

## **NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 7, 2005, 1:00 p.m.  
Lancaster County Extension Office, Room C  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### **MINUTES**

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

Steve Henderson	*	Department of Administrative Services
Paul Yamamoto	*	Department of Environmental Quality
Les Howard	*	Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
Sudhir Ponnapan	*	Game and Parks
Rex Gittins	*	Dept. of Natural Resources
John Erickson	*	Gov. Policy Research
Dick Genrich	*	Department of Roads
John Beran	*	State Surveyors Office
John Miyoshi	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Jim Langtry	*	Lancaster County Engineers Office

#### **Others:**

Larry Zink, GIS Steering Committee Coordinator  
Sue Krogman, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency  
Chad Boshart, Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies, UNL  
Rachel Simpson, Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies, UNL

#### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Vice Chair, Steve Henderson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were nine members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was not present.

Audience members introduced themselves.

#### **INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES**

The May 26, 2005 minutes were tabled until the next meeting or until quorum was present.

#### **REVIEW OF NEBRASKA GIS ENTERPRISING COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GIS ENTERPRISE COORDINATION**

Mr. Henderson provided a brief history of Brenda Decker's appointment as the new Chief Information Officer. The Governor has tasked the CIO to oversee and coordinate IT efforts for the State of Nebraska. An informal merger of the Chief Information Officer, Division of Communications, and IMServices has occurred and a new management team has been organized. As the Planning and Project Management Manager, one of Mr. Henderson's new roles is to serve as Vice Chair for the GIS Steering Committee.

One of the CIO's objectives is to have state agencies discuss and evaluate shared services to determine what are the multiple common interests, services and products that could be shared. Preliminary meetings with agencies identified 48 items. These have been narrowed down to 8 priority items: Directory Services; Blackberry; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery; Enterprise Licensing for Software and Hardware; E-mail; SANS (Storage Area Networks); and Shared Field Support. The State Government Council has taken the lead on this effort. Ms. Decker believes that GIS is also an area of

shared interest and strongly feels that the CIO's office can help facilitate its common goals among agencies that utilize GIS.

Mr. Zink stated that this is an opportune time to look at the GIS structure and make recommendations as to its relationship with the CIO, NITC and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Local governments have begun to become involved with GIS and in the future, more will become involved.

There were no objections from the steering committee members regarding GIS becoming part of the Shared Services effort.

#### SRENGHT, WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS SESSION:

##### Strengths:

- Coordination
- Communication
- representation on the committee
- enterprise minded collaborative projects
- power users are active members
- turf battles are minimal

##### Weaknesses:

- representation from have nots
- lack of authority coordinator
- coordination of funding
- lack of identity with policy makers
- no operational capability,

##### Opportunities:

- state IT review
- centralized grant authority
- education/outreach
- evolving national role for states

##### Threats:

- adverse impact on agency resources & programs
- loss of control
- falling behind the times regarding technology
- unable to meet state coordinator expectations
- explosion of local government use – coordinator problem
- too much bureaucracy

NSGIC MODEL STATE COORDINATOR: Mr. Zink reviewed the NSGIC model in comparison to Nebraska's GIS model. Five of the 9 criteria were in the affirmative.

- A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans. *NO*  
*Feedback: Members agreed this should be an objective for the Nebraska model. If this is not the GIS Coordinator's or CIO's responsibility, there must be a mechanism in place.*
- A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production. *YES*  
*Feedback: Currently there is no state identified authority, authority rests within each individual agency. Authority versus enforcement - authority to coordinate is different than authority to enforce. There is coordination in Nebraska but no authority. GIS now works with state agencies, local and county governments also.*

- The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Officer (or similar office). *NO*  
*Feedback: GIS Steering Committee is currently evaluating its structure as well as its relationship to the CIO and the NITC.*
- A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination. *YES*  
*Feedback: The Governor and Lieutenant Governor have a vision for the state and its advancement in the area of I.T. The GIS Steering Committee must communicate to promote awareness with the Legislature.*
- Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned. *YES*  
*Feedback: This is not currently assigned to any one special agency or individual.*
- The ability exists to work and coordinate with local governments, academia, and the private sector. *YES*  
*Feedback: The GIS steering committee does a good job in coordination but need to do more with the private sector. Local governments are an issue and need to strengthen with NACO.*
- Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs. *NO*
- Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds. *NO*  
*Feedback: The latest example was the current digital aerial project. GIS had to seek funding from other sources to get the request done.*
- The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority. *YES*

#### 50-STATES COORDINATING COUNCIL MODEL - COORDINATION COUNCIL CHARACTERISTICS:

In addition to the [NSGIC] Coordination Criteria, the work group believes that a more consistent system of statewide councils (or "authorities") should be established that incorporate the following characteristics:

- Provides a mechanism for broad representation and inclusion in decision-making of user communities, including Federal, state, county, municipal and tribal governments; private sector GIS users and vendors; academic sector; non-profit organizations; utilities; and the general public. *YES*
- A Strategic Plan that incorporates a vision statement, with appropriate goals and objectives related to implementing the NSDI. *YES*
- A Business and Marketing Plan that details the development of a geospatial technology infrastructure (including data) to mirror the definition of the NSDI in Section 1.0. *YES*
- Formal authorization establishing the council along with appropriate bylaws. *YES*
- A relationship and linkage with the nine coordination criteria (see above) to feed consensus based decision-making into official statewide initiatives. *YES*
- Funding and support to enable the operation. *NO*
- A commitment to implementing appropriate OGC, FGDC, ANSI and ISO standards. *YES*

A lack of authority seemed to be a noticeable recurring area. The GIS Steering Committee needs a champion at the executive or legislature for funding. Discussion followed regarding funding ideas for IT projects: fee for service, utilize general funds for start up, cash funds, agencies contribute a lump sum, use of ITIF funds (cigarette tax dollars but funding has not been as lucrative), interagency agreements for enterprise project implementation, utilize synergy centers for example DNR, SNR, and IMS.

The next step would be to get the advisory group to meet more regularly to recommend changes to the GIS structure. The statutory language needs to be changed by September. Members were asked to send their ideas and suggestions to Mr. Zink, or to the Chair or Vice Chair.

#### REPORTS

Mr. Zink reminded members that the public comment period for the [Geospatial Metadata Standard](#) deadline is July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Panel will take action on the standard at the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Members provided reports on their agency's GIS activities.  
With no further business, Mr. Henderson adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the GIS Steering Committee is will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The location will be determined at a later time.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Larry Zink.