

Meeting Minutes

Delaware Spatial Data I-Team

9:00 a.m.

May 9, 2005

Budget Office Conference Room
Thomas Collins Building
540 S. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE

I-Team Members Present:

Connie Holland, State Planning
Tim Westbrook, New Castle County
Matthew Laick, Sussex Co.
Michael Ward, Kent Co.
Deborah Sullivan, DNREC
Don Burris, DeIDOT
Sandy Schenck, DGS
Dick Sacher, UD/RDMS

Others Present:

Mike Mahaffie, State Planning
Brian Smith, GeoDecisions
Jim Weldin, League of Local Governments
Terry Witham, Safety and Homeland Security
Tom Steele, Safety and Homeland Security

Welcome and Introductions

Connie Holland began the meeting at approximately 9:05 a.m. with introductions around the table.

Approve Minutes of January 28, 2005 Meeting

Dick Sacher pointed out a typographical error. A motion was made by Dick Sacher, seconded by Tom Steele, and unanimously approved by all members present to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2005 meeting.

Legislative Update: GIS Council Proposal

Mike Mahaffie presented draft legislation, based on I-Team discussions and discussions with the Budget Office, to create a GIS Coordination Council. There was considerable discussion about the make-up of the council, the role of the Council, and whether there should also be a GIS Coordination office, a titled position, and a data budget, as discussed in earlier I-Team meetings. There was also some discussion about whether or not the Council would have enough teeth to fulfill its role.

The group suggested several changes, including replacing the Delaware Fire Commission with the Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association and the Board of Professional Land Surveyors with the Delaware Association of Surveyors on the Council membership list; designating a State Planning staff member as Geospatial Data Coordinator; clarifying the progression of Council Vice Chair to Council Chair; requiring by-laws for the Council; and clarifying the "public domain" considerations.

Mike Mahaffie was asked to incorporate the suggested changes and share the revised draft legislation with the Budget Office.

Project Update: USGS/NOAA LIDAR Project

Sandy Schenck gave an update on a project of USGS and NOAA to collect LiDAR data for parts of the state in support of FEMA flood studies and the creation of updated flood maps.

LiDAR data has been collected for all of Sussex County and eastern Kent County. The USGS is processing the data based on where flood studies are most needed. The end result should be a Digital Elevation Model and a 2-foot contour product.

Tim Westbrook asked whether the I-Team had adopted LiDAR as the preferred technology for collecting elevation data. Sandy explained that the I-Team had not made a final determination, but that FEMA and other funds would have been lost for the project had it not been carried forward.

Tim suggested that the I-Team look into the technology and balance it against the elevation data collection potential of the proposed 2007 orthophotography update. Connie Holland suggested calling on DNREC for input on their need for data and preferences for technologies.

Data Opportunity: 2005 Interim Ortho Update

Mike Mahaffie explained that the US dept. of Agriculture plans to acquire statewide, natural-color, leaf-on aerial photography of Delaware this summer at a pixel-resolution of 2-meters as part of the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). While the 2-meter data will be available to the state for free, it is possible to contract with the vendor, VarGIS, LLC, to upgrade the state of Delaware portion of the project to 1-meter imagery for an estimated \$10,000.

The I-Team expressed support for this idea and suggested several sources of funding, including the Delaware Forestry Program, the Department of Transportation and the Office of State Planning Coordination.

Matt Laick made a motion, seconded by Tom Steele and unanimously approved, to have the Office of State Planning Coordination seek finding to acquire the upgraded imagery.

Data Distribution Issue: 2002 High-Resolution Orthophotography

There was a brief discussion of the existing restrictions of the sharing of the high-resolution version of the 2002 orthophotography. It was noted that, with the advent of several private sector web sites offering high-resolution imagery of several areas of Delaware and other states, it may be time to remove the I-Team restriction on the sharing of the high-resolution version of the Delaware imagery.

Connie Holland noted that the only action the I-Team can take is to request of the Governor's Office that the restriction be lifted. Mike Mahaffie added that that request should be informed by input from the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Tom Steele asked that a memo be sent to him requesting a recommendation on the issue. Mike Mahaffie will draft the memorandum.

Data Opportunity: Public/Private Partnership With TeleAtlas

Mike Mahaffie gave a brief history of the work that has been done on a new E-911 mapping application that has highlighted the need for a statewide street centerline and addressing standard and for a system to aggregate data from the Counties and local governments with road segment information from DeIDOT. He noted that a work group has suggested a public/private partnership with TeleAtlas North America to use TeleAtlas as an aggregator of data from state, local and state sources.

Brian Smith gave a brief review of the data that is available from TeleAtlas. There followed a discussion of how the state might best use such a partnership.

Tim Westbrook urged that the approach being suggested not stop efforts to craft a statewide data standard. The group agreed that it should not.

Sandy Schenck urged that those features now found on the USGS 24000-scale Digital Line Graph data set not be lost. It was agreed that an effort would be made to incorporate those features as well.

The group expressed general support for the idea. Don Burris, Mike Mahaffie and Brian Smith were asked to get an estimate of costs from TeleAtlas and to move the project forward.

Once an estimate is known, the I-Team and the E-911 board can seek funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.