



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

**Meeting Minutes
DGDC Meeting
9:00 a.m., June 23, 2008
House Hearing Room
Legislative Hall,
Dover, DE**

Attendance List:

Mike MahaffieOMB
Renee DixonOMB
Doyle TillerOMB/DFM
Paul SampleTech. Adv. Office
Kim CloudDTI
Tom SteeleDSHS
Sandy SchenckDGS
Lillian WangDGS
Miriam PomilioDGS
Dave RaccaUD/CADSR
Tina CallahanUD/IPA/WRA
Matt LaickDeIDOT
Darin DellDeIDOT
Josh ThomasDeIDOT
Jay GernerDeIDOT
Peggy BaconDeIDOT/Survey
Valerie MillerDSHA
Rick SherwoodDEMA
Mary HarperHCA
Mike WardKent Co.
Dorothy MartinKent Co.
Mark NowakCity of Dover
Roger BarlowUSGS
Laura KonwinskiURS Wilmington
Cheryl AltURS Diamond
Jocelyn BelandArtesian Water
Brianna JordanGeodecisions
Phil PierdomenicoRowan University

Welcome and Introductions

Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at approximately 9:10 a.m. with a round of introductions.

Approval of April 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Ward, seconded by Tom Steele, to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2008 meeting as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Conference Planning Committee

Mike Mahaffie gave a brief wrap-up of the 2008 Delaware GIS conference. Deborah Sullivan was chair for the 2008 conference planning committee. Mike Mahaffie will chair the planning committee for the 2009 conference. Mike reported that discussions have arisen concerning continuing to have an annual conference in Delaware versus spreading out to regional or Mid-Atlantic conference opportunities.

Mike presented an idea of Matt Laick's to start having a Delmarva GIS conference focused on the counties on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Matt Laick explained that counties in Maryland and Virginia that are on this side of the Chesapeake Bay feel isolated from the rest of their states. And Delaware already interacts with those counties who have reacted somewhat positively to taking part in past Delaware conferences.

Roger Barlow questioned the time frame. Mike answered that a fall conference might be a possibility. Roger advised not to overlap with the Towson conference in the spring. Roger also suggested including the Delmarva Emergency Task Force.

Tina Callahan commented that she liked the regional conference idea, but didn't want to exclude people from the Philadelphia area that have an interest in the GIS work Delaware does.

Tina suggested the issue may be organizational where more advertising and interesting content as well as considering a fall conference would entice individuals from surrounding states to attend. Mike Mahaffie stated that those suggestions are worth a thought.

Roger Barlow noted that all local state conferences are held in the spring.

Lillian Wang suggested tying a fall conference to GIS Day.

There was a comment that the University of Maryland Eastern Shore was another good contact.

Mike Mahaffie stated that he sees this going in one of two ways. Either declare the conference a Delmarva conference or keep the conference in Delaware and branch out to a larger audience.

Roger Barlow asked what the goal was. Mike Mahaffie answered that the goal is the same as before, that a successful conference is held which is vibrant, full of good content, with good attendance, vendors and sponsors.

Tina suggested not deciding in a committee meeting but opening the discussion to the DGDC list-serve for additional opinions.

GIS in Education Committee

Miriam Pomilio gave a brief update on the activities of the GIS in Education committee. The committee is actively working on a website that teachers can access for GIS education. A workshop with the Delaware Center for Education Technology is set for mid to late July.

Miriam noted that ESRI released GIS lesson plan books from the kindergarten to college range, and that Nicole Minni has been sent complimentary copies of the material.

Mike Mahaffie reminded Miriam to let the larger DGDC group know if the committee needs volunteers for the workshop.

Technical Infrastructure Subcommittee

Kim Cloud reported that some funding has returned for projects in support of DGDC in Fiscal Year 2009. Funding confirmation will be received by June 30th. Another subcommittee meeting will be held by the next DGDC meeting to discuss the path forward. Kim noted that a better understanding is needed of what people want in order to build something worthwhile.

GIS Day Subcommittee

No report.

Project Updates*Ortho/Elevation/LULC Project*

Mike Mahaffie gave an update on the various parts of this project, based on [a document prepared for a recent meeting of the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Council](#) (PDF).

The orthophotography portion is complete and the data is now in use. The 2007 statewide aerial photography data is maintained as 2010 individual tiles of 4-band GeoTIFF data. The data are served as an ArcIMS image service on the DataMIL. There are plans to create a DataMIL download site that will include JPEG versions of the orthos. The orthos have also been submitted to the USGS EROS data center for future download availability.

Roger Barlow advised that the details have been through the evaluation process and are in the queue to be loaded into the National Map. Roger expects them to be available via EROS sometime in August. He added that there will need to be additional work completed on metadata for the data.

Roger pointed out the success of the project as a partnership with the federal government.

The land use/land cover project is also complete. A standard symbology was created by land use planning and environmental resources managers under the leadership of the DGS staff and is loaded on the planning website. The update includes an expanded subset of wooded wetlands which, Mike noted, makes a huge difference in Sussex County.

The impervious surface data is also complete. It is in grid format and is available from the OSPC web site. Mike noted that he would estimate it at about 95% accuracy and that it is useful in planning processes if not in "hard and fast" regulatory work.

The elevation data is partly complete. The 2007 project collected data for Kent and New Castle Counties. Sanborn is working on the final part of its contract to complete a digital elevation model and a 2 foot interval contour data set. This part of the project is expected to be complete by late August.

A detailed examination of which data to use to hydro-enforce the elevation data delayed the project, but Mike noted that it was a useful and informative discussion. In the end, it was decided to use the 2007 LULC water polygons for hydro-enforcement.

There was a question about detailed information about the LiDAR work that technical users can refer to. Mike Mahaffie will check on and possibly post the LiDAR report submitted by the contractor as an addition resource for data users.

Roger Barlow informed the group that there was meeting of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) on June 23 to discuss 2010 ortho data collection plans that may involve New Castle County. The NGA is interested in Dover as well; Dover is one of the federal government's 133 urban areas. He suggested that this may provide leverage opportunities.

TeleAtlas Roads Data Project

Matt Laick reported that the data is out and he has been handling data requests. State agencies are directed to go through their ISOs. Others should go through DelDOT's ISO. Some requests have been held up; Matt is not sure why.

DTI eGIS Project

Kim Cloud reported that copies of ESRI software available to state agencies under the Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) are available from DTI. Version 9.3 will be available soon. Kim noted that the enterprise license agreement has resulted in savings for state agencies. A tech support structure is in place. The larger state agencies have a point person and Kim requested she be notified if ESRI kicks users back instead of sending to tech support.

Mike Mahaffie stated that OMB has plans to take advantage of the ELA to share licenses across a large group of users instead of there being isolated nodes of GIS use in a few sections.

David Racca asked if the ELA includes ARC-Info workstation and all extensions. Kim answered that it does.

Tom Steele asked if the 911 centers are completely covered. Kim answered that all nine PSAPs are covered. Tom invited Kim to give a presentation at the next E911 Technology Meeting.

Tina Callahan encouraged the group to increase outreach and training to agencies that are not using GIS and/or not taking advantage of the ELA. Kim noted that the best outreach avenue is the DGDC. There was a general discussion of different ways to spread the word more broadly about the availability of GIS software and the ELA.

Old Business

Report on 4/23/08 DGDC Executive Council Meeting

Mike Mahaffie reported on the April 23 DGDC meeting, based on the [posted draft meeting minutes](#) (PDF). The meeting was part of the GIS conference. The executive council approved the recommendation to adopt the pared-down base map approach by DataMIL.

The next executive council meeting has not been scheduled; members of the executive council have requested more involvement of Budget staff from OMB. OMB leadership has been informed of the request, but the budget is currently the priority.

Data Standards Subcommittee Chair

Mike Mahaffie stated that Pat Susi has volunteered to chair this subcommittee.

A motion was made by Sandy Schenck, seconded by Matt Laick, to have Pat Susi chair the Data Standards Subcommittee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Recommendation to Executive Council: GIS Data Clearinghouse/GIS Inventory

Mike Mahaffie reported that given the changing priorities of RDMS and the temporary loss of staff that ran the GIS Data Clearinghouse, the system has not been functioning as designed and that it is time to move to a new system of cataloguing GIS data in Delaware.

Mike has proposed making use of the [GIS Inventory tool](#) developed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). He reported that the GIS Inventory was designed to collect information about framework data and other important data sets and is easy to use. Meeting attendees were asked to register and put in basic information but not to duplicate entries. Sandy Schenck and Mike Mahaffie will suggest data categories to individual users based on their research into both Framework and a broader list of data categories published by the ISO.

Lillian Wang asked about metadata that was posted on the RDMS clearinghouse. Mike noted that that data had been harvested and is duplicated on the federal government's [Geospatial One-Stop](#) (GOS) system. He added that users should consider posting future metadata to the GOS system as well.

Roger Barlow asked if the Inventory has a new home. Mike Mahaffie answered that it will be managed out of his office in OMB.

There was a suggestion that the idea should be put out on the DGDC listserv before a vote. Mike Mahaffie noted that the old Clearinghouse system is not functioning and that it is important to start using a new system. There was a discussion of having a beta-testing period. It was also pointed out that the DGDC can modify its approach based on experience at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Roger Barlow, seconded by Mark Nowak, to recommend to the Executive Council that it accept the use of GIS Inventory and that there be a review of use of the system at a future meeting. **The motion passed unanimously** with some cautionary thoughts.

New Business

Discussion and Recommendation to Executive Council: Delaware Spatial Data Framework Update

Mike Mahaffie reviewed [a draft update of The Delaware Spatial Data Framework document](#). The draft update is posted as a series of documents on Google Documents; data stewards are granted the ability to edit their portions of the document using Google Documents.

Roger Barlow noted that the fact that Framework data are considered to be “public domain” should be made more explicit. He also noted that the federal government lists a national map layer called structures. He also noted that there is an interest in pipeline data.

Mike Mahaffie noted that the structures are a data set that the group will need to look into in the future.

Mike Mahaffie stated he would like to do a general review of the document, live with it for a while, and continue an on-line discussion before continuing the formal discussion at the next DGDC meeting.

There was a brief review of the data sets that make up Delaware Framework in eight categories:

1. Orthophotography
2. Transportation
3. Water
4. Elevation
5. Governmental Units
6. Land Parcels
7. Land Use and Land Cover
8. Geographic Names

Roger Barlow suggested that the partnership that funded those projects be recognized and added that the publicity brings partnerships in the future.

There is an outstanding issue around state and county boundaries and what agency has stewardship responsibility for the GIS data that reflects those boundaries. Mike Mahaffie will try to organize a meeting involving relevant state agencies to continue that discussion. There is also a desire to add to the “names” dataset, including names of public buildings.

Open Comment Period

Tina Callahan stated that the Delaware GeoTech group meets to help promote the tech side of geospatial using open source tools. The website is [delgeotech.org](#).

Mike Mahaffie reported that there are requests from Google and from ESRI for the 2007 orthophotos. Google wants to make it available through Google Maps and Google Earth. ESRI wants to use the 2007 orthos in their own on-line offerings. Mike is working with the legal team at OMB to research this issue. Roger Barlow noted that it will be important that any on-line presentation of the Delaware orthos somehow include acknowledgement of all of the funding partners.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Roger Barlow, seconded by Tina Callahan, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.