



## **Nebraska State Records Board**

440 S. 8<sup>th</sup> 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** - *Scotts Bluff County Mapping Department*
2. **Grant amount requested** \$ 25,000
3. **Title of project** \_\_\_*Scotts Bluff County Web GIS Initiative*
4. **Brief description of project:** *To develop internet GIS applications using ARCGIS Server software.*

**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.**

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.

## 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?

**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.**

## 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).**

*Scotts Bluff County has a well developed GIS in place which was initiated in 1989, but the fairly recent availability of software by ESRI (ARCGIS SERVER) makes it much more feasible to create web services from GIS "Shapefiles". We presently own licenses for Workstation ARC INFO along with ARCGIS SERVER, which is a migration from ARCIMS and has a more robust set of tools for serving GIS data through the use of the Internet. Our vision is to develop in-house, along with some assistance from a WEB development consultant, a variety of web applications accessible to the public, which would include our cadastral map along with the associated attributes and also to incorporate other available data such as soils and land use maps, demographic data, hazardous use area designations and available imagery acquired through our own efforts or freely available imagery from government agencies such as FSA. As more GIS resources become available we would incorporate them into our web presence where appropriate for the use and benefit of the public.*

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

*The most obvious beneficiary would be the citizens of Scotts Bluff County. This is a tool that has the potential to make open government much more of a reality. It provides the information for people to make more informed decisions about how to apply geographically based information to their everyday activities. It is also a tool to promote economic development, decision making involving the location and availability of land suitable for a particular type of business. Tourism promotion would also benefit by being able to showcase the area and its attractions. Finally the internal use of easily accessible GIS data provides nearly all offices of county government and state agencies the ability to interact with one another.*

- 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?**

*Initial development of a significant web presence could be accomplished in 1 year. This would include availability of cadastral mapping, roads, school districts, commissioner districts and voting districts. If presently available land use and soils maps created by other agencies were used they could simply be incorporated along with maps such as demographics. If a higher level of sophistication is required such as polygon intersections and dissolving of extraneous boundaries such as roads and other manmade features were required by the Assessor's Office it may require 2 to 3 years and some outside consultant involvement to accomplish the required editing and final product.*

- 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.**

*June 2013*

**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.**

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

*No, but ultimate acceptance of the grant would need to be approved by our county commissioners.*

**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 project to do the work in house with the monies used as follows:*

*\$13,000 for hardware and software*

*\$ 7,000 for a part-time employee dedicated to the web application work*

*\$ 5,000 for in house web development*

**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.**

*We will not have financial contributions from other sources but we have collaborated in the past with the local city governments of Scottsbluff, Terrytown and Gering. We also collaborate with many of our internal departments to utilize GIS and can see the value of a web presence to aid the departments. See the attached letters from the different departments.*

**8. Why is the grant money needed for the project and how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended? The GIS office presently has only two full time employees and is not able to dedicate the time away from the scope of our primary job requirements to give this the level of attention that it would require to be successful, nor are we able to expand our budget to hire additional qualified temporary employees to accomplish the implementation of this project. When the funds are expended we anticipate that we could at the very least justify hiring an additional part time or possibly full time employee to sustain it.**

**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? Yes, it has been a project that we have taken steps towards achieving, but will be a longer timeline to the completion.**

**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.**

*We presently have a well developed computer network and a competent IT department that keeps the network current with available technology. In fact, our county web site has received awards for its outstanding content and usability. A tool like this will provide a graphic interface that text only is difficult to use to convey the many location related types of information that county government must convey to its citizens. It's the old adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words".*

**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.**

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*

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

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? *Free to all.*

If there is to be a fee, provide any statutory authorization for assessing the fee.

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?  
*Yes.*

## Part II. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made. *We are presently using ESRI software products and have been since 1989. A variety of Windows based computers will be utilized and some additional hardware will need to be purchased with the grant funds as well as additional software seats.*
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).*There are no known technical issues.*

*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.*

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: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html> **under 2. Accessibility Architecture.** *It will comply with the State's Technology Access Clause.*
  
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](http://www.staterrecordsboard.ne.gov).
  
5. **Describe how technical support will be provided.** *Software support is maintained with ESRI on an annual basis, Web support will be with our in-house technical support.*

### **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.

**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.**



**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.**

*We have all of our data based on NAD 83 in the State Plane Coordinate System.*

- 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.**

*Our data is in the NAD 83, Nebraska State Plane Coordinate System.*

- 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.**

*Our control framework is built around approximately 150 GPS observations taken on PLSS corners and over the next year it our plan to GPS all available Section Corners in the county.*

(last updated 4/30/10)

1

**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.**

*Our GIS is built on the PLSS Geodetic Framework.*

- 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.**

*Our office houses a GPS CORS station which is used to post process our GPS observations. It is planned to observe all available Section Corners in the County using a dual frequency GPS receiver. As mentioned earlier, nearly 150 observations have already been done which include all of the Section and Quarter corners in Scottsbluff and Gering.*

- 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.**

*I am the County Surveyor for Scotts Bluff County so I am in frequent contact with the State Surveyors Office and have a good working relationship with that office. We would make sure that all of the data is provided to the State 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.**

*We presently have 6" ortho rectified aerial photography of the entire county that was taken in 2008. We will periodically be attempting to fund new photography as development trends take place.*

**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  $\pm 33.3$  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.**

*All of our present GIS data meets these standards.*

- 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.**

*We use coordinate geometry to enter new parcel data and assign unique cadastral numbers to each parcel according to the Property Assessment Division of the Department of Revenue.*

## 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.**

*We use a cadastral numbering format that was designated by the Property Assessment Division to provide a unique parcel number, that number is also maintained in the polygon attribute table that provides a unique 1 to 1 association for each parcel.*

- 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.**

*We presently maintain most of our data in ARC Info Coverage format but are converting it to Shapefiles and will subsequently utilize the geo-database format developed by ESRI .*

**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)

*Once the GIS data is placed in a WEB format it will be accessible by anyone, however we are more than willing to share our data with any other governmental agency in whatever format that is acceptable.*

**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.**

*Presently we have not developed a program of developing the metadata other than our own in house file system but would be willing to move toward the development of the FGDC standard.*

**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<sup>st</sup> class, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

*The Assessors office presently maintains a property record database with these attributes and that would be maintained.*

**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.

It has always been our policy to collaborate and encourage participation by any and all county offices as well as other local government agencies. We have had a good working relationship with the Scottsbluff and Gering GIS departments and well as State and Federal agencies that we have involvement with.

## **Suzanne Wick**

---

**From:** Scott Blaha  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** Suzanne Wick; Duane Stott  
**Subject:** GIS Department

To whom it may concern:

I have found the GIS Department to be of great help in criminal prosecutions. In the last year or so, I have had several cases involving the distribution of controlled substances. Often, a key factor in these prosecutions is whether the drug purchase occurred within 1000' of a school yard, playground, elementary school, or university. If it did, we can "aggravate" or "enhance" the prosecution to a higher felony and thus remove drug dealers from our County for longer periods of time. The GIS Department has helped me demonstrate the relevant locations and distances involved and, no doubt, strengthened my cases in the process.

There is one case in particular where the GIS Department helped me develop and produce an exhibit for trial that was absolutely necessary for conviction. The case was about a high-speed chase ("Flight to Avoid Arrest") where the defendant went all over Scottsbluff, at incredibly dangerous speeds. GIS helped me put together a huge map of the relevant parts of Scottsbluff. The map included great detail. By using the map during trial, the officer and I were able to clearly demonstrate the precise route travelled by the defendant, the distances covered during the pursuit, the estimated speeds involved, the exact number and type of traffic control devices ignored by the defendant, and the different types of roadways used during the pursuit (residential, one-lane, two-lane, alleyways, etc.). I believe that the exhibit had a huge impact on the jury and led to the guilty verdict. That defendant was sentenced to 20 – 60 months in prison.

Having local experts in the GIS Department near the courthouse who are ready, willing, and able to assist in criminal prosecutions is a tremendous asset. One that I would hate to lose.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or to pass this email along as you think necessary.

Thank You,

**Scott Blaha**  
Deputy County Attorney  
Scotts Bluff County  
3rd Floor Courthouse  
1725 10th Street  
Gering, NE 69341

Office (308) 436-6674  
Fax (308) 436-5496

**From:** Bill Wineman  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** SBC\_Commissioners  
**Cc:** Suzanne Wick; Duane Stott  
**Subject:** GIS/Mapping  
Commissioners,

It has come to our attention that mapping and GIS services will be discussed at the March 19 Commissioner's meeting. I would offer the following comments for consideration:

1. The current mapping and GIS department can produce detailed maps relating to any type of emergency response activity we or other agencies may be asked to respond to.
2. Duane and staff represent the Health Department on all GIS calls and projects with State Agencies making it possible for us to provide needed information or complete these activities without needing to develop ARC INFO or other GIS skills for Health Department staff.
3. They keep current lists and locations of all medical ,care facilities and other agencies that we would need to locate and work with in disaster situations .
4. The current department is available 24/7 for immediate action on mapping activities that might be needed for response activities.
5. They can help track disease outbreaks like West Nile Virus or H1N1 flu activity by developing location maps when the need arises.

I have found both Duane and Suzie to be excellent assets in all phases of mapping or GIS related questions or activities. They have also been very cooperative in assisting with any requests our department has made in these areas.

I have seen some of the products that can be made available through contacted mapping services and they appear to offer many valuable features that would make mapping and GIS information more available to the public. The Kimball County web site has good mapping information and would appear to be a good addition for public use of mapping data for our county. It is my understanding that the company that provides Kimball's service will be discussing their services with the Board on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps we could consider developing or purchasing this type of application or service form a vender while maintaining the County's department to assure we have a process to keep the data current and have access to the staff's valuable knowledge and services for emergency response and planning activities. It is my experience that it is not always possible, convenient or timely to have out of area contractors develop maps or find locations, etc. when a disaster has occurred and responders need immediate information or services.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as we discuss the future of mapping and GIS services for Scotts Bluff County.

Bill Wineman  
Scotts Bluff County Health Department

Commissioners –

The Building & Zoning Office works with the Mapping/GIS Office nearly on a daily basis. All new homes and businesses located in the rural areas of the county need to have an address assigned to those structures before we can even issue a building permit.

The search for an exact acreage of a parcel or the ownership of a parcel frequently is necessitated and Duane & Suzie have always been very helpful whenever their assistance was requested.

I believe it would be an impairment to my office and many others if the GIS duties were outsourced to a firm that is not familiar with Scotts Bluff County geographically or familiar with the working relationships that have been built through the past 20 years since the GIS/Mapping Office was established.

I deal with state and other organizations from back east in Lincoln and Omaha, and it is often times a burdensome task to coordinate through correspondence via phone, email, et al.

Please accept this letter as a request to maintain the services of our LOCAL GIS office.

**William C. Mabin**  
**Scotts Bluff County**  
**Building & Zoning**

**From:** Jeff Schledewitz  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** Suzanne Wick  
**Subject:** GIS Department  
Scotts Bluff County Commissioners,

It has been brought to my attention there is possibility of losing our GIS Department. This letter is to inform you of the importance in keeping this valuable Department in Scotts Bluff County.

Scotts Bluff County Weed Control Authority uses this valuable service on daily basis throughout the noxious weed season. It is essential to get up to date information on landowners address, legal descriptions and proper maps of the properties in question. Duane Stott along with Suzie Wick have been able to provide this valuable information in a timely manner.

I would question the service that a GIS Company out of Lincoln Nebraska could provide to a small Department like Weed Control in Western Nebraska?

I would ask you to consider all Departments in Scotts Bluff County big or small and weigh there actual needs and not let one or two Department sway your decision in keeping this valuable in house service.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Jeff Schledewitz  
Scotts Bluff County Weed Control Superintendent

**From:** Robert Bennett

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:41 PM

**To:** Mark Masterton; Mike Marker; Ken Meyer; Sherry Blaha

**Cc:** Suzanne Wick

**Subject:** Surveyor

Dear Commissioners, The GIS Dept. has been helpful to us by beginning our sign inventory program and in the future have offered to assist in our retroreflectivity survey, they also have worked out all of our culvert and bridge coordinates. Since they have moved to our building I have only a few steps to take for any answers I might need. Public traffic has increased quite a bit so I realize now just how much the public utilizes this department. I'm wondering what kind of advantage the public will see if they have to call Lincoln or wait on an email for any questions or answers they may be seeking. I think most people would rather deal with someone face to face instead of explaining their questions to someone on the phone or in an email. Duane probably knows every inch of this County and can picture the areas people are talking about. I know Duane is contemplating retirement soon and I don't know what the plan is after his departure. The following is my bias toward Suzie Wick, as you know she was working at the Road Dept when I was appointed. Her attitude and intelligence are highly commendable. Duane recognized that and hired her away from us (still mad at him for that) but it was for her betterment. She would never tell you this but I know she has been taking classes online with the University Wyo for a couple of years on her own dime to further educate herself in this field, she says she knows the budget wouldn't allow for it. She won't ask for reimbursement but I will, would it be possible to increase Duane's budget next fiscal year to cover her expenses? Not many employees would go to that extent to increase their knowledge to serve the public. I hope her position isn't eliminated but if it is I would like to make a position for her. Please consider this new proposal very carefully, I hope this department stays.

Robert Bennett  
Scotts Bluff County  
Director, Public Works  
Phone (308) 436-6700  
Fax (308) 436-6708

**Platte Valley Bank**

1212 Circle Drive  
P. O. Box 2308  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-2308  
Phone: 308-632-7004  
Fax: 308-635-7405



Platte Valley Companies

MEMBERS FDIC

Website: [www.pvbankne.com](http://www.pvbankne.com)

NEBRASKA: Scottsbluff • Mccrill • Minatare • Bridgeport  
WYOMING: Torrington • Wheatland • Casper

Email: [info@pvbankne.com](mailto:info@pvbankne.com)

April 4, 2012

**Scotts Bluff County Surveyor & Mapping Department**  
In support of: GIS Department/Duane Stott, County Surveyor  
785 Rundell Road  
Gering, NE 69341

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Robert M. Smith. I am employed by Platte Valley Bank as a Collateral Specialist and also manage 25,000 acres for a local conservation organization.

Mr. Stott informed me that the Scotts Bluff County GIS and Mapping Department is applying for a grant to improve the access and upgrade the services that the surveyor's office furnishes to the general public. The new technology of the GIS system will be a valuable asset for my property valuation position at the bank, will benefit the conservation group and enhance the potential property acquisitions that the group may consider in the future.

I have had the pleasure of working with Duane for many years and have always admired his professional dedication as well as his attention to detail and overall accuracy. To invest in this system will not only enhance and compliment Duane and his department but also the constituents of Scotts Bluff County.

Robert M. Smith  
Collateral Specialist  
Platte Valley Companies

  
**FERGUSON**  
**TITLE SERVICES, LLC**  
*A Quality Product in a Timely Manner*

1720 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. ~ P.O. Box 92  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0092  
Ph: 308.635.1300 – Fax: 308.635.1900  
[Cheryl@fergusontitle.com](mailto:Cheryl@fergusontitle.com)

April 4, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

For many years, the Scotts Bluff County GIS Mapping Department has been a superior resource of information for many businesses and citizens. The department has been very progressive with technology which allows abstracters and many other professionals to obtain credible mapping information to aide in our work.

Mr. Duane Stott, Surveyor on staff, is a great compliment to this department. His many years of experience have been very helpful to my business. Scotts Bluff County is fortunate to have a sophisticated Mapping Department to provide quality information here in Western Nebraska.

My business along with many others in the community would highly support a web presence for the data to become more available to all.

Sincerely,  
FERGUSON TITLE SERVICES, LLC



Cheryl Ferguson  
Abstracter/Title Agent



April 2, 2012

Cathy Danahy, Executive Director  
Nebraska State Records Board  
440 South 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kirk.manker@fcsamerica.com)  
402-348-3367  
402-661-3367 (fax)

[fcsamerica.com](http://fcsamerica.com)

