

SC GIS COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 28th, 2007
2:00 pm, DOT Commission Room
955 Park Street, Columbia SC 29201

Proceedings:

Meeting commenced at 2:00

Welcome and Opening Remarks – conducted by Doug Calvert. He thanks the SC DOT for hosting the meeting and introduced Tim De Troye to continue with the agenda for the meeting.

Virtual Reference Station Network – Lew Lapine, SC Geodetic Survey (ORS)

- Statewide project involving GIS Coordination Council (GCC) members ORS and DOT
- Using the equipment and the network, 1 cm accuracy can be obtained in 1 minute
- Based on feedback from the Trimble GPS Conference held in Las Vegas recently, no one else in the world has a system in place that is as good as South Carolina's
- Towers are located throughout the state that utilize cell phones which provide Internet access, multiple servers provide redundancy, real-time GPS correction is being provided continuously
- Currently, there are enough licenses to allow for 200 simultaneous users to be on the system
- The system has an annual subscription cost of \$600 in order to account for license fees and technology fees (scheduled upgrades of servers, equipment)
- Lew indicated that the single biggest consumer of this technology will be the construction industry
- Doug Calvert recognized the value from the perspective of shooting drainage areas
- Mike Garon asked if the system is stable – Lew indicated that yes it is, and it is also lightning insured

Updating Emergency Response Layers – John Knight, EMD

- Indicated that there is a significant need to update data statewide for emergency response layers – it was last updated in 2003
- This information is needed by EMD in order to get money back from FEMA after a disaster
- John indicated that he tried to get the counties to assist with updating the data but the results were mixed due to multiple reasons including the county emergency management person being stretched too thin
- He indicated that addresses and/or XY coordinate information would be beneficial
- Doug Calvert asked for the names of the layers. They are as follows:
 - Airports
 - Communication Facilities
 - Police Stations

- Fire Stations and Emergency Medical Stations (EMS)
- County Emergency Operation Centers
- Electrical Power Plants
- Natural Gas Facilities
- Highway Bridges
- Medical Care Facilities (Hospitals, Nursing Home, Dialysis Facilities)
- Ports and Harbors
- Potable Water
- Wastewater Facilities
- Schools (K-12, Technical Colleges, Colleges, Universities)
- Doug asked if EMD had the expertise to do the work, and John indicated yes, that they had an Internet-based program to assist with the updating/loading of the information
- Tim De Troye indicated that he would work with John and the agencies in order to identify the data stewards for the layers listed
- John Knight will provide the requisite fields for each of the layers

Applications in Commerce – Derek Graves, Dept. of Commerce

- Derek showed an application called Buildings and Sites that does a property / site search. It generates a PDF on the fly that is a report utilizing Crystal Reports. The data itself is stored in SQL Server and utilizes Spatial Database Engine (SDE) from ESRI
- Doug Calvert recognized the information and application could be beneficial to John Knight at EMD
- Derek noted that there are very few applications that use Crystal Reports to generate dynamic reports on the web, and that he would be willing to help / work with EMD if they would like to utilize the application
- Derek showed the New Market application that focuses on the tax credit program. It is an ArcIMS (web-based GIS application from ESRI), which identifies areas in need. This program is focuses on a \$200 million program from the Feds
- Mandy Kibler indicated the Dept. of Commerce has invested a lot of money in updating and upgrading its GIS in recent years

Statewide LiDAR Program – Gary Merrill and Jim Scurry, USGS and DNR respectively

- The project is moving forward and will take place
- Sixteen counties will be flown in the first year
- FEMA required 1.4 meter spacing instead of the planned 3.0 meter spacing on collected points
 - The impact of this is a greater cost to the overall project
 - The change in spacing does not affect vertical accuracy
- The original plan was for two years to complete the entire project, and due to the increase in cost (due to the imposed requirements from FEMA) the project may have to be a three year project, or (after the first year) change to 3 meter spacing for the rest of the project

Update of Activities – Tim De Troye

- For update of activities, please refer to PDF document of the Power Point presentation (previously emailed on 11/29/07)
- Tim asked for suggestions on additional agencies to target, and Cole McKinney suggested looking at SMAC participating agencies

Web Site – Tim De Troye

- For screen shots of the mock-up look of the website, please refer to PDF document of the Power Point presentation (previously emailed on 11/29/07) – page/slide 23
- The focus of the site would be:
 - Provide access to the data viewer application that Garry Merrill (USGS) and the Catalog Team – this viewer will let users make a map of SC if they do not have GIS. It will also register the data layers that are placed on the site (e.g. by DNR, City of Columbia, etc.) with multiple national sites and initiatives (such as RAMONA, the National Map, etc.)
 - Provide an informational site that tells what is going on in GIS in SC, including projects, opportunities, points of contact for GIS (from state agencies, to cities and counties), etc.
 - Provide a link to download data for data that can be shared (e.g. statewide city limits layer, fire stations layer, etc.) – note, the site would not *store* the data, but would provide a link to where it is stored
- Mike Garon indicated that the data could be available through this site for users, and that procedures could be documented on the site for users to get more secure data if they were qualified to do so
- Mike Garon also suggested that potential beneficial applications should be identified (such as entering an address to determine if you are inside or outside of a particular city's limits)
- Bill Beck suggested avoiding a “comments” section requiring continual feedback due to potential time involvement
- The question was raised if there would be a search mechanism on the site in order to find data. Barry Langley suggested just a simple text search on a page. Tim said that he envisioned there to be a long, scrolling list of available data layers on the page which would allow the simple text search to work
- Mandy Kibler indicated that if people are to continually come back to the site, that the content would need to be updated regularly. It was recognized that the source of the content would have to be the GCC agencies.

CAP Grant Submission – Tim De Troye

- Grant submission is due on December 18th
- SC has been encouraged to apply
- Grant value is up to \$50,000 with a 50% match
- Idea for submission included setting up workshops with groups of cities and counties in order to learn about their needs and what is required for us to work together, as well as individual meetings with as many cities and counties conducting GIS as possible

Other Business – Doug Calvert

- Doug wanted to know what could make the meetings better or more productive
- Response suggestions included:
 - Help foster a decision-making environment by providing information in advance, thereby allowing people to review the information and make certain that the appropriate support staff would be present to allow the decision to be made at the time of the meeting
 - Keep the presentations as non-technical as possible – the decision makers may not be extremely technical, but rather would need to know how a particular item/application can be used and what agencies might benefit
 - Have the “host” council agency conduct a presentation on their applications/activities
- Next meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce and the date is currently set for Wednesday, February 27th at 2:00 pm. Parking will be provided/validated.

Meeting concluded at approximately 4:10 pm

Meeting notes compiled by Tim De Troye

Version 1.0

Last revised 11/30/2007