

Meeting Minutes

Delaware Spatial Data I-Team

1:00 p.m., May 5, 2006

Haslet Armory

Conference Room 219

122 William Penn Street

Dover, DE

Present:

Connie Holland, State Planning

Mike Mahaffie, State Planning

Renee Dixon, State Planning

Deborah Sullivan, DNREC

Sandy Schenck, DGS

Dick Sacher, UD/RDMS

Tom Steele, Safety and Homeland Security

Mark Whitlock, DTI

Matt Laick, DelDOT

Roger Barlow, USGS

Sandra Janowski, NCC

Welcome and Introductions

Connie Holland began the meeting at approximately 1:10 p.m. with introductions around the table.

Approve Minutes of November 9, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Matt Laick, seconded by Tom Steele and unanimously approved by all members present to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting.

Legislative Update: GIS Council Proposal

Mike Mahaffie gave a brief update on Senate Bill 186. Due to concerns raised by the Department of Technology and Information about the large size of the Coordinating Council called for in the bill, an amendment was drafted and was introduced on May 4. This amendment recognizes the existing Delaware Geographic Data Committee (DGDC) on a more formal level, gives the full DGDC membership more of a say in setting GIS policy, and creates a smaller executive council. The executive council would be comprised of representatives from OMB, DTI, the Counties, Academia, and the Private Sector.

Tom Steele asked why the Department of Safety and Homeland Security was omitted from the list of Executive Council members. Mike Mahaffie noted that there had been an effort to keep the Council small and focused on policy-setting agencies. The original version of the bill had included all cabinet-level agencies, by default, along with a long list of other agencies and entities. He noted that that group was seen as too large and unwieldy. After a brief discussion, Mike admitted that the effort to trim the Council may have gone too far.

Tom Steele noted that the Department of Safety and Homeland Security will continue to play a central role in the use of GIS and spatial data in Delaware. He pointed out the many fundamental roles (Emergency Management, 911 services, police and fire protection, evacuation planning, etc.) played by his Department and its member agencies and partners. He asked that the Department's Secretary be added back into the Executive Council. Matt Laick asked that the Secretary of the Department of Transportation also be added to the Council, because of DelDOT's central role in maintaining key portions of the Framework data.

Connie Holland stated that these two recommendations would be taken back to the larger group. Connie also requested that Tom Steele and Matt Laick send a letter or email formalizing their requests to have the Department of Transportation and the Department of Safety and Homeland Security added as members of the Executive Council. These formal requests will aid Mike and Connie when they present the recommendations to the larger group that created the executive council change.

Mark Whitlock addressed the Executive Council issue from the point of view of the Department of Technology and Information. The original council listed upwards of 40 individuals on the council and the realization was that it is extremely difficult for that many people to reach a decision. So changes were made to council to cut down on the number of members. The original idea was that you can not rule by committee. The executive council was made to be the governing body, while the Delaware Geographic Data Committee (DGDC) retains the power.

Connie concluded the discussion by acknowledging that Tom Steele and Matt Laick would be emailing their respective reasons and views for adding the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation as members of the executive council. Debbie Sullivan added that it might be a good idea to consider the Secretary of DNREC as well, since DNREC also maintains several significant portions of the Framework.

Federal Geospatial Line of Business Request for Information (RFI)

Mike Mahaffie and Sandy Schenck gave an update on a Request for Information from the federal Office of Management Budget on the concept of the Federal Geospatial Line of Business. The Board of Directors of the National States Geographic Information Council drafted a response, from the State perspective, and asked for support from state Coordination groups. Sandy Schenck suggested this be brought to the attention of the I-Team members. Roger Barlow pointed out that a large majority of geospatial data is created at the state and local level. A motion was made by Tom Steele, seconded by Dick Sacher and unanimously approved by all members, to express Delaware's support for the NSGIC response.

Project Update: Statewide Centerline/Address Data Project

Matt Laick gave an update on the project to work with TeleAtlas to aggregate state and county road and address data into a seamless statewide data set. The project has now begun and has a projected completion date of mid-September. Start-up funding for the project was garnered from federal grants managed by the Delaware Homeland Security Working Group. Matt Laick noted that he has secured funding through DelDOT to license the data for the next two years at \$105,000 a year. He will be looking for funding following those first two years. Mike Mahaffie noted that he was pleased to hear of two-year's worth of funding coverage for the license and

suggested that, starting July 1, the project be added as a line item into the state budget. Also discussed was web interface for data dissemination. That will be handled under an existing contract between DelDOT and GeoDecisions. The TeleAtlas license does include the use of the road centerline data, through likely not the addresses, via the DataMIL.

2007 Orthophotography

Mike Mahaffie led a discussion of options for a 2007 update of the statewide aerial photography. The I-Team is working from a proposal for the update from EarthData, as called for in the existing Professional Agreement between the state and EarthData. The group reviewed options for natural color, false-color infrared or both; as well as selecting the option for land use/land cover. There was general discussion on the benefits of each choice. Motion made by Mike Mahaffie, seconded by Sandy Schenek and unanimously approved by all members to define the 2007 update as natural color and infrared color with land use/land cover and a base product of ¼ meter.

A motion was made by Dick Sacher, seconded by Sandy Schenek and unanimously approved by all members to send a proposal to Governor Minner and Secretary Mitchell to make the data available in the public domain at ¼ meter at the completion of the project.

There was a general discussion of available funding for the project. The Office of Management and Budget has set aside approximately \$162,000 to assist with the funding of this project. Based on conversations Mike Mahaffie has had with Tim Westbrook, New Castle County has budgeted for \$50,000 and Roger Barlow commented that assuming the public domain conditions are met then the USGS has \$63,000 to contribute, but that money must be appropriated quickly.

There was a discussion of ways to acquire more funding and each attendee will be going back to their respective offices to ask for assistance. Ideas were also brainstormed to ask Kent and Sussex County, as well as the larger cities and to make presentations to Kent County Levy Court, Sussex County Council, and to the League of Local Governments as this project will benefit the entire State of Delaware.

Other Business

Roger Barlow reported that the USGS is committing \$50,000 for the ongoing LIDAR Project.

Roger Barlow reported on his attendance at the DelMarVa Emergency Task Force meeting held at the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). There was considerable discussion on hurricanes, storm surge and spatial data.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.