

# SC GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 25th, 2008

DHEC Board Room (Room 3420)  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC

## **PROCEEDINGS:**

Meeting commenced at 2:00

**Welcome and Opening Remarks** – conducted by Doug Calvert. He started the meeting and introduced Tim De Troye to continue with the agenda.

### **Coordination Activities Report** – Tim De Troye

#### *The Year in Review*

The first portion of the meeting was spent going over the highlights and key accomplishments of the last year. This was done in the framework of the seven areas of focus that were decided upon during the August 2007 GIC meeting. The presentation providing a list of the accomplishments and information on activities is available at [http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic\\_082508.pdf](http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic_082508.pdf)

The annual report has been prepared and will be circulated among GIC partners for review prior to general release. The GIC determined that two weeks for review should be sufficient for comments and additions. After edits are made, the report will be made available on the GIC website (<http://gis.sc.gov>) for general viewing.

#### *CAP Grant*

The RFP for the CAP grant has closed. As soon as the CIO's office releases the proposals to the review committee, the process can continue. It is anticipated that the committee will receive the proposals around September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Final selection of the vendor is anticipated to take place during the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. After the project has been awarded, dates and locations for the outreach sessions can be finalized and the work can move forward.

#### *Data Inventory*

The first version of the data inventory listing will be included with the annual report. It is subject to modification and addition, as it will be continually updated.

#### *Website*

The website is fully operational and is being continually updated with new data layers, information on what is going on around the state in GIS, etc.

#### *Moving Forward: Next Year*

Discussion ensued on what path to take in the coming year.

### Ideas Raised:

- Representation of local government with the GIC
- Legislation for funding the GIC and GIS needs
- Development of standards
- Web services – focus on getting GIC organizations to publish their web services for greater access from people outside the partnering agencies
- Data inventory – continued work on the inventory to include data stewardship, comprehensive listing of the data, discussion of *where* to list the inventory (e.g. RAMONA – <http://sc.gisinventory.net/> or some other location)

### Discussion:

- *VISION*
  - Mike Garon (DOR) indicated that the GIC needs to develop a vision on where the organization wants to go, and that a shared vision would help us to prepare for next year
  - Dave Cowen (USC) indicated that some material has already been written on a vision for the state, and he volunteered to be involved in further developing the GIC vision
  - Doug Calvert (DHEC) read several portions of the GIC MOA ([http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic\\_moa.pdf](http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic_moa.pdf)) which included several responsibilities of the group, which could also contribute to the vision and identification of necessary activities moving forward
  - Tim De Troye stated that execution of the CAP grant and the associated outreach sessions would provide an excellent vehicle to assist in development of the vision
  - Mike Garon asked if a vision would be developed prior to the next quarterly GIC meeting. Tim De Troye responded that in order to capitalize on the information that can be gained from the CAP outreach sessions, some preliminary information can be provided, but a full vision including the input from local government would not be able to be provided for two quarters.
  - It was stated that other state entities should also be able to assist with development of the vision
  - Lew Lapine suggested revisiting the PlanGraphics GIS strategic plans and business case documents released in 2001
    - <http://www.scmapping.net/1134.SP5%20FINAL%20Vol%20I.htm>
    - <http://www.scmapping.net/1134.SP5%20FINAL%20Vol%20II.htm>
  - Jim Scurry suggested using the technical committee to work on the vision
- *LEGISLATION / FUNDING*
  - Jim Scurry indicated that the big issue facing all organizations in SC is funding
  - The question was raised on what other states are doing that seems to work, and it was suggested that this be further investigated

- Bill Beck (DOT) suggested providing a map to legislators based on their area demonstrating the use of the GIS. It was stated that this could help show what data is available.
- It was stated that work on legislative initiatives and local representation would logically follow development of the vision and CAP grant work to ensure that everyone could be involved in the process
- **STANDARDS**
  - Gary Merrill (USGS) said that development of standards may work well with developing the inventory
  - Lew Lapine (SCGS) stated he is seeing a lot of different questions coming in on GPS usage and different quality of data being collected. He suggested development of a standard for data collection
  - NC currently has a standard
  - It was stated that although the GIC would not have authority to enforce a standard, it could develop and provide the standard. The benefit of this activity would be the creation of a “best practices” document that organizations could choose to adopt

Results of discussion:

- Develop a vision
- Work on getting GIC organizations to publish services
- Work on building the GIS data inventory
- Work on developing a GPS standard for data collection
- Learn what other states are doing in regards to GIS funding legislation and local representation as it pertains to the vision

**Dave Cowen – GIS Activity Around the Country**

He provided a brief presentation on what is going on in other locations, and nationally.

Key points include:

- Secretary of the Interior conducted a presentation at the ESRI conference and used maps to show the melting of the polar ice caps. This was followed by an announcement of support for Imagery for the Nation (IFTN). This is key, because it followed an endorsement by NGAC (National Geospatial Advisory Committee), of which Dave Cowen is a member.
- The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is a Federal Advisory Committee sponsored by the Department of the Interior under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department of the Interior listening and responding to the suggestions of the committee represents a strong statement of recognition of the importance of GIS for this nation
- Governor O’Mally (Maryland) provided the keynote speech at the ESRI Executive Leadership Seminar. He is a strong proponent of GIS, and represents the growing knowledge of the importance of GIS at the executive level. One of the key phrases used repeatedly in his presentation was, “Show me my house.” It is a great speech and is available here:  
<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/speeches/080803.asp>

- The value and importance of GIS is growing. This is well documented in the private sector:
  - Navteq street centerlines valued at \$8.1 billion
  - Google Earth's massive and rapid expansion in usage
  - <http://www.zillow.com/> - valuation and ownership information on over 80,000,000 parcels
- The next generation of GIS will be delivered in a virtual environment through servers and web services providing information
- Parcels Parcels Parcels – they are important and studies have shown that they are beneficial at multiple levels of government. SC really needs a statewide coverage of parcels, or at least address points representing parcels. Two members of the National Land Parcel Data study are in South Carolina (Dave Cowen and Nancy Von Meyer). A brief on the study can be found here: [http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt\\_briefs/Land\\_Parcel\\_Data\\_Final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/Land_Parcel_Data_Final.pdf)

Dave Cowen's full presentation contains a lot of additional information, and goes into further depth on parcels. It is available here:

[http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic\\_082508\\_cowen.pdf](http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic_082508_cowen.pdf)

**LiDAR Update** – Gary Merrill and Jim Scurry, USGS and DNR respectively

- The delivery of the LiDAR data from the first year's flights is in process
- Funding is still needed for the second year's flight. Any assistance that can be provided is greatly appreciated. With current projections on funding, the original number of counties to be flown has already been cut back
- They are planning a partners meeting

**Host Agency GIS Presentation: DHEC - Jeannie Eidson and Becky Wilkerson**

Jeannie Eidson and Becky Wilkerson provided a presentation on analysis and program capabilities of DHEC's GIS operations. There is a tremendous amount of activity, and it is available here: [http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic\\_082508\\_dhec.pdf](http://gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic_082508_dhec.pdf)

**Other Business** – Doug Calvert

- No other business items were brought forth

Meeting concluded at approximately 4:10 pm

Meeting notes compiled by Tim De Troye

Version 1.0

Last revised 09/05/08