

Meeting Minutes

Delaware Spatial Data I-Team

10:00 a.m.

January 28, 2005

Felton/Farmington Conference Room
DeIDOT Headquarters
Transportation Circle
Dover, DE

I-Team Members Present:

Mike Mahaffie (for Connie Holland), State Planning
Tom Jarrett, DTI
Tim Westbrook, New Castle County
Matthew Laick, Sussex Co.
Michael Ward, Kent Co.
NV Raman, DNREC
Vince Rucinski, DeIDOT
Sandy Schenck, DGS
Dick Sacher, UD/RDMS

Others Present:

Seth Van Aiken, ESRI
John Callahan, UD
Chris Barnard, EarthData
Kim Cloud, DTI
Roger Barlow, USGS

Welcome and Introductions

Mike Mahaffie started the meeting at approximately 10:05 a.m. He explained that Ms. Holland would not be able to attend and that she had asked him to run the meeting in her absence. The group went around the table to introduce themselves.

Approve Minutes of August 17, 2004 Meeting

A motion was made by NV Raman, seconded by Matt Laick, and unanimously approved by all members present to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2004 meeting.

DataMIL Migration

Sandy Scheck gave an update on the work to migrate the DataMIL from the UD and RDMS to DTI with management by the DGS. As of the first week of January, the DataMIL has been moved to a new home at DTI. The URL has changed from datamil.udel.edu to datamil.delaware.gov. The application is mostly in the same for that it was at RDMS, though some portions do not work or do not work quite

the same as before. There are also some IT security issues that DTI staff are working on.

The application was moved “as is” and DTI staff is working now on a longer-term project to recast the application, which is now in ASP, to JSP, which better matches the architecture at DTI.

Meanwhile, the DGS needs two additional staff to help manage the DataMIL. Sandy announced that Miriam Pomilio, of the Division of Parks and Recreation, has agreed to take the geodatabase administrator position and that he hoped to make an offer to another candidate for the web/application position soon. He hopes to have staff up and working in February.

There was general discussion of the different partnerships that now make up the management of the DataMIL. Sandy noted that the I-Team and the GIS Community at large will need to reinforce the I-Team’s stewardship and management responsibilities and take advantage of the move to highlight the goals and mission of the DataMIL.

Tim Westbrook suggested a meeting of the I-Team with the new DataMIL staff, once they are in place at DGS, to get off to a firm start. It was generally agreed that this is a very good idea.

Draft Framework Memoranda of Understanding

Sandy Schenck gave a brief update of the status of Framework memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). This led to a general discussion of MOUs and the need to take a closer look at them as part of the general move of the DataMIL.

Sandy presented draft MOUs with the USGS on Geographic Names and on Elevation. There was general discussion leading to several suggested revisions that Sandy will take back and continue to work on the drafts.

Tim Westbrook noted that the MOUs should be tied more closely to data standards. There was general agreement with that idea and with the notion that the MOUs will need to be tightened up.

E-911 Mapping

Mike Mahaffie gave an update on the effort to collect data for use in a mapping application, tied to cell-phone call, in the 9 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Delaware. A team of Verizon and Positron have been working with DTI on the project. The project will allow 911 operators to locate cell-phone 911 calls. The project is also designed to allow PSAPs in different locations to provide coverage for each other by having the spatial data in the system be statewide for all PSAPs.

The project requires consistent data collection by each county in support of E911 and having access not only to the mapping data for the entire state but also the database data. Currently each of the PSAPs has their own CAD systems and there are several different systems using different "GEOFILES".

There was general discussion of the issue. It was suggested that the I-Team work towards a data standard for street centerlines with address ranges and that county data be migrated to that standard under new MOUs. It was agreed that the address data should meet the standards of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).

There was also brief discussion of the suggestion by DTI that there be an E911 Data Administrator to work with the DataMIL staff to aggregate data for the 911 system.

Formalizing GIS Coordination

Mike Mahaffie presented a brief white paper on the issue of formalizing GIS coordination in Delaware, as has been discussed at previous I-Team meetings. Both the I-Team and the DGDC had asked for a white paper on the subject. The white paper has been shared with the state Budget Director and with staff in the Office of the Governor.

Mike explained that the DGDC and I-Team have accomplished all of what can be accomplished under the very informal coordination approach that has been in place since 1998. Over the last several years it has become clear that in order to make further progress, both the DGDC and the I-Team will need to become more formal. At the same time, the Federal Geographic data Committee and the national States Geographic Information Council, have proposed a "Fifty States Initiative" to press for formal or official GIS councils in each of the 50 states.

The proposal, as outlined in the white paper, is that the DGDC be converted to a formal GIS body that elects officers and serves as the body politic of the GIS Community. The I-Team would be converted into an appointed GIS Coordinating Council, with representation from all of the major state agencies, the Counties, local governments, and the DGDC. The Council would have more control, likely through more formal standards, over GIS activities in Delaware. The council would also need direct budgetary support for maintaining Delaware's framework data and for meeting future GIS data needs.

Tom Jarrett praised the Council idea but cautioned against allowing it to become too large, noting that larger groups sometime are less effective. He urged the group to codify the GIS council in legislation and offered the example of his efforts to recreate the department of technology and Information (DTI) as an example. Tom added that he and DTI as a whole support the idea completely and will be glad to help with the legislative process to make it work. He also

suggested that the I-Team tie the reorganization to 911 needs and other major issues to make the need for the reorganization more clear to legislators.

There was general discussion about the design of a coordinating council and about where it should fit in state government. Tom Jarrett suggested that it might fit best into the new DTI. Others argued that it should stay within the Office of the Budget (which may become the Office of management and Budget). Roger Barlow suggested making the Coordinating office a part of the Governor's Office.

There is a good probability that this should go under DTI. Jarrett is amenable to this notion. The 911 issues are the perfect stepping stone to make this happen. It was agreed that the discussion should continue and that the I-Team members should seek a meeting with the State Budget Director to continue the discussion.

Sandy Schenck made a motion, seconded by Tim Westbrook and passed unanimously, to schedule a meeting between the I-Team and Jennifer Davis, the State Budget Director, to discuss the idea of formalizing GIS coordination in Delaware.

Orthophotography Options

Chris Barnard, of EarthData, gave a presentation on the latest options presented by the orthophotography industry, as they relate to the need to update Delaware's 2002 digital orthophotography.

New digital sensors allow the simultaneous collection black and white, natural color and false-color infrared imagery in pixel resolutions of from about 6-inches to one meter. In addition, new sensor arrays allow a form of 3-D imaging which can help avoid "building lean" in imagery urban environments. The system can also collect some elevation data.

Much of the groundwork for an imagery update in Delaware has already been laid. Ground control has been monumented, A Digital Elevation Model, sufficient for ortho-rectification, has been created. The image tile layout created for 2002 can be reused, as long as the new project maintains the same resolution. Using the digital sensor could also cut image delivery time to from four to six months.

Chris noted that elevation data can be extracted from the imagery down to about a spacing of 0.5-meter (50cm). When combined with break lines and mass points, a 1-foot resolution imagery product, can be used to derive 2-foot contours.

Chris offered some cost estimates:

1-Foot Imagery	
Color Imagery	\$325,000
False-Color Infrared (additional)	\$135,000
Total.....	\$460,000

2-Foot Imagery	
Color Imagery	\$150,000
False-Color Infrared (additional)	\$65,000
Total.....	\$215,000

Elevation Data (additional) ¹	
2-foot contours	\$435,000
5-foot contours	\$100,000

Land Use/Land Cover Update (Using 1-foot data)	
Update	\$72,000

It was the consensus of the I-Team to seek funding for a 2005 spring flight to update the 2002 imagery. It was suggested that the project should focus first on collecting the base imagery needed. Funding can then be sought for derived products such as elevation data and Land Use/Land Cover updates. The group recognizes that it is late in the cycle to seek funding, but felt it is worth asking to see if a funding package can be put together.

The group expressed a preference for the 1-foot data, since it offers more options for derivative products. The group also suggested meeting with officials at the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to see if the restriction on public use of the 1-foot 2002 imagery can be lifted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

¹ This is likely to be reduced given that there will be parts of the state completed by USGS and that we will not need to create contours for the whole state.