

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes -- January 14, 1999

Present were (authorized to vote +):

Mahendra Bansal	.	Natural Resources Commission
Jim Brown	+	State Surveyor
Dennis Burling	.	Department of Environmental Quality
Blaine Dinwiddie	+	OPPD
John Erickson	.	HHS
Dick Genrich	+	Department of Roads
Les Howard	+	Conservation and Survey Division
Erik Hubl	.	Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Mele Koneya	+	Game and Parks
Tom Lambertson	+	Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Langtry	.	Lancaster County Engineer's Office
Bob Martin	+	Property Tax Division
Nathan McCaleb	+	Natural Resources Conservation Services - USDA
John Miyoshi	+	NRD
Jerry Odum	.	National Geodetic Survey
Sandy Powell	.	City of Hastings
Scott Richert	.	Lancaster County Assessor's Office
Marcia Roberts	.	Milestone Solutions
Bill Sheldon	.	Milestone Solutions
Steve Schafer	.	DAS - Intergovernmental Data Services
Duane Stott	+	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
Stu Sutherland	.	Professional Surveyor's Association of Nebraska
Mike Thompson	.	Department of Water Resources
Cliff Welsh	+	NACO
Dayle Williamson	+	Natural Resources Commission
Dennis Wilson	+	City of Omaha
Larry Worrell	+	Lancaster County Engineers Office
Paul Yamamoto	.	Department of Environmental Quality
Larry K. Zink	.	Coordinator, GIS Steering Committee

Complete Meeting Agenda

MAJOR MEETING TOPICS

PLSS Pilot Project

Transportation - Priority Database

Land Cover/Land Use - Priority Database

Nebraska Online - Geospatial Clearinghouse

Nebraska Emergency Managers Assoc.

Nebr. Information Technology Commission

Voting Record

Multipurpose Land Information Systems

Orthoimagery & Elevation - Priority Databases

Geodetic Control

NACO Annual Conference

GIS/LIS Association Planning Committee

Cooperative Database Funding

Governmental Units - Priority Databases

Hydrology - Priority Database

Exec. Cmte. - Annual Report Summary

1999 GIS Symposium

Federal Agencies Meeting and Forum

Next Meeting Date

NOTICE OF MEETING: A public notice of the meeting, pursuant to Section 84-1411 R.R. S. 1943, was published in the Lincoln Journal-Star on 1-7-1999.

ROLL CALL: Tom Lambertson called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. and requested a call of the roll. Nine duly authorized representatives were present at the time of the roll call. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business.

MINUTES: Tom asked approval for the November minutes. Dayle Williamson had a correction. On the bottom of page three,

the last paragraph, Dayle requested the minutes be changed to read "Cliff asked what the difference between levels of DEM's are and what level they go to. Mahendra explained that they go up to Level-3. The contour interval on Level-2 maps is 10 feet and elevations are calculated at 30-meter intervals. The resolution of a Level-2 map is half the contour interval. A Level-3 map would have a resolution of one-third the contour interval and the elevations are calculated at every 10-meter interval. However, Level-3 DEM's require additional control points at abrupt ground elevation changes."

Dayle moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dick Genrich seconded. The motion passed (see vote #1).

PLSS PILOT PROJECT: Jim Brown reported that the information from Adams County has been passed on to Windstone for inclusion in their cadastral mapping. Mahendra has converted DOQ's from Adams County into state plane and those have also been forwarded. The SSO has moved completely into finishing Merrick County. They are trying to have it close to closure by the end of next week. This is basically the end of the pilot project.

Dayle asked if Hall County had been dropped. Jim said that he did not believe this particular data set fit in with other things they have done. If they have an interest, the SSO will provide it. Dawson County is not out of the project either but it may move behind Dodge County. Dodge County is not in the pilot project but needs to be done for property tax purposes.

The SSO has hired another person to assist with property tax projects. The new person starts on February 1.

FOLLOW-UP ON PRIORITY DATABASE ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

Multi-Purpose Land Information Systems: Erik Hubl reported this committee met this morning. They are continuing work on the cadastral section. Another meeting is scheduled for February, hopefully in Kearney.

Governmental Units - Priority Databases: Larry reported nothing has happened since the last meeting.

Transportation - Priority Databases: Dick Genrich reported that there has been no activity since the last meeting.

Orthoimagery & Elevation - Priority Databases: Mahendra reported that the DEM's are completed statewide. They are planning to have the DOQ's completed by June, although most will be done by February.

There has been one meeting of this committee since the last Steering Committee meeting. They have finalized the procedure that will be used in revising the DEM's and DOQ's. The NRC had planned to develop Level-3 DEM's but the Advisory Committee decided to stay with Level-2. The NRC will stay with Level-2 but will intensify the lines from 30-meter intervals to 10-meter intervals. This will be better than what is currently available but will allow them to avoid getting into more GPS ground control.

They will be using the same information from the DEM's to update the DOQ's and coordinate it with the 1999 NAPP photography. They will be using 10-meter DEM's for this purpose. The main task will be aerial triangular. The USGS has said that if aerial triangulation has to be re-done, then the cost of developing the DOQ's will be \$900 a quadrangle. If aerial triangulation does not have to be done, then the cost will be substantially lower. The USGS is doing a pilot study to determine if it is possible to revise the DOQ's without doing aerial triangulation. Aerial triangulation is tying the photos in correlation with the ground controls. Older photos cannot be used.

The NRC is looking at partnering with Lancaster County in a pilot project to see what is involved in updating the DOQ's.

The DOQ's will be processed twice so that they can be produced in two coordinate systems, UTM and the State Plane System.

The NRC is looking for financial resources to help complete this task.

Larry commented that apparently in the process of developing the DOQ's, the USGS changed their standards for file headings. He asked if there was any plan by either the NRC or the USGS to go back and change the old headings to comply with the new standards. Mahendra said there was not. About half of the DOQ's are in the older format and half are in the new format. The difference is that the information is in different places.

Hydrology - Priority Databases: Mike Thompson from the Department of Water Resources reported that at the second meeting, the Committee members decided what areas were important to each agency. They then drafted a prioritized list of those areas, narrowing the potential tasks to the top two. One was to develop stream network coverage at a 1/24,000 scale and that was deemed a surface water issue. A subcommittee split off from the main group to address surface water. The other top project was to enhance the registered well database and try to better coordinate that among the agencies that use it. Another subcommittee split off to address this as a ground water issue. In addition, the committee members determined that a more appropriate name for the Hydrology Database Advisory Committee would be the Water Resources Database Advisory Committee.

The surface water subcommittee (*formally known as Stream Reach Working Group*) had their first meeting and are in the process of trying to determine what is involved in developing a 1/24,000 scale stream reach. Additionally, that means different things to different people. Some people are really interested in the thread of the stream and reach coding and directions of flow. Other people are interested in where the banks of the stream are and an aerial definition of some of the streams. The next step is to establish specifications for a project and ensure that it will meet USGS standards. Then, they will determine what type of human and equipment resources will be required to properly implement that kind of a project. At that point, it would be up to the Steering Committee to take further action.

Larry added that when this Advisory Committee was created, he and Mahendra were charged with setting up the initial meeting and asking the participating members to suggest a lead agency. The Advisory Committee asked the Department of Water Resources to head the Committee and they agreed.

Dayle moved to accept the Department of Water Resources as the lead agency for this Advisory Committee and that the name of the Advisory Committee be changed to Water Resources Database Advisory Committee. Tom seconded. The motion passed. (see vote #2).

Paul reported two main issues were identified during the meeting of the Ground Water Subcommittee (*formally known as Registered Wells Working Group*). They plan to try to work with the Department of Water Resources in improving the locational component of the registered wells database. That was one of the primary concerns expressed. There is a lot of information out there and a lot of agencies collecting good locational information about these wells and it would be nice if there was a way to get that information into DWR's database. Another issue they discussed was getting the paper file information from the registered wells database into electronic form. They plan to meet again in a month or two after spending some time researching who is involved in collecting registered well coordinates.

Land Cover: Larry said that Jim Merchant would be working more on this after the end of the semester.

Geodetic Control: Jim Brown said they have had some discussions with Jerry Odum to determine what can be done for an improvement on height modernization so that GPS could be used for the Z component. They have been advised there is no federal money available for use on height modernization. They acquired a copy of the current standards for height modernization. They are trying to put together a three or four agency pilot project for height modernization in one county to see what it involves and how much it would cost. It looks prohibitive for Nebraska at this point. They are hoping to get the federal government to do the compilation and adjustment if the SSO can take the observations for one county.

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Annual Report Summary - Jim Brown said that the Summary of the Annual Report is complete and ready to be distributed to the Legislature. The Executive Committee had not given final approval the Summary yet because following a recent Executive Committee meeting, one paragraph was added on page 8 relating to funding requests. Jim did not believe action was required by the Steering Committee on the summary, because when the Steering Committee approved the Annual Report at its last meeting, it delegated the responsibility for developing a summary report to the Executive Committee.

Draft Agreement with Nebraska State Records Board - Larry explained that this is related to the Steering Committee's Nebraska Geospatial Clearinghouse. It is currently hosted on the Internet by Nebraska Interactive as part of its Nebrask@ Online service on behalf of the Nebraska State Records Board. Up to this point, there has not been an interagency agreement related to this service. Nebrask@ Online gave the Steering Committee a rather lengthy draft standard agreement. Dennis Burling edited out all of the extraneous pieces that do not relate to the Steering Committee and this revised draft that been reviewed and edited by the Executive Committee. The revised draft makes it fairly clear there is no money being exchanged. Nebraska Interactive and the State Records Board are comfortable with the revised agreement as it now stands. Larry expressed his appreciation to Dennis Burling for all his work on this document.

Dayle moved that the GIS Steering Committee authorize the Chair to sign the Interagency Agreement as of this date. Dick seconded. The motion passed (see vote #3).

Tom and Dayle also expressed appreciation to Dennis for all his work.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE:

NACO Annual Conference - Larry reported that at the last meeting, the Steering Committee authorized a booth at NACO. Duane Stott staffed that booth along with Steve Rathje, NRC. It was located right next to the State Surveyor's booth and Larry felt there was quite a bit of traffic through the booth.

Larry reported that the national NACo organization has endorsed a proposal with Intergraph Software for local government start update package. Basically, they provide their Geomedia software, some geospatial data and training. ESRI has also put up a pilot grant program for local governments wherein they are providing their top of the line software and training. Within the ESRI agreement, there is a stipulation that the agency will develop three or four layers of data which is not in the Intergraph agreement. These groups are obviously gearing for the local government market.

Cliff asked Dick to comment on how the Department of Roads passes information back and forth from ESRI and Intergraph. Dick said that they use a third party software to do that and that it is fairly easy for them.

Larry said that his concern is less conversion from one software format to another, than with providing information on the relative utility of the two vendor package offers. How does the functionality of the software offered in the two packages compare? Is the data that come with the packages realistically suitable for most local government applications, because of its level of spatial accuracy? Local governments probably need to create much of their own data because of their accuracy needs. Another issue of concern is the available support of technical assistance with either vendor's package.

Dick said that he had three people who took Intergraph Geomedia training but they have not had enough time to make any assessment about it. He anticipates being able to do so within the next two months.

Jim Brown said that he received a call from Lincoln County and that they are considering an offer from ESRI. It is in front of their Commissioners this week. There really is a push out there. These offers have come so suddenly there has not been time to figure out what they are really about. He has not even seen the data agreement with ESRI. There are some fairly serious data share agreements that go along with that one. Larry is not sure what is involved with the Intergraph agreement although he did note that it is co-sponsored by the national NACo.

Larry is attempting communications with Tim Lowenstein, Kearney about these local government granting offers. Tim has been involved with national NACo's technology efforts.

Bill Sheldon from Milestone Solutions said he spoke with Steve Kensey from ESRI's regional office about the grant application. This program is really about education rather than marketing. The grant application is intended to ensure that people who are receiving the system are planning to move forward in GIS. The grant is not intended for people who already have an investment in GIS but to jumpstart people who may need GIS but are not into it yet.

Larry asked if Bill knew anything about the data being provided. Bill said it would be enhanced Tiger data. He added that he has heard that there is a requirement for paid training after you apply for the Intergraph software. Jim Langtry said that he is not sure if the training is paid training but that training is required. The materials are picked up at the training site. His impression is that they want to make sure the agencies know what they are doing with the software.

Bill added that there is a requirement attached to the ESRI grant that is not a part of Intergraph's agreement. ESRI is specifically looking for agencies that are planning on working together.

Dayle asked if enhanced data was good enough to fulfill local government's needs. Duane said it was not and that he was concerned about people taking the Intergraph offer believing that their data conversion process was complete. Jim Langtry commented that the ArcInfo start up grant comes with ArcView, which also comes with four disks of data. That gives you something to get started with and familiarize yourself with the software. Concern was expressed that Intergraph is leading people to believe there is more available with their package than really is there.

Cliff asked if the Steering Committee could put together a one page synopsis of what was being offered by both groups to assist local government in making an informed decision regarding these two offers. Larry said he would try but there are so many political issues involved he is reluctant to get into this. Duane pointed out that this is something that is appropriate for the Steering Committee to do as an independent body. It would not be an endorsement, just an interpretation of the grants. Larry said that the ESRI grant expired in February. There was some thought that it would be reissued however. Larry agreed to try to put together a document spelling out the pertinent questions to ask about these two grants.

1999 GIS Symposium – Les Howard said that Jim Merchant gave him a box of Symposium brochures and that everyone was strongly encouraged to take and distribute the material. Additional information about the Symposium is available on the [web](#).

Larry explained that the registration form would be coming out less than a month. Planning efforts are moving forward. Parallel to these efforts is planning for the GIS/LIS Association.

There is still room for Symposium co-sponsors. Larry said he assumed the Steering Committee would be co-sponsoring the

Symposium at a benefactor level. There are two levels of co-sponsorship, advocate and benefactor. Advocate level co-sponsorship involves lending the agency name and mailing list to the event, while the Benefactor co-sponsorship includes the addition of two hundred dollars. Dayle asked if the GIS Steering Committee had the money available to be a Benefactor co-sponsor.

Jim Brown pointed out that the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee is the sponsor for this event and with the amount of work it will be doing, he didn't feel that the Steering Committee needed to donate the two hundred dollars to be a benefactor co-sponsor. Next year, after the GIS/LIS users association is in place and doing the work it may be more appropriate.

Larry said that there is a web page up listing who is responsible for what part of the symposium. There is still help needed for workshops and plenary sessions.

NEMA: Larry said that the Steering Committee has had someone participate in the Nebraska Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) Conference the past two years. Duane Stott staffed a booth once and last year NRC attended. They have extended an invitation to the Steering Committee to be an exhibitor again this year.

Duane said that the DOQ's are the perfect statewide base map for emergency response. Any kind of rural addressing system that has been conceived can be laid on top of those and the computer has the capability to display them. He suggested that an impressive demonstration might consist of overlaying an existing rural addressing system on top of a DOQ to show how they fit together.

Mahendra volunteered NRC to staff a booth. Dayle accepted responsibility for the vendor fee for the conference.

NEBRASKA GIS/LIS ASSOCIATION PLANNING COMMITTEE: Jim Langtry reported that this Committee has been working on the bylaws and articles. They will be posted on a web page for review.

Larry said that it is time for additional input regarding the structural shape of this organization. The web page is available from a link off of the GIS home page.

Jim Brown asked that the Steering Committee encourage all GIS technicians within their agencies to support this users group. A board of officers will be selected and it was Jim's feeling that it should not be comprised of Steering Committee members.

FEDERAL AGENCY/GIS FORUM: Larry said that Nathan McCaleb was nominated by the federal agencies as their representatives and the Governor approved his appointment. The Forum seemed to be a very worthwhile experience for those participating. There were 12-14 federal agency representatives who gave presentations about what their agency was doing. They met afterwards and agreed to try to meet twice a year. The next meeting will be in conjunction with the symposium.

There is now a listing of federal agency contacts for Nebraska geospatial data projects on the web, "http://www.calmit.unl.edu/gis/Fed_Rep_Names_IV.html". There is also some discussion about a possible listserv for these agencies.

Nathan commented that he felt it was an excellent meeting. They will try to continue that type of forum in the future to let everyone know what each agency is doing. However, they also want it to be a two way street and would like to know what specific things local government needs the federal agencies to be working on.

Larry said that one of the concerns that had surfaced was in relationship to the work the Farm Service Agency - USDA was doing to create ag. field boundaries. There is a question of how to make the connection between that project and the State Surveyor's work in creating the PLSS layer along with the Property Tax Division's work in creating a property parcel layer. Nathan said that he knows they are aware of that but he will put a call through to Mike.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NITC AND NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE: Larry explained that the idea of this topic is to raise the question of whether the Steering Committee wants to begin some sort of formal dialogue with the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) about mutual relationships. Last year the Legislature created an information technology-coordinating superstructure. The NITC is at the top. It created a state government coordinating body, a community coordinating body and an education coordinating body that are underneath the NITC. It made limited links between the NITC and existing groups like the Steering Committee, NIDCAC and other entities like that that are intergovernmental in scope. It also created an office called the Chief Information Officer who is to help pull all of these groups together.

Steve Schafer, the acting CIO, suggested that the Steering Committee consider defining and working with the NITC with respect to the role the Steering Committee will be taking with them and the other councils. By taking the proactive stance, the Steering Committee has the opportunity to determine what they would like their role to be because if the Steering Committee does not

define their role, someone else will.

Dayle commented that NIDCAC, the NITC, the GIS Steering Committee and the Databank Advisory Committee were all established by statute while the councils were not. He suggested the Steering Committee needed guidance from the new Governor's office as to how that group fits in with the others.

Larry said that the three councils, the Education Council, the Community Council and the Government Council are all operate under the NITC. In the original proposal, the councils were to be created in statute but the legislature decided not to do that.

Cliff asked how well the NITC was established and suggested this might be a premature action. Larry explained that the people who were instrumental in shaping this legislation and getting it passed have since left state government. No clear leader is present to take charge of setting these committees and councils in place.

Larry Worrell said that the original version of the legislation was very specific. Certain committees were to address specific issues and the GIS Steering Committee was to provide input back to the Commission to assist them in working with their assigned tasks. The current version says that the NITC is to establish ad hoc technical advisory groups to study and make recommendations. That allows them the freedom to determine whether they wish to call upon state mandated committees or create their own. It would be a good idea for the Steering Committee to go to the NITC and offer whatever assistance is needed.

Larry Zink pointed out that the Steering Committee had already done that with the review of the agency technology plans.

Tom Lamberson moved to have the Executive Committee meet with Steve Schafer to discuss the relationship of the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee with the NITC. Blaine Dinwiddie seconded. The motion passed (see vote #4).

Steve Schafer provided some background about the NITC and the three Councils and explained that the charters drafted for the councils were designed to outline the duties and responsibilities of each. He suggested the Steering Committee pose the question of how this body will assist the NITC. This is a multi-stage process with the Steering Committee drafting a charter and sending it to the NITC for their review and comment until it satisfies both groups.

Larry Zink asked if the Steering Committee was comfortable with the Executive Committee drafting a charter and presenting it to the NITC without the official approval of the entire body. The NITC only meets quarterly and their meeting time might occur before the next Steering Committee meeting. Dayle said that if it comes up that fast, then a phone conference might be appropriate. Jim Brown commented that there is no time to waste.

FUNDING AVENUES FOR DATABASE DEVELOPMENT: Jim Brown said in the laws (86-1513) a government collaboration fund has been set aside. This might be funding to tap into for some collaborative effort between small agencies on creation of these databases.

Larry said that in discussing joint projects a missing piece has been an interagency funding source. There are cases where the Steering Committee would like something done in the nature of data sharing or development that is a cost beyond what a particular agency has for their needs. A funding source needs to be located to support those efforts. One option is to ask each agency to contribute some amount of money to the effort, while another option is to tap into funds targeted for collaborative effort. A final option might be to attempt to create a new fund.

Larry suggested that the Steering Committee approach the new administration and the NITC to let them know that there is a need for a fund source for interagency database projects.

John agreed that there is a need for this kind of fund, especially for projects that can be enhanced so that more people can make use of it. The agency that creates the database cannot be expected to pick up that cost.

Larry proposed putting together a short paper to explain the need for the money and then ask the question of how this need is best met. Tom suggested along with that action that the Committee look further into these funds to find out more about them.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Dayle said the NRC is doing a tremendous amount of GIS work right now. The three-year, three-state agreement between Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming and the Department of Interior is halfway through. The Water Committee has the most going on right now. They have hired Boyle Engineering and all of the states have to contribute quite a bit to that effort.

Because Nebraska needed more information, several NRD's and state agencies got together and organized a COHS study, a Cooperative Hydrology Study. That is quite an effort with one full time person from the NRC.

Lower Platte Alliance is a group of seven state agencies and three NRDs. In the last few months, the NRDs has put another person in their office paid for by the Lower Platte Alliance. He is working on a number of GIS coverages for that area of the state.

Dennis Wilson reported that they are almost finished with their update of the orthophotos. They should have an updated system in place by March of this year. They have also purchased Cartograph. They plan to use that as a database for their asset management with their signal and sign inventories along with sewers, bridges and roadways.

The Public Works Department has decided to centralize their GIS into one subdivision. They have ten divisions within public works and they plan to pull all of their GIS people out of the various divisions and put them into one place to allow them to concentrate their efforts.

The Omaha Public Library is going online this year. They will be using the Public Works Department maps.

Dick Genrich said that Val Goodman had asked where he could get the municipal boundary layer. the Dept. of Roads has municipal boundaries on all their county maps. Ed Kelley has started to create that layer. It is a slow process.

Genrich also noted that a medical helicopter group called to ask for longitude and latitude for all of the mileposts on the state highway system. They wanted to be able to put the coordinates into the automatic pilot when they were asked to respond to a call.

Larry Zink said that this is a good time to look over the list of open projects. Larry noted that he had included in the agenda packet a list of all the currently open projects that the Steering Committee had authorized. Larry commented that it is quite a list and that the level of activity on the various projects varies quite a bit. Larry indicated that he felt that at some point in the near future it would probably be useful for the Steering Committee to review these projects.

Jim Brown commented that the GPS station at Whitman, NE, is online and broadcasting. There is a real time station now operating in the northwest corner of Nebraska.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday March 11, 1999 at 1p.m.

GIS Steering Committee Voting Record, January 14, 1999

. Vote Tallies for <u>1-14-99</u> GIS Str. Cmte. Meeting										
	Roll call	Min. #1	Water Res. Adv. Cmte. #2	NSBR Agmt. #3	NITC-GIS Charter #4	.. #5	.. #6	.. #7	.. #8	.. #9
DAS - Rick Becker (Lori McClurg)	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEQ - Tom Lamberson (Mike Linder) Dennis Burling	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
CSD - Mark Kuzila, Jim Merchant, Lea Howard	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NGPC - Mele Koneva Bruce Sackett	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
NRC - Dayle Williamson Mahendra Bansal	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
PRO - Lauren Hill	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PTD - Cathy Lang Bob Martin, Scott Gaines	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
DOR - Dick Genrich (John Craig) Jon Ogden	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
St. Surv - Jim Brown	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
LRD - Val Goodman	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Nathan McCaleb	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
John Miyoshi	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Blaine Dinwiddie Steve Larson	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Cliff Welsh	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Larry Worrell Jim Langtry	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Lash Chaffin	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duane Stott	P	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
Dennis Wilson	A/P	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
TOTALS	11 - P/ 14 - P	11 - +	14 - +	14 - +	14 - +	.	.	..	.	.

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