

NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 1, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

Nebraska Department of Roads

Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

[Meeting Agenda](#)

Roll Call Present (authorized to vote *)

Chris Chalmers	*	Health and Human Services System
Kim Menke	*	Department of Natural Resources
Scott McIntyre	*	City of Omaha
Steve Henderson	*	DAS Information Technology
Alan Beierman	*	Nebraska Public Power District
Dick Genrich	*	Department of Roads
Steve Cobb	*	State Surveyor Office
Duane Stott	*	Scottsbluff County Surveyor
Les Howard	*	Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
Jim Langtry	*	Lancaster County Engineers Office
Sudhir Ponnapan	*	Game and Parks Commission
John Miyoshi	*	Lower Platte North NRD
Sonya Sebree	*	US Geological Survey
John Erickson	*	Gov. Policy Research
Cathy Lang	*	Department of Property Assessment and Taxation

Others:

Larry Zink, GIS Steering Committee Coordinator
Rex Gittins, Dept. of Natural Resources
Milda Vaitkus, Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
Mike Schonlau, City of Omaha/Douglas County
Ed Kelley, Department of Roads
Larry Dix, Nebraska Assoc. of County Officials
Mark Brugger, Nebraska Public Power District
Ray Fox, US Geological Survey

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

It was noted that the May 26th minutes were not formally approved due to the lack of a quorum at the July 7th meeting of the Steering Committee. Chair Miyoshi invited comments or corrections on either the [May 26th](#) or [July 7th meeting minutes](#). No corrections were offered and so the Chair declared the minutes approved, as posted, by acclamation.

REPORT ON DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES - NEBRASKA GEOSPATIAL DATA CENTER AND NATIONAL MAP GRANT PROJECT

Kim Menke gave a brief update on the Nebraska Geospatial Data Center and the NDNR National Map Grant project. Kim noted that most of the geospatial data outlined in the grant proposal is now being served to The National Map (FSA 2003 NAIP Imagery, 1999 Nebraska DOQs, and the 10ft Tagged Vector Contours). NDNR has had some troubles with the CIR Imagery for the Rainwater Basin and Platte River, but feel that they are now get this problems resolved. NDNR is also waiting for the statewide composite "best available" Street Centerline/Address from the Dept. of Roads.

REPORT ON STREET CENTERLINE ADDRESS WORK

Dick Genrich gave an update on the NDOR Street Centerline-Address database work. Dick indicated that they had encountered some unexpected problems with the CALMIT street address data. For example, apparently in the conversion and merging with other formats some of the address data had gotten spread over several intersections and did not break at each intersection. But now they have found a way to work around that, but it is taking more time than they originally expected. NDOR now has six (6) folks working ½ time and they are expecting that it will take a couple years to get this work completed.

Larry Zink clarified that what he understood was that Dick was saying it would take 2 years to just get the attributes transferred to the NDOR centerlines for those 14 counties, which had local data in the CALMIT dataset. Dick indicated that was correct. Larry then noted that still leaves a lot of work to do collecting and digitizing the data from the other roughly 80 counties. Dick said that was correct, that they were just working on it county-by-county. It is going to take quite awhile to complete this dataset with just the resources currently available to NDOR. Dick said that maybe it was time to pull together some of the other groups that have an interest in this dataset and see if resources could not be pooled to speed up the work.

MOU on Street Centerline-Address Database Stewardship. Dick also noted that NDOR has not yet signed the [MOU between the Steering Committee and NDOR](#) regarding their stewardship of the statewide street centerline-address dataset. Dick reported that the NDOR attorney has not yet let them sign the MOU, because he has questions as to whether it is within NDOR's mission. Dick indicated that he still hoped to get it signed, but it is not necessarily a given at this point. Dick noted that there has been some discussion about the merits of going to the Legislature to get this clarified. Larry Zink suggested that this may be a rather fundamental problem with the approach that the Steering Committee was proposing for the development and maintenance of this critical database. Chris Chalmers raised the question that if this street centerline-address database is not in NDOR's mandate, then whose's mandate is it in. Larry indicated that is the problem, it is not clearly in any state agency's mandate or mission. In that way, it is similar to the property parcel dataset, in that no one state agency has clear responsibility. Larry also noted that the Public Service Commission is active with this street address database, as is the State Patrol. Larry indicated that the Steering Committee needs to work with interested state agencies to clarify this responsibility at the state level.

Reactivating Advisory Committee on Transportation/Street Address Databases. Larry indicated that with questions being raised about NDOR's ability to take on the stewardship of this database, and with multiple agencies undertaking initiatives that involve this type of data in one way or another, it is perhaps time to reactive the Advisory Committee on this issue. Larry note that the Advisory Committee had become inactive after it developed some draft database standards and had proposed a model whereby NDOR would take on the role of on-going integration of street address data, from multiple sources into a "best available" statewide dataset. The Advisory Committee had determined that it was not needed anymore, at least until NDOR had conducted a pilot effort to determine the feasibility of the draft standards and integration model. At that time, it looked like the Public Service Commission would be a major source of this new and updated data. Now the PSC seems to have gotten a bit of a "go slow" message from the Legislature. The

State Patrol has issued an RFP for a Computer Aided Dispatch system that requires statewide street address data. The Dept. of Revenue is apparently contracting with a private firm to provide street address data to be used for catalog and Internet sales tax collection. And now NDOR has received a “caution flag” on our proposal that they take on the data stewardship role for this dataset. Larry indicated that he thought that we needed to get these players together to explore how we might minimize duplication and maximize collaboration in this area. Larry indicated that he thought that maybe the Advisory Committee might be a workable forum for that discussion. Larry also indicated that he thought it would probably be best to involve someone from the Governor’s Office in that discussion. Scott McIntyre moved and Alan Beiermann seconded that we reactivate Advisory Committee on Transportation/Street Address Database. The motion passed unanimously ([see vote](#)).

REVIEW OF NEBRASKA GIS ENTERPRISE COORDINATING STRUCTURES AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Larry Zink provided some background to how this [list of recommendations](#) was developed by the Steering Committee’s Advisory Committee on GIS Enterprise Coordination. A major context for this work is the review and reorganization of Information Technology structure within state government. Two other critical background elements are two complementary national models that have been developed and supported by NSGIC and the FGDC. One of these models focuses on state coordinating bodies and their evolving role in implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the other is a state coordinator’s model developed by NSGIC which outlines key roles and capabilities for successful state coordinators.

Larry noted that these recommendations have been developed by an Advisory Committee authorized by the Steering Committee. He also noted that since the Advisory Committee’s last meeting, he has grouped these recommendations into three broad categories, in response to the general direction of the Advisory Committee, but they have not officially reviewed and endorsed those broad categories. The three broad categories were as follows:

- Coordination/Authority/Support
- Data Development and Distribution
- Budget/Finance

Larry indicated things were still very much in flux relative to the restructuring of state IT, but it was generally felt that having the Steering Committee’s review and official endorsement of recommendation would be helpful as these restructuring proposals move forward. With that goal in mind, Larry undertook a quick overview of the draft recommendations.

One recommendation that generated a fair amount of discussion was “D. Required Coordination of Large Geospatial Projects”. This recommendation focused on requiring coordination for state agency projects costing \$25,000 or more. The discussion focused on the implications of this requirement, and the concerns about additional bureaucratic delays and hassles, versus the importance of coordination and communication. It was finally decided to add the following sentence to this recommendation, “This requirement is not intended to be overly bureaucratically burdensome, but have communication and coordination as a goal”.

There was also considerable discussion about changing the make up of the Steering Committee to include new representatives from NEMA, tribes, and the GIS/LIS Association. There was discussion about the pros and cons of recommending the removal of the Legislative representative since they have not participated in several years. It was decided to recommend the three additions and not recommend removal of the Legislative representative.

Larry highlighted that one of the recommendations was to require all state agencies to listing metadata on existing geospatial in the Nebraska Geospatial Data Center Clearinghouse unless there is a specific waiver issued. It was suggested that some wording be added to encourage political subdivisions and local agency to also list their data in the Clearinghouse.

Cathy Lang moved, and Dick Genrich seconded that the GIS Steering Committee formally endorse the “Nebraska GIS/Geospatial Data Enterprise Coordination Proposals”, as modified in day’s discussion. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)

USGS UPDATE AND NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Ray Fox announced that USGS has a new Director. He noted that a decision is pending on whether USGS will go to competitive bidding on all jobs. A decision is also pending on consolidation of the USGS Mapping Centers into one. Ray also said he didn’t really have any new updates on getting a USGS liaison person here in Nebraska. He said Nebraska was still the number one priority for the Central Region. Ray introduced the concept of the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure Partnership Agreement](#). USGS Geospatial Information Office has made the decision to do all of their work through the state GIS coordinating committees across the county. So in Nebraska this would involve the GIS Steering Committee. USGS would like to formalize this with a MOU. Ray mentioned that in the draft agreement there are some areas that need to be completed like statutory references, etc. Ray mentioned that this parallels closely the ideas just discussed in the Enterprise Coordination recommendations. Ray noted that there are no financial arrangements included in the draft MOU, but it sets up a framework for future collaborative efforts. It was suggested that since we just got a copy of this draft MOU, we should defer this until the November meeting.

REPORT ON METADATA STANDARDS NITC ADOPTION PROCESS

Larry reported that the NITC Technical Panel had endorsed the [Metadata Standard](#) that had been referred to it by the GIS Steering Committee. However, after the Technical Panel meeting, both Larry and Rich Becker, the support staff for the Technical Panel, released that the Technical had discussed some possible changes in the Metadata Standard that were inadvertently overlooked in the final motion. Since there will be another Technical Panel meeting, prior to the NITC meeting, there is the opportunity for the Technical Panel to revisit these issues and for the Steering Committee to provide the Technical Panel with its input on these proposed changes. The first was in Section 1 where it states that state agencies “should” document their data with metadata. In discussions within the Technical Panel, there appeared to be a pretty good consensus for “should” being changed to “shall”.

1.0 Standard

All state agencies and entities that receive state funding used, directly or indirectly, for geospatial data development or maintenance ~~should~~ shall ensure that geospatial data it collects, produces, maintains, or purchases and which is used for policy development, implementation, or compliance review is documented with metadata compliant with the latest version of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata.

Larry asked if anyone had any problems with making a change from “should” to “shall”. The change was generally supported. Larry then also called the Steering Committee’s attention to the overlooked options that were included in the “Section 4.2 Exemption”. The draft standard, as approved by the GIS Steering Committee included both the option of the GIS Steering Committee or the Technical Panel being responsible for this exemption process. Apparently the established path, is for the Technical Panel to be formally responsible for these exemption processes and if appropriate, they will arrange for a timely consultation with the GIS Steering Committee or a standing subcommittee. Larry asked if the Steering Committee was comfortable with the Technical Panel being charged with the formal exemption process. No objections were expressed.

REPORT ON NEBRASKA LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION

LB 565 – Nebraska Land Information System Program Act. Larry indicated that he would be trying to pull together the ad hoc group of representatives of key supporting groups of LB 565 to attempt to map out a strategy for trying to move this bill forward. Larry reported that he had organized a meeting earlier in the summer and the consensus then was that we probably needed to wait until fall to get a better sense of what might be possible.

Advisory Committee on Land Record Modernization Standards. Larry provided the Steering Committee with an update on efforts by this Advisory Committee to develop standards related to land record modernization. Larry reminded the Steering Committee that in May 2005, it had moved to endorse the draft standards, as they stood at that point. Since then, the Advisory Committee has been working to further refine the draft standards and to convert them into NITC standards format, for possible future review and adoption by the NITC. As part of this NITC standards format, it is necessary to determine for each proposed standard whether it is a “standard” or “guideline” for a) state agencies, b) state-funded entities, and c) other. As part of the Advisory Committee’s work, it has [developed recommendations in this area](#). Larry indicated that he is just bringing this work to the Steering Committee’s attention and soliciting any feedback, because the Advisory Committee hopes to have “final” recommendation in NITC format available for the Steering Committee’s review and possible adoption at its November meeting. Larry indicated that the Advisory Committee has tried to consult closely with Cathy Lang’s office throughout this process.

Larry also noted that the Advisory Committee has decided to somewhat narrow its definition of whom these standards would apply. Current proposed language outlining the proposed area of applicability reads as follows: “As currently viewed, these standards/guidelines would be primarily focused on those public entities responsible for maintaining property parcel maps for their particular jurisdiction.” For example, this would include the Nebraska Property Assessment and Taxation Department, as well as local county assessor or register of deeds, but would not include say the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, as they map the property that they own or lease. There were no concerns expressed about these proposals.

REPORT ON NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET FUNDING

Larry reported that Cathy Lang, NPAT, has offered \$30,000 over the next two years to support NHD development. This is \$30,000 from the estimated \$90,000 needed to complete this remapping of Nebraska surface water features. Larry also reported that he and Josh Lear, NDNR, had met with several folks out at Dept. of Roads regarding possible funding support. Larry indicated that they seemed pretty favorable, but despite his follow-up efforts, he has yet to hear back from them. John Miyoshi asked who the key contact was and Larry indicated that it was Cindy Veys who had set up the meeting which involved folks from several divisions. John indicated that he would try to call Cindy Veys to followup.

NACO CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Larry noted that for several years the GIS Steering Committee has had a booth at the annual NACO Conference. He noted that it would probably cost \$175 for an exhibitor’s booth and maybe \$25 for electricity. He said the question is does the Steering Committee again want to have a booth and if so he needs a motion to approve that spending. Scott McIntyre moved and Steve Henderson seconded the motion that the Steering Committee once again have a booth at the NACO Conference. The [motion passed unanimously](#).

REPORT ON MAGIC/USGS – LIDAR WORKSHOP

Jim Langtry reported on a MAGIC/USGS LIDAR workshop in Sioux Fall, SD that he attended a couple weeks previously. Jim reported that the workshop provided an overview of LIDAR and its applications. A private vendor has approached USGS with a prepackage set of specifications (1.4 meter spacing and other specifications that would meet FEMA requirements to produce 2 ft. contour floodplain maps) that has reduced the price if the set package is acceptable (approximately \$50/sq. mi for large areas so for the whole state approximately \$4 mil/state). Jim talked about the need to pool funding and resources to make this possible. Ray Fox said that at this point he didn’t know of any USGS funding that would be available for this. Sonya Sebree indicated that there might be some USGS Water Center funding available. The decision was to proceed to pull together a working group to explore this issue further. Larry asked for an expression of who was interested and the following groups indicated an interest: USGS Water Center, NRDs, NDOR, NEMA, and Lincoln/Lancaster.

LR 99 INTERIM STUDY ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC GEOSPATIAL DATABASES

Larry reported on this LR 99 Legislative Interim Study that followed up on LB 490, which was a Sarpy County initiative to try to control private reselling of their geospatial data. This Interim Study is headed up by Sen. Schimek, Chair of the Government and Military Affairs Committee. Larry reported that at this time, the study group is still involved in the process of defining the scope of issues involved. At the study group's last meeting, they had Dale Comer, Attorney General's office, provide a briefing on the AG's interpretation of the current statutes and their implications for GIS data. He basically said that GIS data was used for public policy purposes, then it was a public record and subject to public records law. Larry said he has shared with Sen. Schimek's staff some broader range of issues that he felt should be considered, i.e., LB 565.

REPORT ON GIS ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Kim Menke, NDNR, reported that NDNR is continuing to work on NHD, they are also working with NRCS on remapping the watershed boundaries. NDNR is now serving several dataset to the National Map.

Scott McIntyre, Omaha, reported that the Omaha area consortium now has all the imagery data that they contacted for in 2004. They are still working on getting it distributed to some of the partners/locations. Scott mentioned that they also got LIDAR data (2 ft. contours for all of Douglas County). Scott offered to do a demo of the data that they acquired for the next meeting. They are now starting discussion of 2007 acquisition. They indicated that they will be talking with Lancaster County and some Iowa counties. Scott also introduced Mike Schonlau, the new Omaha/Douglas County GIS Coordinator.

Sonya Sebree, USGS, reported that the USGS Water Center is acquiring LIDAR for about 12 miles of the Platte River. Sonya also called attention to a scientific report that the USGS completed, in conjunction with the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, on Lake McConaughy.

Alan Beiermann, NPPD, introduced Mark Brugger, Asset Data Supervisor for NPPD. Mark provided brief overview of the NPPD GIS/Facilities Management System.

Dick Genrich, Roads, noted that this was his last meeting representing Dept. of Roads, as he is retiring as of the end of October. Dick expressed his appreciation of working with this group.

Duane Stott, Scottsbluff, reported that NGS is in the process of integrating their GPS Base Station into the CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations).

Jim Langtry, Lancaster County, reported that Lancaster County is still reviewing the aerial imagery they received as a result of the cooperative project with HHSS and USGS. Larry reported that this interagency project was pretty well wrapped up except that we didn't get Scottsbluff County and that will have to happen next year.

John Miyoshi, LPNNRD, talked about the impact of integrated management on surface and ground water. He reported that he would put his receptionist up against anyone else's for running GIS.

Meeting Adjourned.

Vote Tallies for 5/26/05 GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting

	Roll Call	Minutes #1	Str. Addr. #2	Structure #3	NACO #4	#5	#6	#7	#8
DAS - Steve Henderson (Lori McClurg)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson, Paul Yamamoto (Mike Linder)	P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila, Les Howard, Milda Vaitkus	A	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Bruce Sackett, Sudhir Ponnapan (Rex Amack)	A	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
NRC - Kim Menke, Rex Gittins (Ann Bleed)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
PRO - John Erickson (Lauren Hill)	P/A	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang, Bob Martin, Rob Christian	P	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - Jon Ogden, Steve Brown (John Craig)	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
St.Surv - Steve Cobb, John Beran	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Clk of Leg. - Patrick O'Donnell	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sonia Sebree	A/P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi, Chris Poole	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Alan J. Beierman, Mark Brugger	A	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell, Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	P	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	A	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
Scott McIntyre, Mike Schonlau	A	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.
HHSS: Chris Chalmers	P	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	10-P /12-P	12 +	12 +	13 +	12 +	.	.	.	.

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