

Government Boundaries Technical Working Group

October 20, 2010

Attendees:

Jack Clark	Ada County Assessor's Office
Gail Ewart	Idaho Geospatial Office
Ann Kawalec	Ada County Assessor's Office
Donna Phillips	City of Hayden
Bryant Ralston	ESRI
Craig Rindlisbacher	City of Rexburg/Madison County
Betsie Kimbrough	Idaho Secretary of State's Office
Tim Hurst	Idaho Secretary of State's Office
Donna Pitzer	Bureau of Reclamation
Walt Bulawa	Idaho State Tax Commission
Angie Hopf	City of Caldwell
*Joe Johns	Kootenai County
Jay Young	Nampa Police Department
Chad Hinckley	City of Rexburg/Madison County
Talsan Schulzke	City of Rexburg/Madison County
Ken Pidjeon	Idaho Military Division
Bob Smith	Idaho Geospatial Office
Bonnie Moore	City of Rexburg/Madison County
Sherry Lufkin	Jefferson County
Eric Rafn	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Dennis Hill	City of Pocatello
Michelle Porter	BLM – Idaho State Office
Nathalie Smith	ESRI
*Angela Vanderpas	Clearwater County

*Attended by phone

Review of 1st couple of meetings:

Joe J gave brief review of the previous meetings and discussion items including: Government Boundary TWG structure, issues and priorities, reference materials, additional representation, survey of FGDC government boundary/administrative types and survey results, vertical integration aspect, and elections consolidation.

Elections:

Craig R - presented a quick version of his process of using Madison County data to uniquely identify polygonal areas using voter precincts, tax authorities, and school district trustee zones. Craig has used ArcView Modelbuilder to automate the geoprocessing tasks involved. The expected result was approximately 140 polygons but actual results were over 600 polygons due to numerous slivers created as a result of non-congruent boundary data between datasets. The foreseen challenges at this time include the ability to calculate an approximate number of the necessary ballot types for each precinct and the ability to support the making of multiple ballot decisions at multiple precincts simultaneously during the voting process.

Walt B. suggested using a 'drill down' process to uniquely identify a known point with the underlying datasets and demonstrated this method using the State Tax Commission Tax Districts Interactive Map Services tool "Tax District identification by address" (<http://www2.idaho.gov/gis/google/districts/>). Another significant challenge is the cost to build the necessary data.

Joe J - gave a brief overview of the data utilized in Kootenai County and a few of the challenges that have been overcome in the building of the system currently supporting the elections processes there. The incorporation of school district trustee zones is expected to require a significant number of labor identifying and processing the necessary changes to MSAG type data for input into the Secretary of State's ElectionNet system. It is also anticipated that the processing of subdivision plats and annexations in the coming year will become prioritized to be completed as soon thereafter recording as possible in an effort to support the elections process. An annexation documentation pre-review service/process has been in place for a number of years in Kootenai County that assists tax authorities determine if their documents comply with State rules/code. This process affords the County the opportunity to limit incomplete submittals for recording and enables the staff to input preliminary data into the necessary datasets.

Walt B. voiced the potential for the State Tax Commission to be able to process annexation documentation and produce a new Taxing District within a single working day under certain conditions. The possibility of this remains subject to legal review and needs to be discussed further with Jeff Servatius.

Craig R. stated that counties are realizing the need for a pre-processing/review of annexation materials and questioned the possibility of submitting data/shapefiles to the State Tax Commission for review. Further discussion of this is to be expected.

Boundary Types:

Joe J proposed an idea presented to him by Donna Phillips to organize the boundary types from the previous boundary types survey into primary groups containing subordinate types. Discussion ensued.

Gail E recommended the use of the structure established by the framework of the Government Boundaries TWG as primary groups under which the various boundary types could be consolidated. Donna P. and Joe J. will work on this with input from Gail and make a presentation during the next meeting

Discussion / Goals:

A number of items came up during this portion of the meeting.

State Boundary: Discussion about the State boundary ensued in which it came to light there are at least 2 versions of the State boundary in use and which one should be considered 'official'. This is a part of discussions being held by the Cadastral TWG and also relates to the differences that exist among County boundaries within the State.

School District Boundaries: There are also known to be significant differences in School District boundary data between what the State Tax Commission has gathered from the school districts and what Census maintains for school district boundaries. Additionally, Walt B. reported that a request made of the 70+ Idaho School Districts to provide their legally defined boundaries has resulted in just over 20 responses. It is evident that the School Districts and taxing districts in general are in need of a clearer understanding the Statutes that affect all tax authorities and for the requirements of the tax authorities to be reviewed. Overall there seems to be a significant question as to who is responsible for district boundary descriptions.

Meeting with Idaho Secretary of State's Office - Craig R gave a brief overview of the meeting held with Betsy Kimbrough and Tim Hurst of the Idaho Secretary of State's Office. Betsy K accepted an invitation to give a presentation of the ElectionNet system/data the Sec. of State uses for voter registration at our next meeting. This information and her participation in our TWG will go a long way in helping the GIS community understand the tabular data in place and what might be done in partnership to overcome the challenges of elections consolidation.

Next Meeting:

December 1st, 2010, 10:30AM-12:00PM (Boise time)