

Meeting Minutes

Delaware Spatial Data I-Team
10:00 a.m., November 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
Deborah Sullivan, DNREC
Sandy Schenck, DGS
Dick Sacher, UD/RDMS
Mike del Tufo, DelDOT

Others Present:

Mike Mahaffie, State Planning
Miriam Pomilio, DGS
Terry Witham, Safety and Homeland Security
Roger Barlow, USGS

Welcome and Introductions

Connie Holland began the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m. with introductions around the table.

Approve Minutes of May 9, 2005 Meeting

Members of the group pointed out two typographical errors. A motion was made by Sandy Schenck, seconded by Dick Sacher, and unanimously approved by all members present to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2005 meeting (with corrections).

Legislative Update: GIS Council Proposal

Mike Mahaffie gave a brief update on the legislation to create a GIS Coordination Council. It was introduced as Senate Bill 186 and has passed in the State Senate. It will be considered by the House when the Legislature comes back into session after the first of the year.

Mike also gave an introduction to the next round of the USGS's National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant funding opportunities. One of the grant categories for 2006 will be *Strategic and Business Plan Development in support of the NSDI Future Directions Fifty States Initiative*. Mike suggested that a grant in this category be sought and used to support a review of the

Delaware Framework and the state's efforts at spatial data coordination as a part of the creation of the new GIS Council that would be created by SB 186. The I-Team generally supported this idea and suggested that even if the bill is not passed, such a planning process should proceed for the existing I-Team.

Sandy Schenck noted that the DGS is also looking at the CAP Grants program and may submit a grant request in the *Geographic Information Integration and Analysis* category to support the continued addition of historic georeferenced aerial photography to the offerings of the DataMIL.

A motion was made by Sandy Schenck, seconded by Tim Westbrook, and unanimously approved by all members present to support the CAP Grant requests.

Project Update: DGS/USGS/NASA LIDAR Project

Sandy Schenck and Roger Barlow gave an update on progress to collect and process LIDAR data for about two-thirds of the state. The project was conceived in support of the FEMA Map Modernization Program to provide a digital elevation model (DEM) needed by FEMA and DNREC to update the Delaware flood maps. As an added benefit, the data is expected to also be used to create a data set of high-resolution elevation contours.

Roger reported that the first area of the DEM product has been delivered to DNREC and a second area will be delivered in the next week. Both are in eastern Sussex County.

There was extended discussion about whether LIDAR should be considered as Delaware's preferred technology for the generation of elevation data. It is being used in this case because the funding for the project is from agencies that have identified LIDAR as the preferred option to derive product to meet their needs.

It was generally agreed that the I-Team should hold a workshop meeting with representatives from FEMA to discuss why FEMA has chosen that technology. It was suggested that representative of EarthData, which is Delaware's orthophotography vendor and has a different approach to the generation of elevation data, also be invited and that the I-Team work towards declaring a standard or preferred technology for gathering elevation data.

The existing project will provide data for all of Sussex County and eastern Kent County. DGS is still seeking agencies that might be interested in funding the completion of the project for the rest of the state.

Project Update: Statewide Centerline/Address Data Project

Mike Mahaffie gave an update on the project to enter into a public/private partnership with TeleAtlas to serve as statewide data aggregator for road centerline and address range data for Delaware. The project grew out of a need for standard, reliable and accurate statewide data for use in E911 applications and was made possible by an

existing business relationship between DeIDOT and GeoDecisions, a business partner of TeleAtlas. Tim Westbrook noted that he is not comfortable with the project proceeding without having gone through a bidding process.

Mike reported that DeIDOT has agreed to fund the partnership maintenance in the future, but that he and Terry Witham are working with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to seek funding to begin the project. The start-up cost and first year license would be \$130,000. They plan to submit a 911 grant through DEMA to seek that funding.

Miriam Pomilio pointed out that the I-Team should ensure that there is a memorandum of agreement with DeIDOT ensuring their role in funding the maintenance of the centerline data and that the I-Team should publicly support any related budget requests from DeIDOT.

Preview: RAMONA System

Mike Mahaffie explained that Delaware will serve as a beta-testing state for a new system being developed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). The system, RAMONA, is an on-line data holdings inventory system designed to facilitate state-to-state data survey requests by regional, state and federal agencies. For some states, the system may help jump-start Metadata Clearinghouse efforts. Mike noted that he does not want to use RAMONA as a replacement for the existing Delaware Clearinghouse, but hopes it will be a complement to and can be integrated with the Delaware Clearinghouse. He will use the testing phase to explore how that relationship will work and will report back to the I-Team.

Framework Designation: National Hydrology Dataset (NHD)

Sandy Schenck gave a quick overview of a proposal to adopt the Delaware portion of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the hydrology portion of the Delaware Spatial Data Framework. The NHD updates the USGS Digital Line Graph data that has been used as the hydro portion of the Delaware Framework and adds extensively to its attributes. DNREC has agreed to handle updates, based on their statutory role as the agency field-checks hydrology data.

A motion was made by Deborah Sullivan, seconded Sandy Schenck, and unanimously approved by all members present to adopt the NHD as the Hydrology portion of Delaware's Framework and to update the Memorandum of Agreement between the I-Team and DNREC to identify DNREC as the data steward for the Hydrology portion of the Framework.

Orthophotography Issues: Distribution of High-Resolution Version

Mike Mahaffie presented a sample list of sites that might be obscured in the high-resolution version of the orthophotography as part of a continuing bid to find a way to lift the Homeland Security restrictions on distribution of the highest resolution version. The I-Team asked Mike to draft a memorandum to Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security

Secretary David Mitchell asking that the restriction be lifted. If it cannot be, Mike is instructed to ask for a list of sites to be obscured to be provided by the Department.

Interim Orthophotography Update Opportunities

Sandy Schenck explained that there are companies now offering lower-resolution imagery for inexpensive statewide licensing. He noted that this data might have use as an interim update of orthophotography, in the years between Delaware's high-resolution photography updates.

2007 Orthophotography Update Update

Mike Mahaffie gave an update on plans for a 2007 update of the statewide orthophotography. He presented some cost estimates and noted that some funding is available from the Office of Management and Budget through the Office of State Planning Coordination. DeIDOT has pledged funding as well. Mike asked for others to start thinking about contributing to the project.

Tim Westbrook reported that New Castle County should be able to contribute again and urges Kent and Sussex Counties to contribute as well. Tim added that he would like to explore linking the orthophotography project to an update of elevation data. Roger Barlow urged the I-Team to explore what cost-savings might accrue from making the portion of the new elevation data that is available for parts of the state available to the vendor as a resource for the 2007 update.

The I-Team asked Mike to update and expand on the draft budget that he has started working on.

Other Business

Sandy Schenck distributed a listing of the various data sets now available on-line via the Delaware DataMIL. Those data sets that are considered part of the Delaware Spatial Data Framework were highlighted. Sandy asked that the group review the list and consider what changes may need to be explored. The list will also be reviewed as part of the next meeting of the Delaware Geographic Data Committee (DGDC).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.