

**GIS Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes - September 10, 1996**

Present were (* authorized to vote):

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| | Mahendra Bansal | Natural Resources Commission |
| * | Jim Brown | State Surveyor's Office |
| * | Lash Chaffin | League of Municipalities |
| * | Blaine Dinwiddie | Omaha Public Power District |
| | Larry Dix | Nebraska Association of County Officials |
| | Ralph Guenther | Intergraph Corporation |
| | Erik Hubl | Lancaster County Assessor's Office |
| | Ed Kelley | Department of Roads |
| | Mele D. Koneya | Game & Parks |
| | Terry Kubicek | Natural Resources Commission |
| * | Jon Ogden | Department of Roads |
| | Larry Rexroth | Property Tax Division |
| | Scott E. Richert | Lancaster County Assessor's Office |
| * | Tom Ryan | Governor's Policy Research Office |
| | Jennifer Sharpe | USGS |
| | Ethel Skinner | Property Tax Division |
| * | Duane Stott | Scotts Bluff County Surveyor |
| | Connie Watson | SAIC |
| * | Cliff Welsh | Keith County Commissioner |
| * | Dayle Williamson | Natural Resources Commission |
| * | Paul Yamamoto | Department of Environmental Quality |
| | Larry K. Zink | Coordinator, GIS Steering Committee |

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 Tuesday, September 3, 1996.

ROLL CALL. Chairperson Jim Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45 p.m. and requested a call of the roll. Nine duly authorized representatives were present. Therefore, a quorum was present to conduct business. Jim commented that there were a number of guests present. He asked that each one stand and introduce themselves. Jim also noted a change to the agenda. Item #5A was added to the agenda to review the Natural Resources Commission proposal for the purchase of a new server.

MINUTES. Dayle Williamson moved for the minutes of the July 16, 1996 steering committee meeting to be approved as circulated. Blaine Dinwiddie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote #1 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

FINAL REPORT ON THE 1996 NEBRASKA GIS SYMPOSIUM. Lash Chaffin gave a final report on the 1996 GIS Symposium. The symposium generated a net profit of \$18,394.93. The checking account has been closed and the proceeds have been distributed to PSAN. The League of Municipalities will be audited by Deloitte & Touche in November. Unless there were any objections from the committee, Lash was going to have the symposium records audited along with the League's books.

Jim Brown added that the PSAN Board had voted to donate 50% of the net proceeds to the GIS Steering Committee to further GIS work in the State of Nebraska. PSAN will work with the Department of Administrative Services to move these funds from PSAN to the steering committee. The steering committee can then decide the best way to put these funds to work.

UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO FACILITATE LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION. Larry Zink handed out the most current copy of the Facilitating Land Record Modernization report. Since the committee had last seen the report, Larry had made a few cosmetic changes to the layout of the report. The report has been distributed to the Governor's office, the Department of Revenue, several senators, the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), and members of NIDCAC.

Since the distribution of the report, Jim Brown, Erik Hubl, and Larry Zink met with the new Property Tax Division (Cathy Lang-Morrissey, Ethel Skinner, and Larry Rexroth) to share with them the activities of the steering committee. Cathy indicated that the Property Tax Division is currently reorganizing since they are now independent from the Department of Revenue. They will also be looking at the issue of standards.

Jim, Erik, and Larry also met with Norm Agena to discuss how they might get the land record modernization report on the agenda of the county assessors. Norm contacted the new president of the county assessors' association and encouraged the association to explore the idea of creating a GIS subcommittee. Such a subcommittee would likely be interested in the land record modernization effort.

Larry has received some inquiries from the states of South Dakota and Iowa and he has mailed them a copy of the land record modernization report. Larry also shared a copy of the draft Kansas Compatibility Guidelines, dated August 1996, with the steering committee. Kansas is meeting to adopt these guidelines. They are looking at GIS standards from a broad perspective. The document includes a proposed process for developing a broad range of standards, some general compatibility guidelines, and outlines features for different types of data sets. Larry felt this would be a good resource document for Nebraska.

Larry noted that the dialog had been started with these two key players--the Department of Revenue and county assessors. Larry has been spending a good portion of his time on this project and asked the committee for their comments. Cliff Welsh commented that he would like to have NACO's input on what they would like to see done. Duane Stott felt it was also important to coordinate communication between both the counties and the cities. Lash Chaffin noted that one of the best ways to coordinate this communication is to continually provide information on the subject. For example, the League produces nine newsletters a month with information on several different issues.

Larry Dix explained a new change at NACO. NACO is looking to form an Information Technology Committee within NACO. The committee will look at information technology and ways to become more efficient through technology. This would include GIS as well. The committee would be broad based and would probably take an extended period of time to look at all issues. Jim Brown asked Larry Dix to provide the steering committee with a list of the members once the Information Technology Committee had been formed. Larry agreed to this request.

Terry Kubicek mentioned that the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be giving presentations to the southeast and northeast districts of county assessors on September 12 and September 20. NRC will demonstrate where they are regarding technology and databases such as the finished DOQs and SSURGO soils.

The steering committee began discussion about the direction the task force should be going. Larry suggested creating a GIS database model that could be used by the counties. Terry suggested a different approach of bringing together various vendors such as IBM and Microsoft and sharing with them a broad vision to see what they suggest for technology. Terry felt that both vendors and counties should be brought together early on to save time and money. There was some general discussion about this suggestion.

Jim Brown noted that it is difficult to identify the specific problems or needs related to land record modernization. One of the problems is identifying the needs of and working with 93 different counties. Jim also added that the needs of the state were minimal compared to the needs of counties. Furthermore, the needs of each county were vastly different. Jim did not feel that the problem was that of hardware and software, but the constitutional responsibilities and duties of the county officials. The problem was not GIS, but the need to modernize and to get everyone to work closely together from a common database. Terry added that vendors could show what the hardware and software capabilities are and what technology is forthcoming. He felt that this knowledge would be helpful in solving some of the problems with land record modernization.

Larry felt that this discussion led back to his original question about process. Larry thought the committee was looking at getting some standards together for people to look at and discuss as opposed to using working groups to set priorities and then standards. General discussion about this issue followed. The discussion ended with Jim's comment that Larry and the task force should continue with the double approach of getting people involved and looking at standards from other states. Jim also asked the steering committee members to give Larry their comments and support for this project on a continual basis.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATION ON STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM. Jim Brown and Terry Kubicek are scheduled to meet and discuss this draft on September 13. This discussion was tabled until after that meeting. Jon Ogden asked if the definition of origin (section 4) was adopted from federal standards. Jon and Jim briefly discussed the origin of coordinates.

REFERRAL FROM CDP FOR NRC'S REQUEST FOR NEW COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. NRC has purchased a Sun Ultra Enterprise Server for \$41,000. DAS-Central Data Processing had referred this request to the GIS Steering Committee for review. The GIS Review Subcommittee did review the referral from CDP and recommended an unanimous approval. Jon Ogden made a motion to accept the subcommittee's recommendation and recommended approval of the request. Lash Chaffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (*see vote #2 on the attached Voting Record sheet*).

REPORT ON THE NEBRASKA GEOSPATIAL DATA CLEARINGHOUSE AND METADATA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Larry Zink reported on the metadata training session which was held on July 17. There were approximately 40 participants from various local, state, and federal governments. The session quickly covered metadata sections and fields. Each participant was also provided with metadata development materials and tools. Since then, Larry has been working to get metadata created. Larry distributed a report that showed the current status of agencies and their metadata sets and briefly summarized the report for the committee. For example, NRC had identified approximately 21 databases to create metadata for. Of those 21 databases, twelve have been completed.

September 14 is the end-of-the-year report period for this project. Therefore, Larry will be writing his year-end report. He will also be following up with the participants of the metadata workshop to see what their interest and needs are to do some actual metadata development.

The Library Commission has notified Larry that they will no longer be able to give long term support for this project. Larry will begin looking at other options. The Library Commission has offered to do some inquiries with the University library. Larry will bring some possible options for the steering committee to review at its next meeting. The Library Commission has offered continued support of the clearinghouse over the next year, but is limited to one programmer.

Larry noted that the federal government continues to develop enhanced software for this nationwide searching capability. Consequently, over the next two years, someone would need to keep track of the continuing evolution of this software. Unfortunately, the Library Commission does not have the resources available to do this. Terry asked if the Library Commission was looking to move the clearinghouse to another site. Larry said he thought the committee would want to look at this option. Terry offered NRC's assistance as an option to finding a new home for the clearinghouse. Larry expressed his appreciation for NRC's offer and indicated he would try to gather more information on this and other possibilities before the next meeting. He will also begin looking for someone who has the technical capability to coordinate with the agencies who have a fair amount of this data. There needs to be at least one site that all this data can be searched from. Larry also noted that a new version of the software has been released, but has not been installed yet.

NEBRASKA GIS STEERING COMMITTEE/FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIP--IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS. At the last steering committee meeting, Larry shared an invitation from the FGDC asking the committee for some ideas for the new partnership. Larry did receive three suggestions from committee members. Dayle Williamson suggested the need for further cooperation from the Farm Service's Agency regarding data sharing. Mahendra Bansal shared his concerns about some federal agencies selling digital data over the Internet. Jim Brown suggested the possibility of integrating Nebraska's GPS base stations with a federal network. Larry asked the committee what ideas they wanted to submit, if any, and felt they should be specific.

General discussion about these suggestions followed. The committee primarily focused on the problem with the Farm Service's Agency as explained by Dayle Williamson. For example, Dayle noted that the Farms Service's system 36 was not compatible with NRC. Consequently, the two were not able to share information electronically. Dayle and Terry agreed to draft a letter outlining the problem for the steering committee's review. Mahendra and Jim also agreed to draft letters concerning their suggestions. Larry will be attending the NSGIC meeting in Arizona on Sept 16-18 and will try to get a better understanding of the FGDC partnership at that time.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE EDUCATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING UP THE GIS SYMPOSIUM. Jim Brown noted that the NACO conference will be on December 3-5 in Omaha. Jim did not feel that the committee had time to put something together for the conference, but thought it would be advantageous if Larry was present at the conference for questions. Erik Hubl added that the Lancaster County Assessor's office was planning to give a presentation, but were having trouble hooking up a LCD to a UNIX system. The presentation will target the county assessors and county board members to show examples of GIS working. It would not only show mapping capabilities, but also how to analyze datasets.

Terry Kubicek offered Erik NRC's assistance. If NACO would pay for the hotel room, NRC would be willing to dedicate about five or six of their computers for walk-thru demonstrations. This would include how to ping a home page, pull down coverage, show the attribute files of SSURGO soils, and how to compute a valuation based on market, etc.. Some discussion about this proposal followed. Larry asked if Duane would be willing to set up his equipment in the booth again. Duane said yes. Tom Ryan made a

motion to sponsor a booth at the NACO convention in Omaha in December. Jon Ogden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (see vote #3 on the attached Voting Record sheet).

Lash Chaffin has budgeted for some GIS training. He is planning to have a one-day training seminar this winter for city officials. This seminar would include working with Terry to pull down maps, working with Jim Merchant on the use of Internet and ArcView, and giving Larry Zink some input on the issues of land record modernization. League training is still in the planning stages and Lash was open to any ideas from the steering committee. Cliff Welsh asked Lash to share copies of his agenda with the steering committee.

Larry noted that a meeting was scheduled to finalize the details for Lincoln to host the Mid-America GIS Symposium in 1998.

Jim Merchant and Larry will be going to Kearney to meet with representatives from community colleges to talk about GIS training in the community colleges. Larry asked the steering committee for their feedback about training and job needs that would help the colleges to better prepare their students. Duane Stott said that Scotts Bluff is also working with the community colleges about a GIS curriculum. Terry suggested that the colleges not use the approach of training technicians, but training people with GIS experience or a secondary skill. For example, someone with Real Estate Management would also have GIS or geographic ground reference knowledge. Ralph Guenther added that Kansas State University does offer two year programs for GIS students. Other discussion noted the importance for students to know how to apply GIS and what to apply it to. It would also be necessary to include GPS as part of their instruction.

GEOSPATIAL DATA DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION. Mahendra Bansal handed out a map on the current status of NRC's DOQQ project. DOQs are 15% done and are on schedule. Terry added that the GPS work was going faster than expected. DEMs are also on time and Gage county has been completed.

Since no one was present from the Conservation Survey Division, the update on CSD Land Cover/GAP Project was tabled once again. Terry asked Larry what the intent of the agenda item was. Larry noted that he was looking for an update on the GAP project. Terry referred back to the last meeting's discussion of CSD and NRC's land cover interests. Larry indicated that he thought the work being proposed might be a duplication of effort and felt the committee should consider this. Larry also noted that at the last meeting it was decided to table this discussion until representatives from both agencies were present. Terry noted that the work did overlay, but the question was in the detail of the work. NRC does have coverage and this information is available on the network.

Dayle reported on the USGS Mid-Continent Mapping Center Workshop. Dayle handed out copies of Roger Dufresne's notes from the meeting. One of the concerns with the USGS is the 33% reduction of in-house production over the next seven years and their use of outsourcing. A comparison has been done of the work that has been outsourced. Most vendors are meeting USGS standards, but the vendor's quality is not near as good. The DOQ production schedule has been accelerated. Paper maps will continue to be produced, but will be from digital data.

Terry Kubicek gave an update on the Lancaster County SSURGO Soils Project. The project for Lancaster County has been completed and was on time. The next step is to look at the resources and timeline for statewide production. A four year timeline is expected for statewide coverage of DOQs. Larry asked if the recorrelation will be done at a later date. Terry explained that the intent is to do DOQs county by county, but if some counties were done side by side, then the edging and matching may be done at that time.

The update on the NDOR Transportation Coverage Development was tabled until Jon Ogden could get more information from Dick Genrich.

Jim Brown suggested that the discussion of Framework for Future Coordination and Development be returned to the executive subcommittee. The subcommittee would then make recommendations to develop the coordination of datasets and report back to the steering committee at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON GPS BASE STATION NETWORK. Jim Brown gave an update on the GPS network. The Lincoln station is currently receiving data. They are also waiting for the installation of new software so they can begin sharing data with second users.

The mid-state location was originally going to be at Broken Bow. However, an agreement has been proposed and approved by the City of Grand Island. Larry handed out a copy of the agreement. The agreement is dependent upon the availability of funding which will expire on October 1, 1996.

Duane is still working on the station for Scotts Bluff. With the savings from Lincoln and Grand Island and through joint ventures with two other people, Jim felt there would be enough money for a quality survey base station in Scotts Bluff. Duane added that he had just received a call from his office. Representatives from Sprint had called expressing an interest in getting the base station up and running. Sprint will start the process of getting the base station installed.

NEBRASKA STATE RECYCLING ASSOCIATION GIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT. Larry recently attended a meeting with the state recycling association. The private/nonprofit association is interested in putting together a GIS in northeast Omaha. They are looking to identify sites that may have hazardous waste. They are also looking to provide a public service and/or marketing data to banks, etc. who may have an interest in this area. A needs assessment is currently being done to determine what data is already available and who might be interested in this information. Federal grant funds might also be pursued. Larry commented that there is a potential for a partnership with this group and the agencies who need their data ground truthing.

Lash Chaffin suggested that the steering committee watch this closely. Lash felt this might be something that some state agencies should already be doing. There was federal money through Super Fund to develop regional areas to do this. The City of Omaha may also have the capacity for this and to make it public information. Terry explained NRC's policy for these types of requests. Most information is already available through the Internet. Larry added that this raises several issues about the accessibility and cost of data.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES ON THEIR AGENCY GIS ACTIVITIES.

Jon Ogden noted that the Department of Roads has a plan to equip one of their video log vans with a GPS unit for voice data entry and location collection.

Larry apologized about a correction that was not made to the Annual Report before it was printed. Larry was to strike part of a sentence--"nor is there a central repository for this information." Larry also added that he had been contacted by John Carter from the State Historical Society. Mr. Carter is working on a project with schools to identify the colloquial names of sites around the state.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 1996.

GIS Steering Committee
VOTING RECORD

Date 9/10/96

| | | Minutes NRC Server NRC #1 #2 #3 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| DAS - Rod Armstrong | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| DEQ - Dennis Burling Tom Lamberson <i>Paul Yamamoto</i> | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| CSD - Perry Wigley Les Howard, Jim Merchant | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRC - <u>Dayle Williamson</u> Terry Kubicek | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| PRO - Tom Ryan | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| DOR - Jon Ogden | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| Surveyor - Jim Brown | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| LRD - Laura Valenziano Val Goodman | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Miyoshi | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blaine Dinwiddie | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| Cliff Welsh | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| Larry Worrell Jim Langtry | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lash Chaffin | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| Duane Stott | P | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| Dennis Wilson | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 9-P | 9(+) | 9(+) | 9(+) | | | | | | | |

P = present
A = absent

"+" = voting for
"-" = voting against
"NV" = not voting