

GIS Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes - 5/18/94

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Chair, Rod Armstrong.

Present were (* authorized to vote):

* Rod Armstrong	Governor's Policy Research Office
Mahendra Bansal	Natural Resource Commission
* Jim Brown	State Surveyor's Office
* Dennis Burling	Department of Environmental Quality
* Blaine Dinwiddie	Omaha Public Power District
* Steve Henderson	Department of Administrative Services
* Les Howard	Conservation and Survey Division
* John Miyoshi	Lower Platte North NRD
* Jon Ogden	Department of Roads
* Duane Stott	Scotts Bluff County Surveyor
* Dayle Williamson	Natural Resources Commission
* Dennis Wilson	City of Omaha
* Larry Worrell	Lancaster County Surveyor
Larry K. Zink	Coordinator, GIS Steering Cmte.

NOTICE OF MEETING. A public notice of the meeting pursuant to Section 84-1411 R.R.S. 1943, was published in the Omaha World Herald on May 11, 1994.

ROLL CALL. Chairman Rod Armstrong called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 pm and requested that Larry Z. call the roll. Eleven duly authorized representatives were present and therefore there was a quorum to conduct business. Dennis Wilson arrived after the roll call to provide the 12th voting member (see Attendance on the attached voting record).

MINUTES: Dayle W. moved, Jon O. seconded, that the minutes of the April 6, 1994, Steering Committee meeting be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously (see vote # 1 on the attached voting record sheet).

DATA INVENTORY SUBCMTE. Jon O. passed out an introductory sheet designed to be mailed out to agencies who might contribute metadata information about their data to the online GIS Data Inventory Catalog. Jon O. indicated that he welcomed feedback on the introductory sheet. Jon said the subcmte. planned to include this information in the next GIS Update newsletter and to invite agencies and individuals to participate in the GIS Data Inventory Catalog. Jon also indicated that the committee planned to send out the announcement/invitation to state agency GIS contacts. Rod A. asked if Jon O. thought a cover letter from the Governor would help and the consensus was that it probably would. Rod will draft such a letter and solicit the Governor's signature. It was decided that it would be best to mail the letter to both the agency Director and the designated Agency GIS Contact.

POLICY SUBCMTE. Rod A., Policy Subcmte. Chair, asked Larry Z. to report on the proposal from the Subcmte. Larry reported that the Subcmte. continued the discussion on the outlined long-range planning questions. To address the concern that had surfaced at the last Str. Cmte. about developing ways to communicate data quality a proposal on "Communicating the Quality of Spatial Data" was developed. The proposal had been mailed out earlier with the agenda and read as follows.

Project Team Charge

To research and prepare a short concise report as to the methods the federal government, other states, and other organizations are using to document the quality (accuracy) of their datasets.

Included in the report should be a recommendation to the committee of at least two alternatives as to how we (Nebraska) should certify the quality (accuracy) of data. As much as possible, such recommendations should include specific recommendations on suggested data fields or standards, such that their adoption by the Steering Committee would facilitate prompt implementation.

Examples: A narrative (ascii file) must accompany each data set describing in detail how (what procedures were used) the data was collected or obtained.

Create a classification system which would indicate the accuracy of the data. Each classification would have to have a set of criteria that the data collection methods would have to meet.

Rod proposed that the Technical Standards Subcmte. take responsibility for this project. The Str. Cmte. members present supported the proposal as drafted and its delegation to the Technical Standards Subcmte. Rod requested that the Technical Standards Subcmte. submit a report no later than the July Str. Cmte. meeting.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUBCMTE. Terry Kubicek, Technical Standards Chair, was not present. Mahendra B., a Subcmte. member, reported that the Subcmte. had no report.

EDUCATION SUBCMTE. Jim Merchant, Education Subcmte. Chair, was not present. Les H. reported that Jim had indicated that the deadline for article submission for the next newsletter was June 13th.

GIS REVIEW SUBCMTE. Larry Z. reported for the Subcmte. Larry reported that the Subcmte. had considered one GIS-related purchase request item since the last Str. Cmte. meeting. That was an E-size color plotter requested by DEQ. The Subcmte. was unanimous in recommending approval of the purchase request by the Str. Cmte. and so no meeting was held. Laura Valenziano had indicated to Larry that she was working on drafting the "Justification" document and had hoped to have it for the May Str. Cmte. meeting. Since Laura V. was not present at the meeting, Larry did not have any additional information about the status of that document. Dayle W. moved, Steve H. seconded, that the Str. Cmte. recommend approval of the purchase request for the E-sized color plotter by DEQ, pending receipt of the justification document. The Str. Cmte. unanimously supported the motion (see vote # 2 on the attached voting record).

UPDATE ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NRC, AND CIVIL DEFENSE. Dayle W. reported that a meeting was held, approximately two weeks ago, between Corps staff and NRC staff to further explore available data, existing GIS coverages, and priorities. Dayle indicated the while the Corps was still quite interested in pursuing the GIS disaster coverages project, it would need to subcontract for most or all of the data development that might result due to staff cuts. Dayle indicated that another meeting was planned for the near future. Larry Z. inquired about the timeline and the availability of funding and Dayle indicated that he felt there was still a possibility for project funding.

UPDATE ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS. Larry passed out at the meeting a tabulation of the feedback available from the needs assessment process. 45 state agencies, 19 county governments, 11 NRDs, and 7 cities responded to the survey. The handouts included a tabulation for each level of government, as well as an overall summary. Highlights that Larry noted included the relatively high number of state agencies, counties, NRDs, and cities expressing an interest in some sort of needs assessment/planning assistance. Larry also noted strong common interest across all levels of government in the following general data/map types: general purpose maps; aerial photography or satellite imagery; zoning, regulations, political, boundaries; soils; and highways, streets, and roads.

FLESHING OUT A PICTURE OF FUTURE NEBRASKA GIS IMPLEMENTATION -- What Does Decentralized But Integrated Look Like? Rod A. lead a continuation of the discussion of the issues surrounding the concept of a "decentralized, but integrated" approach to GIS implementation. The discussion focused on refining a summary that Larry Z. had prepared based on previous discussions and submitted written responses to related questions. The results of this discussion and decisions are attached to these minutes and labeled "Updated Summary of Discussion and Responses to Concept # 1". It was the stated intentions of the Chair, Rod A., that the Str. Cmte. review this update, in the hopes that it can be adopted at the next mtg. Due to the length of this discussion, the Str. Cmte. did not have time to discuss a series of related questions that Larry Z. had identified as "unresolved questions" related to this concept. The Str. Cmte. decided to ask Rod A. and Larry Z. to draft some proposed responses to these questions for the Str. Cmte.'s consideration at the June mtg.

Development and Maintenance of Statewide Databases. Due to the time required to discuss the above issues, there was not time to discuss the issues related to database creation and maintenance. The Str. Cmte. decided to ask Rod A. and Larry Z. to prepare a summary of the written feedback from the related questions and ask the Policy Subcmte. to discuss and review that summary and have a revised summary available for the Str. Cmte. to consider at its June mtg. Str. Cmte. members were encouraged to submit responses to the third set of questions related to providing GIS service to Nebraska's large rural areas and GIS assistance to local governments.

GPS COORDINATION. Larry Z. presented a proposal on GPS Coordination, which he had developed and mailed out with the agenda. Due to the increasing interest in utilizing GPS, and the potential of cost savings through cooperative efforts, the proposal suggested that a small working group be formed to study and make recommendations on potential cooperative approaches to GPS utilization. Larry noted that the Dept of Roads, the State Surveyor, and the Natural Resources Commission had expressed an interest in participating in such a group. Jim Brown, State Surveyor, offered to provide the leadership to convene the group. The Str. Cmte. was supportive of the proposal as drafted, with the exception that Dennis B. asked that DEQ not be included in the "likely major players". Blaine D. also suggested that a look at the cost-effectiveness of GPS is something he would be interested in seeing. On behalf of the Str. Cmte., Rod A. asked Jim B. to convene such a GPS Coordinating Group with the general objectives as outlined in the draft proposal, but with the flexibility to modify those objectives as seemed most appropriate to the group. Larry Z. agreed to assist in identifying potential group participants.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GIS PRESENTATION. Dennis B. and Larry Z. gave a brief overview of the presentation they provided to the Dept. of Agriculture on GIS. Both indicated that they felt that the presentation was well received and that there was considerable interest in further exploration of GIS as tool to assist DOA in its work.

UPDATE ON DOR/NRC/DEQ ARCINFO/INTEGRAPH TRANSLATION PROJECT. Jon O. reported that little had happened with this project except identification of some potential project team members. Jon O. indicated that he would make a concerted effort to get this project going prior to the June Str. Cmte. mtg.

FUTURE MEETING DATES. The Str. Cmte. adopted with little discussion the proposed meeting dates for the next twelve months that had been sent out with the agenda and are attached to these minutes.

UPDATE ON COORDINATOR'S POSITION. Rod reported that we had sufficient funds to cover expenses for the Coordinator's position through the end of this fiscal year. He thanked those who had responded to the request for support and indicated that he would be contacting those agencies who had not yet responded.

STR. CMTE. MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCIES GIS ACTIVITIES. Due to the lateness of the hour, no Str. Cmte. members made a report on current activities.

OTHER BUSINESS. Larry Z. indicated that due to the important role of local governments in our decentralized, but integrated approach to GIS implementation, he felt we should be more active in soliciting their input and involvement in our planning process. Larry Z. asked the Str. Cmte. if anyone had any concerns about him, working with local government representatives on the Str. Cmte., initiating additional contacts with local government officials and organizations to explore the interest and potential for further cooperation in this area. The Str. Cmte. expressed support for this initiative. The Str. Cmte. also decided to continue to meet in the East Campus Union.

ADJOURNMENT. Rod A. adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30 pm.

TO DO LIST

Everyone - is encouraged to submit written responses to Larry Z. by June 1st to the third set of long-range planning questions related to GIS assistance to local government and rural areas. And to those who have not yet responded to the second set of questions related to data development, those responses would still be helpful too.

Data Inventory Subcmte. - will include an announcement/invitation to participate in the GIS Data Inventory Catalog in the upcoming GIS Update

Data Inventory Subcmte. - will mail a letter announcing/inviting state agencies to participate in the Data Inventory Catalog to state agency Directors and designated GIS agency contacts.

Technical Standards Subcmte. - will research and prepare a concise report as to the methods the federal government, other states, and other organizations are using to document the quality (accuracy of their datasets. Included in the report should be a recommendation to the Str. Cmte. of at least two alternative as to how Nebraska should certify the quality of data. Said report is due by the July Str. Cmte. meeting.

Jim Brown - will convene a GPS Coordinating Group with the purpose of developing recommendations for potential cooperative efforts in the area of GPS utilization.

Jon Ogden - will convene the ArcInfo/Integraph Working Group and outline a project scope and timeline.

Rod A. - will draft a cover letter and solicit the Governor's signature to state agencies urging their participation in the GIS Data Inventory Catalog.

Rod A. - will contact agencies and organizations regarding financial support for the Coordinator's position.

Rod A. & Larry Z. - will draft a summary of written responses to the second set of long-range planning questions and draft proposed responses to the unresolved questions that Larry had identified as related to concept # 1 "Decentralized, but Integrated". Both drafts should be available for consideration by the Policy Subcmte. on June 2nd.

Larry Z. - will work with Jim Brown to identify potential participants in the newly formed GPS Coordinating Group.

Larry Z. - will work with local government officials and representatives on the Str. Cmte. to explore further contacts and potential cooperative efforts with local government officials and associations.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 5/18/94

	Attendance	Minutes		Review								
		#1	#2	Substanc	Substanc							
DAS - Steve Henderson	P	+	+									
DEQ - Tom Lamberson Dennis Burling	P	+	+									
CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard, Jim Merchant	P	+	+									
NRC - Dayle Williamson Terry Kubicek	P	+	+									
PRO - Rod Armstrong	P	+	+									
DOR - Jon Ogden	P	+	+									
Surveyor - Jim Brown	P	+	+									
LRD - Laura Valenziano	A											
John Miyoshi	P	+	+									
Blaine Dinwiddie	P	+	+									
Judy Larsen	A											
Larry Worrell	P	+	+									
Lash Chaffin	A											
Duane Stott	P	+	+									
Dennis Wilson	P	•										
TOTALS	12-P 3-A	11-(+)	11(+)									

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