

# IDAHO SDI PROJECT-STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

## SUMMARY NOTES FROM LEWISTON-JUNE 11

Prepared, 6-19-2008

### Introduction

These are summary notes from the stakeholder meeting for Idaho Spatial Data Infrastructure Planning Project on June 11, 2008 in Lewiston. The main objective of the project is preparing strategic and business plans to guide long-term development and enhancement of a statewide SDI. This is one of six regional stakeholder meetings conducted at different locations around the state (other locations include McCall, Post Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Nampa) during the month of June. The purpose of these meetings was to:

- Get input and ideas for achieving the SDI
- Learn about status of stakeholder GIS use, business needs, and ideas on direction and goals
- Build stakeholder understanding of and support for statewide SDI development

Participants are encouraged to submit comments, clarification, additional points, etc.. Comments and mark-ups may be submitted in electronic form (highlighted mark-up of this document) by **July 14, 2008**. Please submit via email to Gail Ewart ([gail.ewart@cio.idaho.gov](mailto:gail.ewart@cio.idaho.gov)) and Peter Croswell ([pcroswell@croswell-schulte.com](mailto:pcroswell@croswell-schulte.com)).

### Meeting Participants and Contact Information

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### Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Business Drivers and Business Needs for GIS
3. High-level Characterization of GIS Status and Obstacles
4. Geospatial Data Activities and Needs
5. Ideas for Improvements to Statewide GIS Access and Coordination
6. Brainstorm Session on Mission, Vision, and Goals for Implementing Idaho's Spatial Information Infrastructure
7. Summarize Results of Meeting and Identify Follow-up

## Summary Notes

Business Drivers (major program area, need, or challenge that GIS technology and geospatial data can help support or address)

- Historical Data and Institutional Knowledge: Use GIS as a means to store map history—infrastructure changes and property boundary disputes. This includes the need to maintain institutional knowledge—important knowledge about geographic data that is not well documented but maintained in the minds of staff who depart or retire
- Infrastructure Asset Management: Tracking of transportation projects and allocation of resources for projects and road maintenance.
- Emergency Management Grants: Use GIS for more effective grant applications (Homeland Security)
- Emergency Response: GIS support for E911 and emergency dispatch and response.
- Public Health: Use of GIS for planning and allocation of services (through state health department regional districts)
- Economic Development: Access property information to support investigations for potential development sites.
- Comprehensive Planning: There is state mandate for local comprehensive plans (ten-year cycle) not consistently adhered to around the state. This is a potential role for GIS to help in comp plan preparation and tracking of development decisions against the plans.
- Real Property Appraisal: use of GIS to support more equitable and complete appraisal of parcel values. GIS can ensure that all parcels are being accounted for and that appraisals are consistent. Also, GIS is tool to support examination of regional and neighborhood factors that influence valuation (sales history and physical attributes). Also need GIS to support accurate capture of multiple taxing districts.
- Enhancing Revenue: Use of GIS to find lost public revenue sources (under taxed parcels, missed utility billings, other local fees).

## Current GIS Status, Obstacles, Limitations

- Parcel Mapping Fragmentation: Many counties have complex mix of land under federal, tribal, county, city, jurisdiction. Difficulty in getting accurate property records and tracking exempt vs non-exempt parcels
- Parcel accuracy: Problems in some counties for mapping parcels that cannot easily be tied to a coordinate grid (“floating parcels”).
- Data standards: need better data standards to enable sharing of GIS data statewide
- Organizational complexity of GIS—need for GIS programs to address “enterprise” needs of organization. Current organizational structures in local government do not always support that approach
- Need common GIS, easy to access GIS tools and applications
- Low-population Counties: Low population counties do not have the resources and staff to support major GIS database development and GIS program operations
- Network Infrastructure: complex array and options for broadband network access across state. Presents obstacles to effective communication and data transfer.
- Flood Zone Map problems: FEMA flood map modernization concentrated on DFIRM production (automation of existing paper maps without resolving considerable flood zone boundary problems). Boundaries are still uncertain.
- Continued problems with inter-organizational coordination and collaboration
- E911 funding and database development efforts are not well-coordinated statewide. Could use greater level of consistency and coordination from state to ensure consistent statewide database development
- “Fuzzy Creep” Job assignments: Government agencies tend to make informal assignments of job responsibilities to individuals who show initiative and skills (work outside of “job description”). Can create burn out of high performing staff, inefficiency in work assignments, and avoidance of hiring enough people to take on all job duties.

## Geospatial Data Status and Needs

- Framework Themes: Gail Ewart discussed current Idaho Framework Data Themes (commonly needed data by majority of stakeholders) with idea that this definition can be adapted as part of this SDI project. Current Idaho Framework

Themes are a) Geodetic Control, b) Cadastral, c) Orthoimagery, d) Transportation, e) Land Use/Land Cover, f) Hydrography/Watersheds, g) Elevation, h) Governmental Units.

- Status of Framework development work at state level:
  - GIO preparing proposed process for standards making and approval
  - Imagery – 2009 NAIP partnership purchase. Contribution commitments & upgrade needs
  - Cadastral Reference (updating GCDB). Assessors and surveyors are also involved; plans are beginning to gel; led by Sheldon Bluestein
  - Parcels – working on goals and objectives for statewide ownership; led by Craig Rindlisbacher and Jeff Servatius
  - Geodetic Control – ITD has agreed to be the lead agency for Height Modernization. Next steps include writing a proposal
- Orthoimagery: Gail Ewart discussed current project in place for full state coverage of orthoimagery as part of Farm Service Agency National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP). This will deliver 1-meter resolution (3-bands) statewide with opportunity for increased resolution and IR band for selected areas. This is leaf-on coverage. Mechanism is set-up to support contributions of funding for consortium purchase. Orthoimagery Consortium: Nez Perce County and cities in the County are cooperating with utility company, Avista, in the acquisition of orthoimagery (color, 6-inch resolution, leaf-off) for urban areas. Countywide coverage at 1-foot resolution.
- Resolving County boundaries as part of GCDB effort is important.
- Administrative District Boundaries: very complex set of district and program boundaries (within counties and statewide). Some of these constitute taxing districts for various service entities. Taxing district boundaries (resolved to local data) is very important. Local service districts (public utility districts, school districts, fire districts, etc.) often follow parcel boundaries but sometimes street centerlines or physical boundaries. Sometimes hard to map. Need to examine State Tax Commission approach.
- Transportation Theme: May need to include navigatable waters.
- Parcel boundary accuracy: need adequate parcel boundary accuracy in GIS. State Tax Commission provides minimal cartographic accuracy requirements (State Mapping Manual) but actual mapping accuracy varies among counties. Need to recognize that parcel boundaries in GIS are NOT the legal boundaries—legal boundaries are always defined in legally recorded documents (plats, deeds, licensed surveys)
- Water/Sewer Systems: Maintained by mix of municipalities and independent utility districts. Water systems infrastructure important as an element of “critical infrastructure” with potential data/system security concerns. Need data standards for GIS capture and maintenance of water and sewer data. Important to capture boundaries of utility service areas particularly where they constitute taxation districts (needed by State Tax Commission).
- Gas/Electric Utilities: Data maintained by private companies. Important data confidentiality issues that need to be addressed. In some cases, private companies provide data to local governments to support planning and development work but with access/distribution restrictions.
- DEQ Well information: DEQ had coordinating group for managing water well data. Still in existence??
- Metadata: metadata is important but often off-the-shelf software tools do not provide an easy way to create metadata, the most effective, easy way to query and access metadata and present it in a form that is useful. Solution: custom applications tuned to Idaho profile for metadata capture and access.
- Elevation Data/Flood Map Modernization: FEMA flood map modernization concentrated on DFIRM production (automation of existing paper maps without resolving considerable flood zone boundary problems). Boundaries are still uncertain.
- LIDAR: City of Lewiston acquires new LIDAR data every 5 years-necessary to track local terrain changes because of major land development.
- Nez Perce County Hazard Map: County compiles hazard map as an input to development decisions
- University of Idaho produces small-scale Snow Load Map
- Grangeville exercise on wildland/urban interface fire protection

## Discussion on Draft Vision and Mission (reaction to draft Vision and Mission statements prepared by the Executive Steering Committee)

### **Draft Vision:**

"Idaho's spatial data infrastructure is widely used to enhance and expedite public- and private-sector policies and decisions for the benefit of Idahoans and beyond"

### **Draft Mission:**

"Idaho's geospatial community will deliver a robust statewide spatial data infrastructure that supports routine and extraordinary business needs"

- Need to make sure that there is an effective explanation of context and major terms (e.g., SDI) as a part of an introduction to the Vision and Mission statements
- Vision and Mission: include concept of "maintaining" data
- Vision: need to make sure that tribal governments are clearly included in characterization of stakeholder community (not included in words "public sector", "private sector")
- Mission: phrase "...and beyond" is a little fuzzy and ill-defined
- Mission: include some words like, "... enhance policies and decision-making"
- Mission: term "business needs" may be unclear to some (may convey sense that this just refers to private business)
- Think about possible confusion in use of the terms "spatial" and "geospatial". Is there a a better term to use ("land-based", "geographic")

## Discussion on Draft Goals (reaction to draft Vision and Mission statements prepared by the Executive Steering Committee)

### **Draft Goals:**

1. Secure sustained funding to support SDI implementation and management by the end of 2010.
  2. Develop and establish pathways for stewarding Framework data by March 1, 2009.
  3. Create and effectively communicate a sound business case for the SDI that promotes alignment of investments in spatial data and technology by the end of June 30, 2009.
  4. Support regional GIS user groups and establish or enhance regional centers to aggregate and extend access to Framework and the technology to use it, with emphasis on low-resourced jurisdictions and organizations not able to maintain GIS capability on their own beginning in 2009.
  5. Conceive and implement an improved governance and coordination structure, with appropriate legislation, policies, and management practices that support realization of the SDI by the end of 2009.
  6. Support local data development through collaboratively developing standards, supporting partnerships, and providing funding by July 1, 2010.
  7. Create an effective communication, education and support environment and tools that increase awareness, broad support, and wide use of the SDI.
  8. Expand the use of spatial data and technology into new business areas.
- Discussed the fact that these goals create a basis for defining more detailed initiatives and actions. In other words, in the strategic and business plans, multiple initiatives of a more specific nature will be defined under each of these goals and have timing, resources, and performance criteria defined.
  - Goal #7: Maybe strengthen reference to education—addressing audience of senior officials and GIS practitioners
  - Goal #2 or others: need to address concern of enhancement and maintenance of current systems and applications (not just developing new systems and data)
  - Convey ideas that SDI is a necessity
  - Goal #4: try to cut down on wording
  - Consider removing dates from these goals—with idea that dates would be tied to more specific initiatives associated with the goals.
  - Is there a need to order the goals in some timing or priority order?
  - Business case: Who is "we"
  - Need to include important need to develop tools, services, applications to access and use the data—not just focus on the data alone.

- Goal #8: reference to "...business areas" is not clear. What is a "business area"?

Potential Initiatives (ideas on important initiatives to be cited in the strategic and business plans for SDI development)

- Complete data standards for framework themes
- GIS organizational structure: could use a "standard" organizational structure to support development and management of GIS programs at local level\*\*
- Possible support better statewide E911 coordination to support more consistent GIS database development—including development in low-resourced counties.\*\*
- Leverage "objects" in GIS software (e.g., Arc Objects) as basis to embed GIS in non-GIS environments. Can we find a "killer application" to show the power of "embedded GIS"
- Create a more consistent interpretation and policy for local government fee setting for GIS data access
- Network Access: Reduce complexity and combine resources for multiple channels and options for broadband network access statewide. Leverage considerable backbone infrastructure now dispersed among different network management programs.
- Find ways to better compete for funding—business case arguments that ties GIS to government programs and missions
- Improve, enhance, and get more sustainable resourcing for statewide GIS portal (Inside Idaho). U of I is well positioned for expansion of program
- Gather user testimonials to support business case
- Examine structure and role for regional centers to support local needs in a regional area.
- Possibility for "debt funding"? Use of bonds for allocation of upfront funding for major GIS development activities
- Explore possibility of establishing Recorder fees with fund for allocation for GIS development
- Other Information and Ideas Coordinate with Idaho Association of Counties to promote and educate about the SDI program. Also consider coordination with the Sheriffs Association.
- Is there need to involve rural water operators association?
- Local farmer making use of County GIS to support his precision agriculture work
- Need to position GIS data and applications to be ready to respond to emergency situations (e.g., fires)
- Need to fully define the user community. Need a little more history about participants.
- Confluence Waterfront Coalition: collaboration with Nez Perce County, City of Lewiston, government entities across river, Corps of Engineers to examine water front use and balance various waterfront, water way uses (commerce, commercial development, etc.). Using GIS data to support its work.
- City of Moscow has parcel viewer application (GNCI)
- Growing interest at local level in enterprise GIS—positioning GIS to support multiple departments and to allow GIS access to variety of non-map data sources. Success in positioning GIS program organizationally as part of the IT Dept.
- Need funding "carrot" from state to encourage consistency and support local efforts
- Publicly accessible GIS (e.g., Google Earth, GPS navigation units) present perceived "competition" for government GIS programs but also opportunity
- Leverage "objects" in GIS software (e.g., Arc Objects) as basis to embed GIS in non-GIS environments.
- MPOs may have a role in deployment of regional GIS centers
- USGS regional plan??
- Past LHTAC grants funded large projects that were missed opportunities: digital centerlines not maintained and paper map deliverables and no digital data