

**GIS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, November 3, 2005, 1:00 p.m.  
USGS-Nebraska Water Science Center  
5231 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska  
***Meeting Minutes***

**Meeting Agenda**

**Roll Call Present (authorized to vote \*)**

Mark Brugger		Nebraska Public Power District
Lash Chaffin	*	League of Municipalities
Steve Cobb	*	State Surveyor Office
John Erickson	*	Gov. Policy Research
Rex Gittins	*	Department of Natural Resources
Steve Henderson	*	DAS Information Technology
Les Howard	*	Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
Jim Langtry	*	Lancaster County Engineers Office
John Miyoshi	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Jon Ogden	*	Department of Roads
Sudhir Ponnapan	*	Game and Parks Commission
Sonya Sebree	*	US Geological Survey
Duane Stott	*	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Paul Yamamoto	*	Environmental Quality
Cliff Welsh	*	Keith County Commissioner

**Others:**

Larry Zink, GIS Steering Committee Coordinator  
Milda Vaitkus, Conservation and Survey Division, UNL  
Ed Kelley, Department of Roads  
Ray Fox, US Geological Survey  
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office of the CIO/NITC

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair, John Miyoshi, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were ten members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present.

Audience members introduced themselves.

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MAY AND JULY MINUTES**

Chair Miyoshi invited comments or corrections to the [September 1, 2005 minutes](#). No corrections were offered and so the Chair declared the minutes approved, as posted, by acclamation.

**REPORT ON NEBRASKA LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION**

LB 565, the [Nebraska Land Information System Program Act](#) is still in committee and if it is to have a chance to move forward during the next legislative session, supporters will need to begin talking with Senators about the merits of the bill. At this point in time, it is not anticipated that any wording will be made in the bill. Attempts will be made to try to get the bill out of committee this legislative session.

Ms. Sebree and Mr. Ponnapan arrived to the meeting.

Mr. Zink reported that draft [Land Records Information and Mapping Standards](#) is ready for Steering Committee review and adoption and possible action to forward the draft standards to the NITC Technical Panel for their review at their November meeting. Discussion and questions followed regarding some of the technical definitions.

Mr. Chaffin moved that the Steering Committee adopt the Land Record Information and Mapping Standards, and developed by the Advisory Committee and forward the standards to the NITC Technical Panel for their review. Mr. Henderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. ([See vote.](#))

Mr. Zink noted that the Technical Panel will post the draft standards for a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any further action. Any suggested changes will be reviewed by the Technical Panel before forwarding the standard to the NITC for final review and approval. Steering Committee members were asked to review it as well.

### **METADATA NITC STANDARD & POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION**

The Metadata Standard was approved by the NITC at its September 23, 2005 meeting. The standard states that full metadata implementation will occur within 12 months after approval. Mr. Zink proposed a possible timeline for implementation. He will start communication efforts with agencies on behalf of the steering committee to begin implementation on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Training still needs to be organized.

### **UPDATE ON GIS / GEOSPATIAL DATA ENTERPRISE COORDINATION PROPOSALS**

Mr. Henderson informed the committee that the CIO has been in discussions with PRO regarding legislation to address information technology services organization. At this point, it appears that the likely legislation will not deal in depth with policy issues but more so with the organizational mechanics of the organizations that deal with IT, including the GIS Steering Committee.

### **USGS UPDATE & NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Mr. Fox announced that next year's CAP announcement will come out in March. Mr. Fox noted that these Cooperative Agreements may help Nebraska with strategic planning. Mr. Fox reported that the Central Region of the USGS Mapping Division is still working to secure a USGS liaison office for Nebraska. Mr. Fox also reported on the consolidation of USGS regional offices and functions. The consolidation will most likely be housed in Denver. The State of Missouri has some expressed concerns about the closing of the Rolla, MO office and Congress has placed a hold on this concept. Nebraska's impact should be minimal. However, ultimately USGS liaisons will likely have fewer resources to draw upon due to the downsizing of the USGS mapping operation.

National Spatial Data Infrastructure Partnership Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is as follows:

- To establish a framework for coordination and cooperation between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Geospatial Programs Office (NGPO) and the Nebraska Geographic Information Systems Steering Committee (GIS Steering Committee).
- Facilitate the implementation of collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest that support the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).
- Provides the framework for implementing a focused strategy that will enable the NGPO and federal, state, local, regional, and tribal NSDI partners to work together through a statewide geographic information coordinating body or consortium, to share data, leverage investments and expenditures, enhance intergovernmental cooperation, support the recommendations in the NSDI Future Directions Fifty States Initiative Action Plan, and promote USGS assistance to states in implementing strategic and business plans that support the development of the NSDI.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and/or express concerns.

Mr. Langtry moved to approve the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Partnership Agreement with USGS. Mr. Welsh seconded. The motion passed by majority vote. ([See vote.](#))

## **REPORT ON STREET CENTERLINE ADDRESS WORK**

Public Service Commission and State Patrol Collaboration. Mr. Zink reported on the efforts of several public entities to develop portions of street centerline/address databases and on the results of the efforts of Mr. Zink and Mr. Henderson to encourage collaboration among these separate efforts. It was noted that at its last meeting, the Steering Committee had authorized the reconvening of the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Street Address Databases. It was reported that Mr. Zink and Mr. Henderson had decided that prior to bringing together a full Advisory Committee to initially try to facilitate a dialogue and collaboration between two of the major players who were getting ready to make immediate substantial investment in database development efforts. A meeting between Kara Thielen, Public Service Commission, and Major Hobbs, State Patrol, was arranged by Mr. Zink, acting on behalf of the Steering Committee, and Mr. Henderson, acting on behalf of the CIO. The PSC has worked with 53 counties to arrange for contracts with private contractors to develop street centerline/address data for their county. The contract includes 5-year maintenance of the data. PSC can only develop this contractual arrangement for those counties ready to move to Phase II of Enhanced E911 implementation. The State Patrol is developing a statewide computer-aided dispatch system and also needs statewide street centerline/address data and was preparing to contract for its development. Following an initial meeting, the PSC and State Patrol representatives had follow-up meetings to further explore potential collaboration. It was tentatively decided that the PSC would proceed with their contractual efforts in 53 counties and the State Patrol would seek to focus their data development resources in those counties not eligible for PSC funding. It was noted that there were still many issues still outstanding, but that it was felt that significant progress was achieved in developing a framework for collaboration.

Department of Roads Statewide "Best Available" Pilot Project. Mr. Brown and Mr. Ogden, Dept. of Roads, gave a brief report on the status of the NDOR pilot project to develop a system to create and maintain a "best available" statewide street centerline/address database. Specialized software tools and processes were developed and tested as a part of this project. The overall concept was validated, but during the course of the pilot project, it became clear that it will require, with existing resources, much more time than was anticipated to initially develop this "best available" database. At the time of the meeting only one county had been completed.

MOU on Street Centerline/Address Database Stewardship. Mr. Brown and Mr. Ogden also reported on the delay in getting NDOR approval of the Street Centerline/Address Database Stewardship MOU. The NDOR agency attorney has raised questions about whether it is within the agency's mission to commit to the on-going development and maintenance of a street address database. The possibility of a statutory change to clarify this issue was discussed. Mr. Ogden indicated that he felt that the issue could ultimately be favorably resolved, but that it would take some additional time.

Mr. Erickson left meeting.

## **LR 99 INTERIM STUDY ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC GEOSPATIAL DATABASES**

Mr. Zink has been involved in an interim legislative study group (LR 99) exploring possible legislation that would potentially place some limitation on the mandatory Public Record law release of GIS databases, so that their commercial resale could be restricted. Mr. Zink indicated that he was supportive of the general concept. However, he did have some concerns about possible unintended consequences at a time when the GIS community is seeking to develop online map services that would hopefully provide map services that include statewide street centerline/address database developed by integrating data from multiple state and local government sources. The proposed legislation is modeled after similar legislation in North Carolina. After consultation with North Carolina's GIS Coordinator, Mr. Zink learned that the NC GIS Coordinator had very mixed feelings about this particular legislation. It was the experience of the NC Coordinator that the legislation did create roadblocks to the smooth integration of geospatial data into statewide datasets that could be served to the broader community through Internet map servers. It was

apparently not a problem with most data developers. However, when you had a public official who was not otherwise inclined to share their data, this legislature gave them another excuse or reason to drag their feet. Based on this feedback, Mr. Zink indicated that he was encouraging the working group to consider also including proactive language in the proposed legislation that would affirm the merits of data sharing between public agencies. The draft language that Mr. Zink proposed was as follows:

*“To secure the maximum return on public investments, to facilitate rapid and efficient delivery of emergency and other public services, and to encourage consistent public policy development and implementation, public agencies in Nebraska should make their GIS/geospatial data available to other public entities.”*

Steering Committee members were generally favorable to the concerns expressed by Mr. Zink and he was encouraged to continue his involvement with this interim study group. Members were also asked to provide input and suggestions. It was also recommended to have any legislative wording to include political subdivisions. Mr. Zink will contact Mr. Erickson for assistance.

## **REPORT ON NOVEMBER 3, 2005 NEBRASKA GIS USER GROUP & CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF DIGITAL AERIAL IMAGERY FOR THE NATION PROPOSAL**

Those participating in the semi-annual Nebraska GIS Users Group meeting expressed interest in collaborative efforts to acquire high-resolution imagery for selected areas and the possibility of a collaborative partnership with the USDA-FSA for future statewide imagery acquisition. It was noted that the Omaha-area consortium will be organizing another high-resolution imagery project soon and has expressed a willingness to consider expanding the area covered by this collaborative effort. It was suggested, that with the GIS Steering Committee’s approval, Mr. Zink could be of assistance in organizing a broader effort by helping to get the word out and if needed helping with the organization details. It was noted that one of the real problems encountered with the 2005 imagery effort was accessing people knowledge about technical standards for imagery acquisition. It was suggested that GIS Steering Committee form an imagery technical support group.

Mr. Zink distributed a document titled “Digital Aerial Imagery for the Nation” from the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). NSGIC’s vision: The nation will have a sustainable and flexible digital aerial imagery program that meets the needs of local, state, regional, tribal, federal and private partners. The project is in the proposal. The Department of Defense is also reviewing the proposal. Imagery issues and specifications were discussed. Mr. Zink will organize a group of members to discuss issues and make recommendation.

The watershed boundary project is almost complete and is in the certification process.

## **GIS STRATEGIC PLAN & ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW**

Mr. Zink indicated that because of the lateness of the hour, that he will have draft for review at the next meeting. Some of the priorities/initiatives that he would propose to include in the Strategic Plan are the following: imagery acquisition, street centerline/address database, LIDAR, enterprise coordination efforts, and data sharing agreements.

## **LIDAR WORKING GROUP**

Mr. Zink will organize a meeting. Members requested more info on this organization from USGS.

## **REGIONAL GEOSPATIAL COORDINATION FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE**

Mr. Zink reported that he worked with NEMA to organize an initial meeting to explore the interest in developing an in-state GIS resource to be available to assist with disaster response in other states in the region. Among those participating in this initial meeting, there was a significant interest in further exploring the development of a regional GIS response team. This response team would be organized through NEMA, with support of the GIS Coordinator, and be available for call up through the established

state emergency response channels. There is a regional meeting scheduled for December 9th to further discuss these ideas. If there continues to be sufficient interest, Mr. Zink will work with NEMA to implement the concept..

### **REPORT ON NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET FUNDING**

As of the end of April 2005, it was estimated that it would require an additional \$130,000 in cash contributions to complete this statewide surface water features database development effort. These cash contributions would be used primarily to pay UNL student digitizers to develop digital mapping of stream and lake banks. If other agencies will commit to an additional \$90,000 in cash contributions over the next 2 ½ years, NDEQ has pledged an additional \$40,000 towards meeting the needed \$130,000. The Department of Property Assessment and Taxation has committed \$30,000 to this effort and so \$60,000 is still needed from other agencies. Mr. Zink reported that Josh Lear, NDNR, and he had meet with several folks from NDOR related to this effort, but that so far he had been unable to get a follow-up response from NDOR. Mr. Ogden indicated that he would try to check into the situation.

### **REPORT ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES**

Ms. Sebree offered a tour for members who were interested in seeing the new USGS offices. Ms. Sebree also noted that it is likely that a new USGS liaison to Nebraska would be housed there.

Mr. Zink reminded members that there will be a breakfast meeting, December 6<sup>th</sup> with ESRI and IBM who will be providing a GIS enterprise presentation. State agency staff will be invited. Former Governor of Wyoming, Governor Geringer, will also in attendance. He will be available to meet with other agencies if they are interested.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

With no further business, Mr. Miyoshi adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Larry Zink, Division of Information Technology Services.

Vote Tallies for 11-3-05 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting									
	Roll Call	Land Record Stds #1	NSDI Partnership Agmt #2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - <b>Steve Henderson</b> (Lori McClurg)	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, <b>Paul Yamamoto</b> (Mike Linder)	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila, Les Howard, Milda Vaitkus	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett, <b>Sudhir Ponnapan</b> (Rex Amack)	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - <b>Kim Menke</b> , Rex Gittins (Ann Bleed)	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - <b>John Erickson</b> (Lauren Hill)	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - <b>Cathy Lang</b> , Bob Martin, Rob Christian	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - <b>Jon Ogden</b> , Steve Brown (John Craig)	P	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - <b>Steve Cobb</b> , John Beran	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sonia Sebree	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>John Miyoshi</b> , Chris Poole	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Alan J. Beierman, <b>Mark Brugger</b>	P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell, <b>Jim Langtry</b>	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Scott McIntyre</b> , Mike Schonlau	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
HHSS: Chris Chalmers	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>TOTALS</b>	15 - P	14 +	13 +	.	.	.	.	.	.

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