

Imagery TWG Meeting Notes
Idaho Water Center
May 7, 2008

Attendees:

Margie Wilkins, IDWR
John Courtright, BLM
Nathan Bentley, Ada County
Frank Mynar, Idaho Power

Ross Dodge, COMPASS
Bill Kramber, IDWR
Gail Ewart, DoA/IGO
Nick Nydegger, IMD

*Don Patterson, USFS Region 1
*Julie Brown, BHS
*Paul Gessler, U of I
*Chris Clay, IDL

*via telephone

The following notes have been reorganized by topic, rather than sequential order, in order to provide a more meaningful summary.

A quick congratulations to all public employees in honor of Public Employee Appreciation Week.

It was noted that the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) is currently being held in Washington and FSA, USGS, and NRSC representatives are in attendance pushing for Idaho imagery needs.

Margie (IDWR) noted that the following groups were sent the Financial Commitment Survey:

Geotech Listserve – 3 times

Ken Harwood, Executive Director – Association of Idaho Cities (with a request to forward to members)

Donna Phillips, President – Northern Rockies Chapter of URISA (with a request to forward to members)

Forest / timber contacts provided by Chris Clay (4 names)

County contacts provided by Frank Mynar

Given the coverage extent of the survey, only 14 commitment forms were returned, although there were many phone conversations in support of the project and new imagery acquisition. Here is a summary of the commitments: <http://gis.idaho.gov/framework/Imagery/May2fundingcommitmentSurveyResults.htm>

Discussion centered around the lack of funding commitments that have come through thus far and the possible hurdles agencies are facing with committing funds at this point in their budgeting cycle.

Gail (IGO) gave a quick review of the fiscal environment that is currently being set up.

- Department of Fiscal Management (DFM) approval has been ok'd
- Regarding payment schedules:
 - commitments made to the consortium - September-ish
 - payments to FSA will occur late 2009/early 2010 and April 2010
- MOUs are being coordinated with some agencies to give end-of-year (2008) dollars now. Having available funds increases the likelihood that the IGO may soon be able to provide funding for the imagery coordinator's position.
- One entity contracts with FSA, all partners would work through this entity (CIO/IGO office?)

Gail brainstormed with the group about a possible funding model: Every year, all agencies would budget for imagery acquisition even though acquisition would not necessarily occur every year.

Conversation of attendees regarding this possibility:

- Purpose is to leverage dollars of a large program such as NAIP to benefit the GIS community as a whole
- Goal is to change the current thinking
 - from a "project" which has a definite beginning, middle, and end
 - to a "program" which has no definite end, but is on-going

- from a specific purpose product (agriculture)
- to a general purpose product (hi-resolution)
- There was a question of how the contracting would work over a 3-year period – always thru FSA or would there be local control? Answer: ideas are too preliminary to answer right now.
- There was concern for trying to sell the idea to elected officials of continual, annual funding without any immediate, tangible benefit.

There was additional conversation concerning the challenges in radiometric correction, the advantages of newer technology to quantitatively show land use change, minimum accuracy standards, the needs of leaf-on vs leaf-off, etc.

John (BLM) reminded the group that FSA has control of the NAIP project – in other words, “WE get what THEY offer”.

By request, Gail clarified the following points:

- It is possible that less than the entire state would be flown.
- The break-out of cost-shares was also reviewed. FSA representation was not available for comment, but apparently the cost-share model has changed
 - from 1/3 FSA, 1/3 Federal, 1/3 private, local, other
 - to ½ FSA and all Department of Interior Federal Agencies and ½ private, local, other
- The cost of the 2009 NAIP project has skyrocketed since the last meeting
 - from \$1.2 million total cost to \$2.4 million total cost
 - may explain the initial confusion concerning the cost-share break-out

Don (USFS-R1) shared Montana revenue experience with the group. The MT solution was to fund parcel mapping and imagery by raising the document recording fee and splitting the revenue 75% to state, 25% to county. Gail and Nathan (Ada Co.) mentioned that Idaho has tried this before with a little different approach but it did not move forward out of committee. A second attempt is contemplated.

These topics and concerns once again had the group asking if NAIP is indeed the option the group would like to pursue. Frank suggested that since funding rules have changed, perhaps we should have a “Plan B”

Other imagery acquisition programs and image service provider options were discussed.

- Google Earth Enterprise
- IdahoView (provides SPOT and may be marketing QuickBird satellite imagery)
- Nathan volunteered to research both of these options and provide a presentation for next month’s meeting.
- NDOP
- Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) may hold some opportunity
 - the following information became available after this meeting:
[The GOOD NEWS on IFTN is that we finally have Executive Interest in IFTN within the Federal Government. The FGDC Steering Committee voted to pursue IFTN and they have a working Executive Committee that is starting to work on 7 implementation issues. This is a big deal for the program, but it may also result in some changes to the program design.](#)

The next Imagery Technical Working Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 4th, 2008 10-12