



Facilitating the sharing and coordinated use of spatially referenced data in Delaware

**Meeting Summary
Quarterly DGDC Meeting
9:00 a.m., May 11, 2006
Room 133
Haslett Armory
122 William Penn Street
Dover, DE**

Attendance List:

Mike Mahaffie	State Planning Coord.
Renee Dixon	State Planning Coord.
Sandy Schenck	DGS
Miriam Pomilio	DGS
Brad Strittmatter	DGS
Deborah Sullivan	DNREC
George Yocher	Div. of Public Health
Barbara Gladders	Div. of Public Health
Rick Sherwood	DEMA
Roger Barlow	USGS
Tom Peralta	New Castle Co.
Mary Harper	HCA
Chad Lauderbaugh	GeoDecisions
Shelly Ide	DSHA
Tony Collins	DTI
Kim Cloud	DTI
Brianne Press	URS
Darin Dell	DelDOT
John Callahan	UD/RDMS

Welcome and Introductions

Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m. with a round of introductions.

Information Updates

GIS Coordination Legislation

Mike Mahaffie gave an update of the status of Senate Bill 186, which has passed in the Senate and is currently in the House of Representatives. This legislation will establish a GIS Coordination Council and will formalize the DGDC. Mike reported that a Cabinet Secretary had asked that the legislation be revised to reduce the number of members of the executive council. This issue was discussed at the recent I-Team meeting. The

current proposal is to have the Council include the Director of OMB, the Secretaries of DNREC, DTI, DSHS, and Del DOT; the administrators or executives of the three counties, the state geologist and three DGDC members representing local government, academia and the private sector.

John Callahan questioned what besides setting up an executive council is this bill designed to do. Mike Mahaffie answered that the bill formalizes the DGDC, gives the DGDC power and a voice in policy, and calls for DGDC to set data standards. This bill also firmly says state agencies must publish metadata. A state GIS Coordinator is also identified as a nonvoting member of the executive council.

A question was raised on how the DGDC would pick the individual to represent the private industry.

Chad Lauderbaugh, of GeoDecisions, questioned why a representative from the private sector is necessary on the executive council. Mike Mahaffie explained that the bill calls for the private member to be chosen from among the members of the DGDC.

Sandy Schenck asked if there were any plans to bring the amendment back to the DGDC or I-Team members. Mike Mahaffie answered that a draft will go back to the I-Team and sent out to the members of the DGDC.

Roger Barlow stated that he was dismayed that there was not a Federal representative included in the executive committee. Mike Mahaffie noted he would take Roger's suggestion back but was not sure how it would play in the General Assembly.

John Callahan questioned if the number of private representatives could be expanded. Mike Mahaffie stated that the DGDC will be empowered with a voice and open to all.

Deborah Sullivan suggested omitting the private representative position on the executive council and adding the federal representative.

Mike Mahaffie noted that having a representative of the private sector is important.

Roger Barlow noted that the private sector certainly brings resources.

Sandy Schenck asked if the executive council will be approving projects. Mike Mahaffie answered that the executive council would ratify recommendations of the DGDC.

John Callahan suggested that the private industry representative does not need to be on the Council. Chad Lauderbaugh agreed and suggested that he thinks of private sector individuals as advisors to the DGDC. Mike Mahaffie asked the members for any objections and hearing none, commented that he will look at the concerns with OMB.

It was suggested that an at-large DGDC representative be added to the Executive Council.

Deborah Sullivan stated that the president of the DGDC should be on executive council but she does not have a problem with a having an at-large representative.

Mike Mahaffie concluded the discussion by acknowledging that he will try to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible into the amendment.

2006 GIS Conference

Miriam Pomilio, Vice Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, gave an update on the GIS Conference. The keynote speaker will be the Chief Cartographer of National Geographic. The capstone speaker will be Martin Bruckner from the University of Delaware who will also be available at the social for a book signing. Several workshops, presentations, and activities are available for conference attendees. Mike Mahaffie gave an overview of the tracks and sessions. Sandy Schenck noted that the conference agenda looks good and that the conference committee did a good job. Miriam reminded everyone that the deadline for early bird registration has been extended to May 19. Miriam noted that over 125 people are registered and goal is for 200 to register.

Orthophotography Project

Mike Mahaffie gave an update on the 2007 Orthophotography Project. He noted that the I-Team voted to move forward to collect natural color and false-color infrared data, at 1:2400 scale, with ¼-meter pixel resolution and that the data should be in for public domain for the entire state. The I-Team also asked Mike Mahaffie and Connie Holland to prepare a proposal to present to Governor Minner and Secretary Mitchell regarding the public release of the ¼ meter products.

Mike reported that about 50% of needed funding has been identified. He asked for any parties interested in helping to fund the project to contact him.

Roger Barlow pointed out the issue of public distribution. Mike Mahaffie commented that group is committed to having this in the public domain.

John Callahan asked for information on technical specifications. Mike Mahaffie answered that he did not have that specific data at this time, but can get a group together for a separate meeting/workshop on specifications if there is interest.

LiDAR Project

Roger Barlow gave an update on the LiDAR project. The project is now behind schedule due to some processing problems. John Talley and Sandy Schenck, DGS, will attend a meeting in Reston, VA, to address these issues on May 15. Roger stated that the Sussex County component is close to the end while further discussion is needed for the Kent County component. The plan is to have the finalized Sussex County portion out in thirty days with the 2-foot contours to be available later this year.

John Callahan inquired as to the resolution of the DEM. Roger Barlow answered that the resolution is a 2-meter grid.

Roger also stated that \$50 thousand is available from the Federal Government to aid in the collection of LiDAR for New Castle County.

Statewide Roads/Address Project

Mike Mahaffie reported that funds were made available from the State Homeland Security Working Group to proceed with the GeoDecisions/TeleAtlas conflation project for new centerline data. The new data is expected to be available by September. The website for disbursement of the road layer will be worked on by GeoDecisions and will also be available by September 2006. This project may also tie-in with the proposed statewide geocoder.

Mike added that, according to Matt Laick, DeIDOT has established funding for licensing the data for the next two years. At this point, licensing structures are still being worked out.

Roger Barlow reported there are funds available for road data collection in surrounding states. Roger has proposed a joint project between Delaware and Maryland and Kenny

Miller has expressed his support. Mike Mahaffie added that it is worth sitting down and discussing the idea with Maryland.

John Callahan asked if the geometry of the roads would change in this project. Mike Mahaffie answered that the roads would match the orthophotography. Sandy Schenck added that the counties will be supplying parcel and road data.

Updates to the Delaware Spatial Data Clearinghouse

John Callahan gave a presentation on the new metadata clearinghouse. The new clearinghouse uses ESRI's GIS Portal Toolkit which is the same as GOS portal. The new web page will contain "channels" that will be maintained by individuals about featured items and topics. Among the new features will be a new website, additional search options, a new map viewer and discussion forums. During the GIS Conference, there will be a workshop on creating and publishing to the clearinghouse.

John led a general discussion to try to answer two related questions:

- What can we do to increase the publishing and involvement throughout Delaware?
- What do we call the "featured items" and how do we use them?

Sandy Schenck pointed out that as a group the members of the DGDC should begin using this website as a main focal point. He said that the DGDC has to be willing to make a mental change to use this website.

Discussion continued around the room regarding how the channels would work, possible answers to the questions and further suggestions to the website.

John Callahan noted that he would like approximately five minutes of every DGDC meeting to discuss the website.

RAMONA GIS Inventory Tool

Mike Mahaffie gave an overview of the new RAMONA GIS Inventory Tool developed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). He noted that it is intended as a survey tool rather than as a metadata clearinghouse.

He explained that it has been a tendency for various agencies at the federal government level to request information from state and local agencies on the same GIS information. This inventory tool was created from NSGIC to be a central point of information that can be accessed when necessary, hopefully eliminating duplicate efforts.

Mike urged DGDC members to register and use the site, which is found at de.gisinventory.net.

Other Business

Sandy Schenck stated that the 1961 black and white aerials will be on DataMIL by next week. The DGS have a set of 1968 aerials and then collection jumps to a set of 1992 aerials. DGS does have a 1989 set of aerials that exclude Delaware's ocean coast and inland bays. Sandy noted that they would like to have a statewide set of 1977 aerials. Currently New Castle County has 1977 aerials of just New Castle County. Sandy proposed getting funding to buy the 1977 aerials of Kent County and Sussex County as it would be beneficial for the state as well as the private sector and help to fill in a major gap.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.