

Source Stewards for the Structures Element of the Public Safety Theme

Friday June 18, 2010

Introduction and participants

Name	Organization
Peter Croswell	Croswell-Schulte IT Consultants
Gail Ewart	IGO
Garrett Mapp	City of McCall
Eric Wing	City of Boise
Scott van Hoff	USGS
James Ferdinand	Owyhee County
Wilma Robertson	IGO
Julie Sendra	BHS
Eric Smith	

Stewardship roles

- Julie Sendra, as the Framework Steward, deals with the horizontal integration of Structures data coming in from various Source Stewards. Julie, together with the other members of the Framework Leadership Team (FLT, which is made up from leads for different framework elements and chaired by the Framework Coordinator), will be working on vertical integration of different elements.

Data structure and data sources

- The term “critical infrastructure” is not encouraged at higher levels in BHS. A better name would be “critical features.” This issue could be further discussed in the Structures TWG.
- Counties are determining their own critical infrastructure through a grant supported by BHS. Explore the impact of this work in a future Structures TWG.
- General data sources containing all structures are typically easier to obtain than points related to public safety structures.
- Ultimate goal is to have ALL addressable structures in Idaho located and coded as to type.
- There is national interest in Structures framework, and the stewardship we are implementing in Idaho is likely to be a model for other states.
- Gail explained that the IPRS is an application that allows users to browse for information about land and real property owned or leased by the State. The State facilities dataset used in the IPRS can be a used to fill in areas where we do not have other source data.
 - An supplemental way to fill in areas is crowd sourcing

- Eric Smith mentioned that most counties in the pilot looked at land records and it took only a matter of hours to categorize structures at the most general level using assessor tax category attributes. The pilot data was harvested weekly from 911 databases or assessor's office. The ETL process performed at INSIDE Idaho still occurs weekly.
- MSAG (Master Street Address Guide) files are flat files that are maintained by phone companies and indicate the location of all structures with a land line. However, fewer and fewer people have a land line.
 - James Ferdinand from Owyhee County uses MSAG files to geocode all structures with a land line
 - Gail noted that the goal is to create an MSAG from the Structures Framework.

Current and potential participants

- The pilot project currently underway, which includes Kootenai, Jefferson, Teton, Nez Perce and Fremont Counties and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, has been very successful. The pilot project has shows proof of concept and contains nearly 200,000 points.
- Scott van Hoff (USGS)
 - The USGS is interest in structures to feed into the new topographic maps to be released next year.
 - Any data published by the USGS contains metadata that point to the source of the data.
- If USGS contributes to the data, for example by assistance in QA/QC process, USGS will sign the Charter. If USGS only consumes the data, it will sign a MOU with the Framework Steward, BHS. The hope is that USGS will be able to continue to fund the Structures stewardship activities.
- The source steward for structures data will vary from county to county.
- Eric Wing (City of Boise)
 - City of Boise assists Rob Hall with dispatch activities
 - Currently Boise has about 92,000 unclassified address points which covers any type of structure (business, residential, mobile homes, apartments, etc.).
 - It should not be too difficult to do some GIS analysis cross-referencing with other data to categorize about 80% of the structures.
 - Maintaining the Type attribute may be a hard sell in the current economic climate. May be possible with some funding.
 - Dispatch organizations in Ada and Canyon already have categorized the structures that are critical for their organization.
 - 911 software is typically very robust and most of them require point features.
 - Assessors typically do not have a requirement for point structure data and do not develop it.
 - There is an addressing meeting coming up shortly between Ada County and Boise and Meridian. Eric Wing promised to bring source stewardship up during this addressing meeting.
- Garrett Mapp (City of McCall)
 - Structures data from the City will be obtained from dispatch database.
 - Garrett will not be able to maintain county wide data but will keep up with McCall. It may be a problem for the County to agree to release data. Hopefully McCall will be a trend setter

- and the County will follow. Later, he thought it might be possible to maintain County data periodically.
- Since McCall is “getting in on the ground floor” Garrett can set up his data model to match the Structures Standard.
- As long as there is not a financial commitment, Garrett does not see any barriers to McCall’s participation.
- James Ferdinand (Owyhee County)
 - Uses GeoComm for 911 mapping
 - James does many different jobs in Owyhee County, which is very sparsely populated (not counting tourists) and very large geographically.
 - Cities do their own addressing. James uses points, which are accurate up to 4 feet. Cities do not have GIS and most of their data is in CAD file.
 - All fire fighters and most of the police (except one dispatch center) are on a volunteer basis.
 - Since the County is so sparsely populated, the County typically does not receive many resources. Would be better if tourist population and size of the County were taken into account when distributing funds, for example from federal grants administered through BHS, among counties.
 - Gail mentioned that RRC would be beneficial to help sparsely populated counties.
- Pete asked whether the current structures contact list was complete. Eric Smith mentioned that the current list is good, and new people may trickle in. Gail mentioned that Eddie Goldsmith put out a call about our structures source meeting on his listserv.

Data sharing issues

- The counties that were part of the pilot project have fairly open data sharing policies – this is not the case for all counties.
- Some people offer security concerns against sharing data. However, people with bad intent typically already obtain the data they want through other means. A decision matrix developed by RAND shows that 90% of all data should be publicly shared. Bill Reynolds has a model resolution that can be taken to Commissioners. Once this resolution has passed it becomes an internal policy and does not change when new commissioners come in.
- It may be difficult to get the County Commissioners in Owyhee to agree to sharing data.

Stewardship Documents

- Gail talked about three different documents related to Stewardship in the SDI: (1) A general document describing Framework Stewardship; (2) A Stewardship Charter for Structures and (3) specific documents such as Stewardship Plan, Standard Operating Procedures and Business Plan when required.
- We welcome any source that is willing. For counties this might require a signature from County Commissioner, for cities, the Mayor, CIO or City Manager would sign. The Director for Department of Administration will and sign and General Shawver would sign for BHS.

- Any Charter involving the City of Boise has to go through their legal department and be processed up to at least the CIO level.
- At this point a completely signed charter may be too much to expect during the grant period. Right now, we can gather a few signatures. Going forward, participants will be added to the Charter . Should have a draft Stewardship Plan before the end of August.

Issues

- How do you classify and capture situations where shared facilities have multiple classifications (for example a building that is a fire station AND a police station?)
- Use APA codes to classify structures.
- USGS can query data for the structures types it needs.
- How do you capture medical facilities? USGS is interested in only the major facilities. What cut off do you use? What information is required during an emergency?
 - Even though the USGS provides money, the standards should be developed by Structures TWG
- People can still provide comments about the Structures Standard