

SC GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 1st, 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
State Outreach and Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Tim presented the preliminary findings based on the state outreach sessions conducted as part of the execution of the CAP Grant. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

Comments based on State Outreach presentation

- Mike Garon – look at where the money comes from in order to build the GIS data and to do the projects with the data.
- Bobby Bowers – There is a lot of money being distributed from the Feds based on the Census data (\$300 billion)
- Cole McKinney – there is definitely an opportunity for cost savings at the local level in data development. Flip the perception of where the money comes from without assistance, and instead look at where other money comes from directly/indirectly in order to get projects done. One example would be the imagery – some counties would never have imagery if it weren't for outside assistance
- Jim Scurry – Each agency may have a sense of direction but each agency must be focused on their given mandates
- Cole McKinney – State agencies did get coordination and they funded the position of the coordinator. Maybe the Council agencies need to be the flag bearer in helping to move GIS forward
- Doug Calvert – Originally the Governor's Office decided to steer away from the GIS coordination effort because they were not sure of the role of coordination initially. Now, this process/plan may help show the importance of coordination as well as agreement on a path forward. However, now may not be the time for budget requests, but rather getting their (Governor's Office, Legislature) buy-in and involvement
- Jim Scurry – The problem is, they (Legislature) don't know what GIS is, so they can't understand the importance of GIS, and that there is no "one box of GIS that you can pick up and move wherever you need it." They have to know that there is no one place that people can go to get/use all of their GIS for the entire state.

- Doug Calvert – The original purpose of the Geographic Information Council was to get the State’s act together in GIS. It definitely doesn’t have to stay that way. We are open to changing things and having additional representation.
- Jim Scurry – If there is going to be a statewide layer of any kind that is built piece by piece, there must be some agreement on what is recorded at each organization
- Cole McKinney – If people are going to be required to adjust their data to a given standard, it may require some kind of financial incentive.
- Dave Cowen – There already is a data standard for parcels that is part of the regulations
- Tim De Troye – As long as the necessary types of information are already being collected/stored, current technology such as FME Software and ESRI’s Data Interoperability extension would allow us to move data from one field to another even if field names did not match, and even if some domains are used by some organizations while not used by others. This would only require the purchase of the extension or FME software by the organization that is aggregating the information
- Doug Calvert – We need a sense of the magnitude of the money required for the matching of data
- Jeannie Eidson – find out what funding is being done at the local level and the fields that are being captured
- Dave Cowen – parcels are much more standardized than what most people think
- Jared Shultz – Greenville City provided point level data for DHEC, and DHEC is going to use this to make geocoding more accurate for all of the projects
- Jeannie Eidson – this is an education process for the locals as well as the state, just as each state agency has its own mandates
- Tim De Troye – one value-added area that some locals expressed interest in during the outreach sessions was underground storage tanks
- Jeannie Eidson – We are open to sharing the underground storage tanks, and if they need them, adding value-added fields into the underground storage tank GIS files that are posted to the web
- Doug Calvert – perhaps we can work with the counties in order to get legislators to a meeting, or to meet their delegation locally
- Tony Dukes – while the legislature is in session, there are receptions virtually every night held by various organizations such as National Association of Counties, Municipal Association, etc. This would be a good opportunity to share about GIS and its benefits
- Dave Cowen – we must be **extremely** clear on what we are asking for and what we are doing when we talk with the legislature. We need central funding.
- Tony Dukes – the mission statement is good. We will need a memorable slogan that everyone can recite.
- Mike Garon – Can we afford to lead the nation on aggregation of GIS data? I know we want to, but do we have the means?
- Tony Dukes – perhaps another way to look at it is: can we afford not to?

- Doug Calvert – One thing we can do is develop some talking points and information based on lost opportunities or on victories based on not having (or having) GIS data
- Mike Garon – we have the need – that is for certain

SMAC / GIC Presentation – Cole McKinney

The following are notes based on the presentation from Cole McKinney.

- Trying to examine what SMAC can do for GIS in the state. This has changed over time, and we are working on refining some ideas
- We could examine potential legislative agenda items and after reviewing them, forward them to the GIC. This would not keep the GIC from pursuing their own items, nor would it require the GIC to endorse anything sent to it from SMAC, but if there were certain legislative agenda items that the GIC would/could endorse as well as SMAC, then it would have a greater impact
- One way to approach the legislative issues would be to develop two committees – one for local and regional issues, while the second committee could focus on state issues
- In consideration of SMAC's relation to the GIC, there is only one agency currently on the GIC that is not a part of SMAC, and that is PPP. It is our goal to rectify this and have them be a part of SMAC as well
- This whole idea of working on legislative issues is still deep in the process of development, but one way to approach it would be to have a list of action items (geospatial) to be endorsed by SMAC and hopefully also endorsed by the GIC
- Would could have an annual legislative review session to review ideas, look at items in development. This workshop would help us to develop a loose framework of ideas that could then be sent off to the subcommittees.
- The committees could develop items and then bring them back to SMAC's voting membership for consideration
- The development of these action items, and providing suggested courses of action is directly in line with the original purpose of SMAC
- The slate of action items could then be sent to the GIC, and the GIC could choose what to endorse
- If you have any comments or ideas regarding this potential path for SMAC, please let me (Cole McKinney) or Tim De Troye know

LiDAR – Jim Scurry

- 16 counties have been flown. Data delivery is behind project schedule. Three counties have been received
- Lew Lapine and SC GS did the check points for the LiDAR. Results show that there is a 10 cm vertical accuracy (versus the 18 cm that was required as a part of the contract), so this is excellent
- All data should be delivered by February 11th
- More money was collected from state and local (non-FEMA) organizations this year than was collected last year, but there is still an opportunity to contribute,

and we need all the money we can get. Last year, FEMA provide a large chunk of money, where they are not this year. This means that overall collection of money is down from last year

- Our goal is to try and do between 4 to 8 counties in February of 2009
- This Thursday, there will be a meeting of the LiDAR consortium at the DNR's Styx facility at 1:30

Other Business – Doug Calvert

- Tim De Troye – we have Clemson as our newest member of the GIC
- Jim Scurry – annual dues for the GIC will be invoiced out soon now that it appears the accounting system is online. Last time the dues were \$15,000 and that will be lowered to \$10,000 per member agency

Meeting concluded at approximately 4:05 pm

Meeting notes compiled by Tim De Troye

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Last revised 12/09/08

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR THE MAIN COUNCIL

- Monday, March 2nd, 2009 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Monday, June 1st, 2009 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Monday, August 24th, 2009 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- January 20th (Tuesday – due to MLK on Monday) - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- April 20th (Monday) - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- July 20th (Monday) - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm