CADASTRAL REFERENCE WORKGROUP

Bureau of Reclamation
230 Collins Rd.
Boise, ID

August 28, 2009
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. MST

Name	Organization
Donna Pitzer	Reclamation, Co-lead for the Cadastral Reference group
Renee Bettis	Idaho Department of Lands
Jack Clark	Ada County Assessor's Office
Kevin De Rossett	BLM
Walt Bulawa	Idaho State Tax Commission
Bob Smith	Idaho Geospatial Office
Jeff Servatius	Idaho State Tax Commission
Scott Van Hoff	US Geological Survey
Dan Narsavage	Ada County Assessor's Office
Michael Ciscell	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Gail Ewart	Idaho Geospatial Office/Department of Administration
Sheldon Bluestein	Retired
By Phone	
John Waterman	GCS
Stewart Ward	Dioptera
RJ Zimmer	DJ&A, PLS, Chair
Dawn Latham	Bonneville County GIS

Review meeting minutes
Name spelling, minor corrections, but will be posted with corrections

Referring to last month's minutes regarding discussions with Idaho Power and asking them to release any control point information that they collect during their course of business.

Action Item – Stewart will talk to the Idaho Power surveyor in Bannock County to see what he knows about releasing PLSS control to outside entities.

Gail added that Dennis Gribble, Idaho Power CIO is on ITRMC and Gail has regular access to him. Don't hesitate to use that connection if needed.

Demonstration of Montana Control Point Database — **RJ Zimmer, PLS, DJ&A, P.C.** **John Waterman GCS Research**

RJ Zimmer gave some background. Montana geodetic working group has been working towards creating a control point repository for survey control that is not in the NGS database. Membership in group is interagency and private sector. Secondary goal is to use this database for GCDB adjustment. Everyone can view, surveyors upload.

Currently limiting spatial references, but not doing any adjustments. What was uploaded is what you get. This was funded, in part, through congressional earmarks via the Montana Base Map Service center, partially through the Forest Service and Montana State Transportation Department.

Application has 3 components. A viewer for search and download, an uploader and an administrative piece. In the database there are 3 parts, project, surveyor and points sheets with various required fields and some optional fields. Rules are enforced through uploader templates.

John – 3 main entry points to the application. The MCPD viewer is open to the public and is a Google maps based ArcGIS Server application for query and download. MCPD spreadsheet and uploader is open to licensed surveyors in the State of Montana. Surveyors can download the spreadsheet, transfer their data to the spreadsheet and then upload the data to the website. Third is the administrators web site where the administrator looks over the uploaded information to make sure it is complete. If there is missing information the administrator can contact the surveyor. Once checked by the administrator, the information is promoted to the production database.

Slides available.

Zim notes that at the present time there is no accommodation for scanned images or photos to be attached to the point information, but that will come in the next revision.

Technologies used: Google Maps for front end base maps, Google Earth as you can export points to KML, ArcGIS Server, ArcSDE, Oracle database, Microsoft.net.

Demonstrated viewer.

Question: Who owns the code? Zim replied that the State of Montana is the owner.

Question: What happens if there are several different records for a single point. John replied that you will know of the existence of all the points and can look at the information for each one.

Question: Why don't you provide download of NGS points? Zim replied that the Montana servers would have to get copies of their points. Montana provides access to the datasheets as that has the latest information and is actually doing a query of the NGS site to get the latest data sheet. To provide the points would require a constant download of points from NGS.

Demonstrated uploader.

Question: Are you allowing any type of surveyed point to be uploaded or only PLSS control points? Zim replied that they are accepting any information that a surveyor wants to provide as one of the main objectives of this database is to provide a service to the surveyors.

Question: Who is going to be the administrator? Don't decided yet, but it will be a land surveyor.

Demonstrated spreadsheet.

There is no utility at this time for taking information directly from surveying software and importing it into the spreadsheet, however, if information is carefully exported from surveying software, it should be relatively easy to bring it into the spreadsheet. Some manual processing or cut and paste may be necessary.

Demonstrated administrator tools.

Administrator will take a pro-active role with the surveyor to make sure that these points are complete and uploaded to the database.

Question: If a surveyor goes back and recalculates his data and comes up with different numbers, can he go in and edit his own information? No, they would have to contact the administrator. This capability may be available in the future.

Question: How is the surveying community responding to this? Zim stated that the overall response is positive, but there are those that question the benefit of uploading their data. This database can serve as a repository or storage area for an individual surveyors information. Most surveyors have their information spread out over multiple files. This allows safe storage/backup of an individual surveyor's points in a consistent model. It also makes research in an area easier for surveyors.

Question: How far in the future do you think you will be able to do the next phase? Depends on funding. Hopefully in the next year.

Question: When will you be ready to deploy? John reports that it should be ready perhaps around September/October.

Question: Are you still willing to share the application and code with Idaho? It is a public domain application, but Stu would be the one to talk to about getting the code.

John also showed us two websites that showcase newer technologies namely Silverlight and Adobe Flex.

Idaho Parcel Information System Legislation and GIS Week – Gail Ewart

Earlier this year, the governor and the director from Dept. of Admin gave Gail the go ahead to lay some ground work and begin the conversation with people about sustainable funding for cadastral framework layers. Have attended meetings of elected officials and policy makers and have taken feedback from these groups. Feedback on the notion of a recordation fee on land transactions. Two days ago, presented an update of our activities to ITRMC. They were supportive and interested. Next step is to contact the real estate sector and title companies. A white paper has been written at the request of the governor and director of the Dept. of Admin. It identifies three potential funding streams for framework. First is adding an Assessor's fee to the recordation of land transaction documents, second levy a small fee on all parcels, third is establishing a parcel verification fee similar to the flood plain certification fee. All three have pros and cons that need to be fully vetted. The conversations will continue.

Question: Are any legislators aware of this effort? There are legislators on ITRMC. Gail can only inform and not lobby legislators. That influence has to come from cities and counties.

Question: Has the white paper been delivered to the governor? Gail replied that a copy was delivered to the governor and since that time new information has come to light, so the paper has been amended and provided to the larger audience. However, things are constantly changing.

Update on the GCDB Enhancement East Idaho Pilot Project
Status quo, nothing new to report.

Update on Idaho State Office BLM pilot in Washington County – Kevin DeRosset/Sheldon Bluestein
28 control points (3 townships) have been collected. They surveyor in the field is part-time and they are moving ahead as they can. Concentrating on collecting the points that Sheldon did the research on.

Action item - Sheldon would like to update the county folks on what progress has been made.

Repository for GCDB in Montana and Idaho
Donna spoke to Stu Kirkpatrick and asked where does Montana house the representation of the GCDB? The State is the steward of the points, lines and polygons created from GCDB information. They get the flat files from the BLM State office and convert it them themselves. They provide that data to the GIS users in the State. Montana has no PCCS townships so that the flat files are all the same format and making the conversion process easier. What about national organizations looking for data? Stu said that he has enough professional connections that this is not an issue. There are no formal agreements. Montana chose to do this as they were unsatisfied with the information they were receiving from LSIS.

This is a topic that will be visited again as whether we want to follow Montana's model on this as well or continue to rely on the information we get from LSIS.

Other Business
Kevin's comments on the control database:

Generally likes system and would like to work to get BLM control points into a system like that.

Don't need the project information, should be optional

Comments field for point information

Ability to edit data that has been uploaded to the system

Does not need to be restricted to licensed surveyors. Some areas are not going to be visited by surveyors. Needs to be a two-tiered system for licensed surveyors and others.