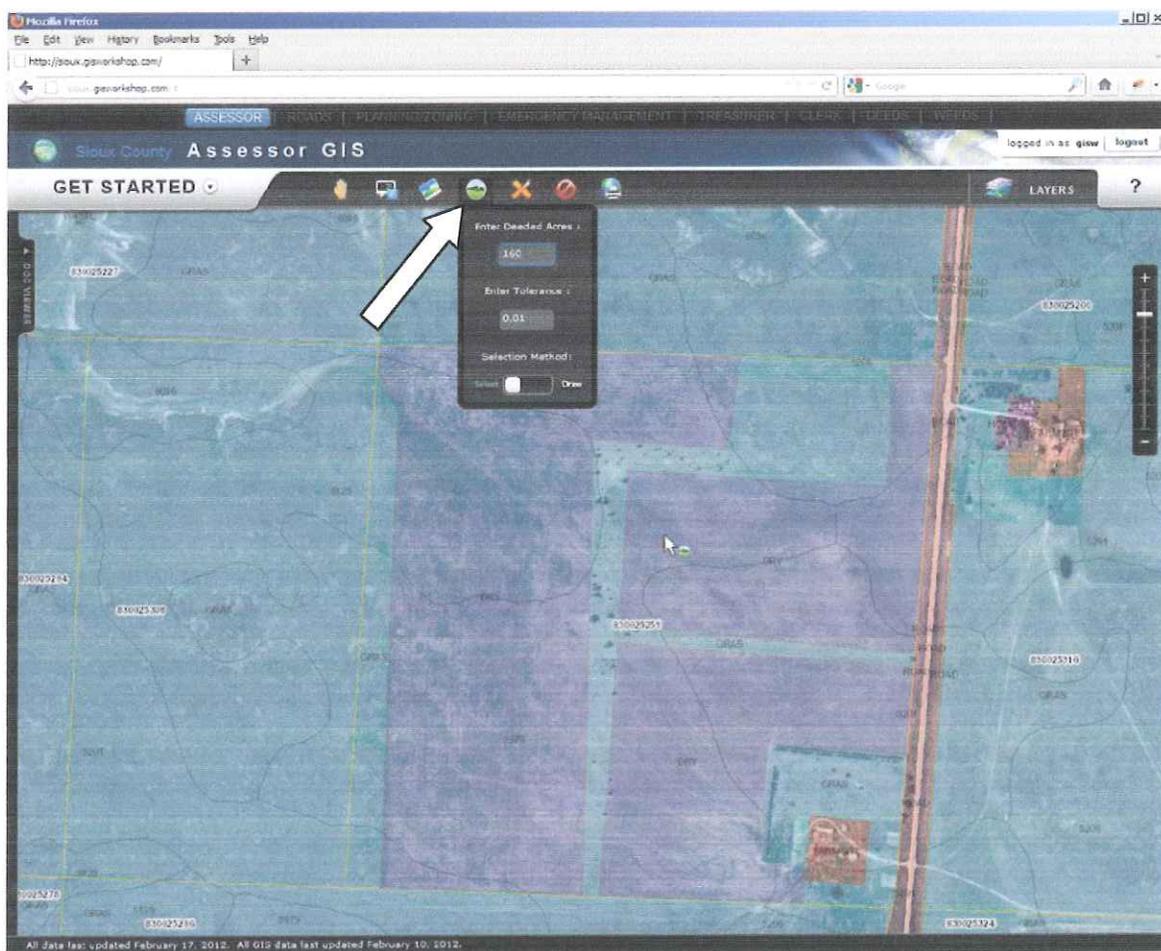


Figure 16: Land Use Calculator Tool options

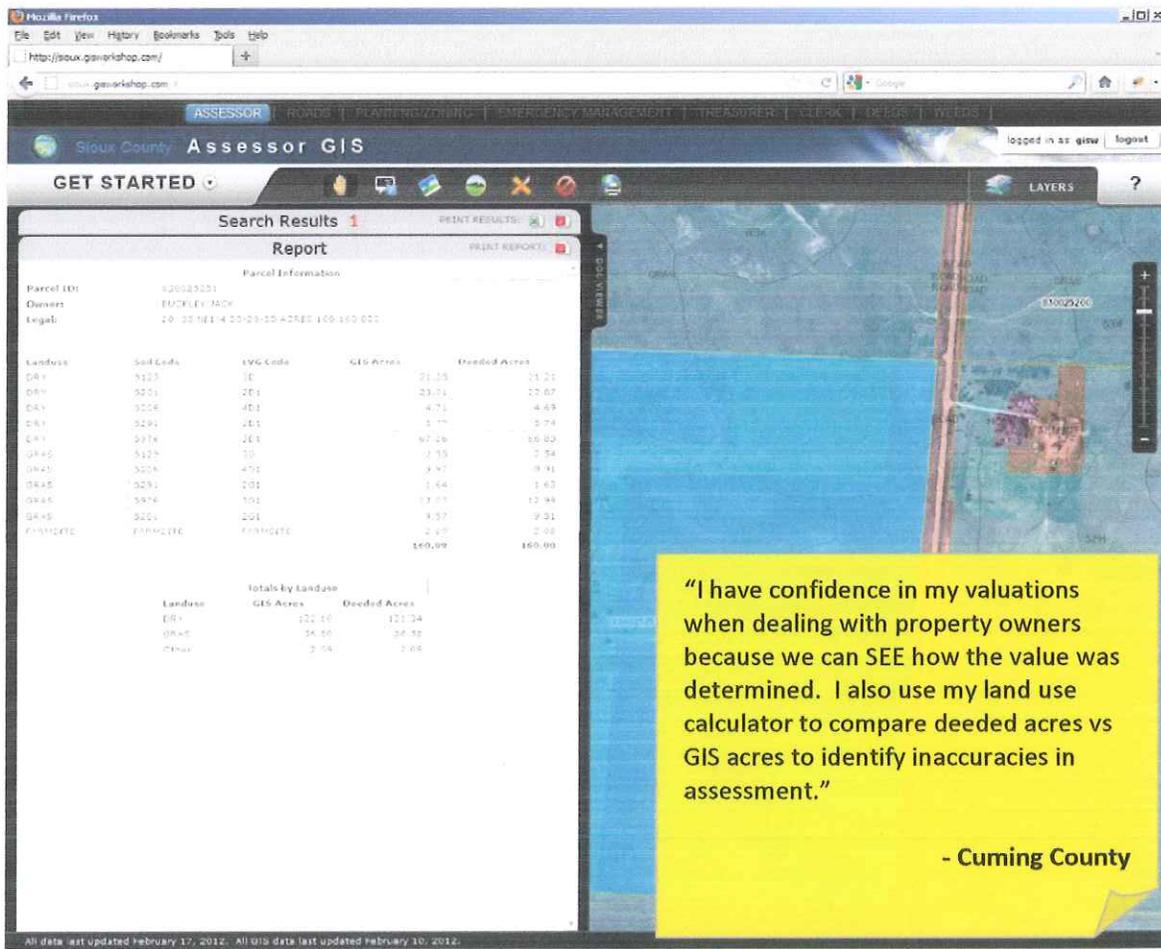


Figure 17: Land Use Calculator Report

SCHEDULE

The GISW team is ready to start the Harlan County, NE Assessor GIS project after acceptance and receipt of a signed contract according to the tasks described in this proposal. We anticipate GIS project buildout and WebGIS setup completion before June 30, 2013.

PROJECT COSTS

The following pricing and package is **FULLY INCLUSIVE**, providing the Assessor with everything needed for a fully functional assessment GIS. There are no hidden charges or expenses. The cost is based on the size of the county. Variations and/or additions to those tasks/features/service stated within are subject to additional costs. Any change orders must be documented and added as an addendum to this scope with the additional costs for said change order added to the following costs. **GIS WORKSHOP WILL NOT SEND A SINGLE INVOICE UNTIL THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE AND YOU ARE 100% SATISFIED WITH YOUR PRODUCT.**

Services	Cost (\$)
<u>GIS Build-out Services and Assessor Tab on WebGIS, with Year One Maintenance</u>	<u>\$59,800</u>
Deliverables:	
GIS layers	
Parcels	
Sections	
Town lot/subdivision	
Land use	
Ortho-photography (Latest FSA imagery)	
Soils	
Assessor Tab WebGIS featuring the Landuse Calculator tool	
Initial year of GIS data maintenance and support	
Online County staff training on use of WebGIS	
 Total Costs for above listed Services	 <u>\$59,800</u>

FINANCING OPTIONS

GISW will deliver and install all systems upon completion. Delivery is unrelated to the payment schedule. Support fees are not financed or included in this potential scheme. **Use of our interest free financing options does not delay product delivery in any way.**

NOTE: Any awarded Grant funds will be applied to the total cost and payment schedule will be based upon the remaining balance. Remaining project balance may be spread over four years.

ONGOING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

<u>GIS Data maintenance by GISW for Assessor (effective July 2014)</u>	<u>\$4,800 annually</u>
<u>WebGIS maintenance by GISW (effective July 2014)</u>	<u>\$4,800 annually</u>

OPTIONAL ITEMS

<u>Additional annual maintenance for subscription-based option</u>	<u>\$1,500 annually</u>
<u>Subscription-based management tool</u>	<u>included</u>

Nebraska State Records Board

**APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION**

ATTACHMENT 2:

**LETTERS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT
FROM HARLAN COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

COUNTRY ROAD REALTY
DAVID B. WOLF - Broker
P.O. Box 725 – 901 W. Main Street – Alma, NE 68920-0725
Phone 308-928-3120 Fax 308-928-2071

February 28, 2012

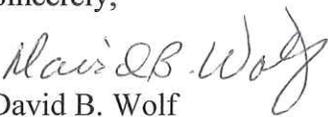
RE: Harlan County WebGIS

To the Nebraska State Records Board:

I support the electronic access provided by WebGIS and the maps and information that it provides. This access is very useful to my business and the community that I serve. Besides being relevant to my realty business it is useful as a helpful tool to the community who are seeking the most up to date and accurate information on file.

There are many advantages to having this information available. Most of all, it frees up the county official so that they do not have to wait upon many who can access the information. This allows the county employs much less distraction with unnecessary service. These employees can be more productive by not being interrupted in much of their technical work.

Sincerely,



David B. Wolf
Country Road Realty
Alma, NE

Harlan County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Chris Becker



P.O. Box 679
Alma, NE 68920
(308) 928-2147
FAX (308) 928-2592
email: hclaw@megavision.com

April 2, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board

Dear Board:

The Harlan County Sheriff's Office is in full support of the grant application being submitted by the Harlan County Assessor. As Sheriff I would find the GIS system to be very beneficial to Law Enforcement especially during search warrants or other emergency calls. The GIS system would be a great asset for locating property and directing Officers to a certain location. I would also like to utilize the program in mapping out crime areas and certain incidents.

Since I'm also the Emergency manager for Harlan County I would expect GIS to be a great asset for mapping out certain areas for any type of emergency or damages that may occur during a storm or related incident.

I again appreciate the opportunity for Harlan County to apply for this grant and I look forward to being able to utilize these tools to better serve the citizens of Harlan County.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Becker".

Sheriff Chris Becker

Emergency Manager

Harlan County Road Department

Douglas K. Lennemann, Superintendent

PO Box 227

Alma, NE 68920

Phone ~ (308) 928-9800 Fax ~ (308) 928-2223

April 3, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board

I support the GIS project with GIS workshop. It would provide the Harlan County Road Department to be able to adequately perform our day-to-day duties more efficiently for the citizens of Harlan County.

In the future, with this system, I hope to be able to provide the public with a better understanding of the county roads, bridges, culverts, tonnage on bridges, and right-of-ways.

This system would be a great benefit for the Harlan County Road Department and residents of Harlan County.

Sincerely,



Doug Lennemann
Harlan County Highway Superintendent

Janet Dietz, Harlan County Clerk
P. O. Box 698
Alma, NE 68920
March 30, 2012

Pam Meisenbach, Assessor
Harlan County
Alma, NE 68920

Dear Pam:

I am a former GIS Technician for Phelps County Nebraska. I have worked with the program and GIS Workshop for ten years. What an amazing program and staff support this would be for Harlan County. I believe that all offices in the courthouse would benefit by having this implemented to our organization. The technology and possibility for a website is definitely needed in this rural area.

I would like to commend GIS Workshop for the important contribution it would make to our community.

Sincerely,



Janet Dietz, Harlan County Clerk

March 30, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board
440 South 8th Street
Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: GIS Harlan County

Dear Board:

This letter is being written to support the GIS grant application being submitted by the Harlan County Assessor. I believe this mapping website would be of great benefit to First National Bank. As an Appraisal Analyst I utilize GIS websites in multiple states and this is a necessity for these offices in my opinion.

This website would not only help First National Bank but also the Harlan County Assessor and the taxpayers and other individuals, government entities and companies.

A GIS system tied with the CAMA package and a sales search would also be beneficial. I support this program and encourage your financial assistance for Harlan County.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Wilhelm

Jeffrey Wilhelm | Appraisal Analyst & Certified General Appraiser NE & SD

First National of Nebraska, Inc. | Appraisal Review Dept.

11 South John Street Unit C

P.O. Box 853 Alma, NE 68920

P: 308-928-9207 | F: 308-928-9227 | E: jwilhelm@fnni.com

March 30, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board

Please accept this letter as our strong support for the Harlan County WebGIS system.

We believe that a county enterprise mapping website would definitely be a valuable tool to assist our lending operations as well as a benefit to our customers and the community. The ability to access public information and provide reliable information would enable our loan officers to be much more efficient and be able to provide our customers with better information in making timely decisions on loan requests.

The current procedures for obtaining public record information, which entails examination and copying of documents at our local courthouse are very inefficient and outdated in light of the current technology available. I believe that an updated change to the current recording system would also be a cost saving tool for our local county office operations.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY BANK



Russ Loewenstein, President

March 30, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board
440 South 8th Street
Suite 210
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Board:

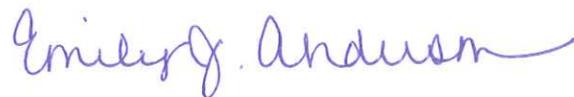
This letter is being written to support the GIS grant application being submitted by the Harlan County Assessor. I believe this mapping website would be of great benefit to the City Office.

Currently, I access public information on a daily basis, particularly when we are verifying physical or mailing addresses to send nuisance letters to property owners who may not have city utilities and therefore, they are not in our billing database. Another common problem I have observed is new property owners being unfamiliar with their property lines, or unable to locate them.

The accessibility that the GIS data would provide would not only benefit the City's operations, but would instill confidence in the county government's ability to serve the public at a higher level.

This website would enable to the City to more efficiently access public information and help provide a better service to our citizens. For the above reasons, I support this program and encourage your financial assistance for Harlan County.

Sincerely,



Emily J. Anderson
City Clerk

Harlan County Zoning

706 2nd St. Alma, Ne. 68920

March 30, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board

I am in full support of the GIS project with GIS workshop. The tools and information that it can provide will allow me to be more efficient and effective in doing my job as Zoning Administrator for Harlan County.

In the long term, I would like to share maps with the public on the Planning and Zoning tab on the GIS web.

I think this would be a great asset for the Citizens of Harlan County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Melbye', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ron Melbye

Zoning Administrator



Lower Republican Natural Resources District

March 30, 2012

To: Nebraska State Records Board

I am writing this letter to support the Harlan County WebGIS. I believe this mapping website will be of great benefit to the Lower Republican Natural Resource District. We rely greatly on public information on a daily basis to ensure that our databases, most importantly our water databases, have the most up to date and accurate ownership records and parcel information. Access to this information on a website will increase our efficiency and effectiveness in serving our constituents.

At this time, we currently call to ask specific questions regarding ownership changes and parcel information. We rely on the assessors to provide us with this information as our District must communicate on a very regular basis with the landowners of irrigated acres. If we fail to notify irrigated landowners of current or pending rule changes or specific matters that they need to address, then compliance issues which could jeopardize the irrigated status of the land may ensue.

To be able to access this information on a website would definitely decrease our time spent retrieving public information. In addition, access to public information 24/7 will enable us to make decisions after normal government business hours if needed. We rely on public information and believe the availability on a website will only enhance the retrieval process. This time-saving element results in a cost-saving payoff. Not only will this reduce our cost but it will also reduce the expense to the County as there is always an employee retrieving a file(s), copying and re-filing our requested information.

This data in visible form at the end of our finger tips will not only benefit the District, but the confidence in the county government's ability to serve the public will be promoted to a higher level.

At this time, every business is conscious of cost and efficiency. The WebGIS will enable us to reduce our costs of accessing public information and increase our efficiency immediately. There will be no transition period for development of a new program, system, etc. We will simply electronically access the up-to-date public information. For the above reasons, I support this program and encourage your financial assistance for Harlan County.

Sincerely,

**Kristi Coe
Water Resources Administrator**



MEMBER FDIC

April 2, 2012

Nebraska State Records Board

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: Harlan County Assessor Information Website

On behalf of the Community Bank and Stamford Insurance we support the easy access to public information. We use the current website on real estate on a daily basis. The current system has incomplete information as to the current and past year's taxes. The old system seemed to have more complete information. To service our customer we need to have all the reliable public information. The web based information is extremely handy in light of this office being 15 miles from the courthouse. Currently we have to contact the county for information that is not on the web. This is not very cost effective to their office or us.

The information technology is changing how we do business. Thus everyone needs to grow and make improvements.

Sincerely,

Leon D. Lyon
Executive Vice President
MLO Identifier 440828

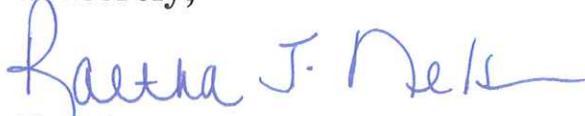
HARLAN COUNTY ABSTRACT INC
27 North John Street
P.O. BOX 695
ALMA, NEBRASKA 68920

To the Nebraska State Records Board:

April 3, 2012

I support the electronic access provided by GIS and the maps and other information it provides. As an abstracter it would provide me with critical information that I so often need to complete my research. I also believe it would save me valuable time, and I wouldn't have to interrupt the county employees during their workday.

Sincerely,



Raetha J. Nelsen

Harlan County Abstract, Inc.



April 2, 2012

Cathy Danahy, Executive Director
Nebraska State Records Board
440 South 8th Street, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508-2294

RE: Grant Funding for County GIS Programs

Dear Ms. Danahy:

On behalf of Farm Credit Services of America, an Omaha, Nebraska-based company dedicated to serving the credit, risk management and financial needs of farmers and ranchers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, I am writing to register our support for grant funding to establish additional county-based GIS layers and WebGIS applications throughout Nebraska.

Our appraisal department is responsible for providing detailed reports that include:

- Area and neighborhood analysis including recent market trends and recent sales activity;
- Specific location of buildings for flood insurance purposes;
- Location map of subject and sales; and
- Aerial and soil maps.

The availability of county records through the online format in counties that have information built and on-line is very beneficial to our company. Not only does it reduce the amount of time required to travel for inspections, it gives us access to county data (24/7) and the ability to offer quick turnaround times for providing up-to-date, accurate appraisal reports to our customers.

The agriculture industry in Nebraska depends upon innovative data-sharing, like GIS mapping, to compete in the most efficient and productive food system (American agriculture) in the world. It is from this point of view that Farm Credit Services of America advocates for these types of programs to supply our farm and ranch producers with the finest tools and technologies available.

Providing GIS capabilities for all counties throughout the state would be a tremendous way to keep our industry on the cutting edge.

Thank you for your consideration!



Kirk Manker
VP Chief Appraiser
kirk.manker@fcsamerica.com
402-348-3367
402-661-3367 (fax)

fcsamerica.com

