

## Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 16 November 2011

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Place: Maine Office of GIS, Augusta

### AGENDA

Attending	Present	On the Phone
Gretchen Heldmann		X
Bill Hanson		X
Ken Murchison		X
Vinton Valentine		X
Aimee Dubois		X
Greg Davis		X
Dan Walters		
Nancy Armentrout		
Michael Smith	X	
Christopher Kroot	X	
Judy Colby-George		
Dan Coker	X	
Jon Giles		
Steve Weed	X	
<b>Guests:</b>		
Joseph Young	X	
John Cassidy – ESRI, State Agencies	X	
Al Frauenfelder – ESRI, Cities & Towns		

#### 1. Introductions

#### 2. Approval of the 19 October 2011 meeting minutes – Chair Tabled by Chair due to time limits.

#### 3. Membership Update – Chair

- Jon Giles to GIS Vendors Seat #1 of 2 – approved – sworn in? – still needed to contact DJ last I knew.
- Steve Weed to Public Seat – approved – sworn in
- Marilyn Tourtelotte to County Seat – in process? – still no idea.
- Brian Norris to GIS Vendors Seat #2 of 2 – approved – sworn in – MS will contact him.
- Nancy Armentrout, State GIS Functions Seat – retiring 11/30/11, Nancy has submitted a letter appointing Joe Young to finish out her term Nov. 2012.

#### 4. AGC/PUC mapping update – Chair

A lengthy discussion of the needs of the AGC and the potential conflicts with using state funds to complete mapping that may be withheld from public dissemination ensued. There are stipulations under Homeland Security regulations that limit dissemination of utility data. Method by which data are required are done under “rules” and don’t require legislative review or changes to statute, but probably will need public hearing. In addition to Homeland Security issues, it’s also competitive advantage – need clarification of HS rules – contact Public Utilities Commission attorney Jordan McColman for an opinion. Chapter 140 is not black and white, there is room for interpretation of what data is confidential and what can be published. The three commissioners at PUC have significant influence of deciding data dissemination. There’s some

confidential data that's black and white. Several questions arose from the discussion needing answers: How much money is there? Where is it going today? Has a bill been submitted as an LD or not.

#### 5. USGS CAP Grants – Mike Smith

The request for proposals for 2012 CAP Grants has been published with a January 24<sup>th</sup> deadline for submissions. The Category 2 section, ISO Metadata GeoSpatial Standards, provides money to convert metadata catalog to ISO from FGDC and requires a 30% match. This could provide up to \$30,000 for continued GeoPortal development. Part of this could be used to pay for MEGIS staff support. Since the portal is capable of handling that format now it may be better to have MEGIS convert the metadata. Michael Smith offered that we could do both providing the tasks were clear in the grant application. Another option would be to provide for collection and management of data through GeoSpatial cloud based services, perhaps starting with a service into the Cloud for NHD data. The Chair was in favor of completing portal development and implementation prior to embarking on another internet venture. Category 4 Grants can be used for cadastral and ortho development and require a 50% match. Potential projects could be hiring a contractor to market the program. Another option is to develop and market an elevation program. However the consensus was that the orthoimagery acquisition program is more advanced and would provide more benefit from the resources. We don't want to compete with ourselves. However it would be helpful to get both up to same speed, and one of the things they want is to bring projects up to speed.

Christopher Kroot offered to will help write an application for a category 2 grant for continued portal development.

Joe Young and Michael Smith offered to draft a category 4 application to hire a consultant to develop marketing materials for the target audience for the ortho imagery program. This would help ensure a strong start to get the partnership program up and running. Since MeGIS is already developing web mapping services for the imagery it will provide the match needed for the grant. Since we don't have a written proposal for implementing a LIDAR acquisition program this can wait for another year.

#### 6. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups

- Coordination & Communication – Mike Smith, Dan Walters  
Knox County has put aside \$8900 for orthoimagery.

Ken Murchison with assistance from Dan and Joe have made some progress in Aroostook County, The county Emergency Management Agency has drafted a letter to County Commissioners there, and also some municipal people will be put on him to bring him on board. Downside is the budget is fixed until 2012 or 2013, two different budgets. Ken has been working on this with some success.

Steve Weed has been working with "The League of Towns" on Mount Desert Island to develop a collaborative effort for orthoimagery acquisition. He is obtaining quotes for acquiring imagery for the island under the assumption that the budget for this would be more money than needed to participate in the statewide effort. Acadia National Park is very interested. Since Mount Desert Island is about 35% of county budget, Steve was asked if they would consider asking the county to participate in the statewide effort. He thought it might be a possibility.

Michael Smith met with Chandler Woodcock (IFW Commissioner), Don Katnik and game wardens. A good discussion ensued regarding the importance of current orthoimagery to their work. He was asked to consider providing 20% of state's \$150,000/yr. He did not make any commitment but promised to discuss with his staff and get back to us.

Lidar – The USGS approved the Boards application for a \$60K grant to acquire LiDAR in the Mid-coastal counties, contingent on FEMA providing \$130,000 to supplement the \$10,000 committed by the Maine GeoLibrary Board. FEMA was not able to participate. So the committee is searching for other potential partners. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is one potential partner since they have an interest in this area also. Joe Young is working on a project that may provide about \$100,000. The goal is complete the LiDAR data for the rest of Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, & Sagadahoc counties. This will leave a small gap in the data covering the Chelsea, Pittston area. The total cost would be about \$300,000 based on an estimate of \$280/sq. mi. cost. If could get \$100,000 from the USDA, we could go forward with a 931 sq. mi. project. (Per email: The remainder of Waldo, Knox, Lincoln would comprise a collection area of 931 sq. mi. x \$280/sq mi (what we paid previously) = \$261K so with a budget of \$270K we could complete the acquisition in those counties. A small amount is left in Sagadahoc county 76 square miles would need an additional \$21,000. Tara from USDA mentioned an estimated ballpark budget of about \$100,000 and they were still analyzing what there priority for acquisition would be. She also mentioned Steve Nechero might be able to contribute some. County summaries (the remainders, non-lidar'd):

Sagadahoc 76 sq mi  
Knox 163  
Lincoln 177  
Waldo 591

- GeoParcels – Nancy Armentrout

A letter has been drafted for Judy Colby-George and Jon Giles to send to towns. This will be reviewed and finalized at the next committee meeting.

Mike Smith has received the first status update, will forward update to us (attached). Cheunzeng Wang found some data quality issues in some of the work completed and will resolve those and submit the final data. Tora Johnson is still working on her project and Mike Smith is confident the work will be completed in a timely manner.

- Education & Training – Vinton Valentine

Vinton has suggested that Rob Freeman of Eastern ME Community College take over as chair for this committee. He will talk with him on Friday at Educators Conference to try to get a commitment. The late fee for the conference is \$45. Saturday is online GIS curriculum development workshop, 12 teachers signed up for it, in the Cross Office Building, using ESRI products. Tora has launched a Maine Educators listserv.

The Ignite Spatial Maine even took place on 11/01. Reports were that it was quite a success. Aimee Dubois reported that there were about 35 people participating. Mike Smith and Aimee participated in the GIS Karaoke event. Attendees would like to continue as a yearly event and possibly sponsor a similar session at a MEGUG meeting in this format.

There have been two intents to plan, one at USM and one at Orono, for a master's in GIS (online at Orono). So those two plans are going through the process for review and votes up the chain of command. There probably will be no decisions until summer, and the approved program would probably not start until Fall 2013. Board members inquired if the program requirements and structure

has been double checked against the GISP requirements? Vinton was not sure if either program was checked but he is confident that they will count towards the education section.

- Geospatial Data – Dan Walters

- Land Use Codes Report – Dan Walters  
Tabled.

- RFP Updates – Michael Smith

The Return on Investment research project is underway. An initial kickoff meeting was held last week. The Chair shared some more info.

Parcels – The projects are in progress with nothing new to report.

The orthoimagery project has not completed a contract with Woolpert yet. The company did not understand the different ranges of collection areas and wanted to change its pricing. They gave a new price yesterday that is \$20 higher than the sq. mi original. The price cannot be renegotiated. So if Woolpert declines to participate we will have to go to the next bidder. (This is the very issue that Sewall Company based its appeal on.) Sanborn is the next bidder in line. Mike has already discussed the situation with the state bureau of purchasing. One reason for picking Woolpert was their strength of Maine knowledge (Subcontractors are Bradstreet and Kappa Mapping) even though the price was slightly higher. Sanborn doesn't have as strong ties to Maine but they will give us the fourth band of Infrared data with a lower price.

NASA Research Infrastructure Seed Grant – Vinton put in a letter of intent and would like the GeoLibrary to be collaborating institution. The application is for \$20,000 to host workshops that would create awareness and promote the use of NASA products. For instance, data that would be useful to the state includes landcover. The project would also look at follow up grant possibilities. If Board is interested, Vinton will circulate more information to Board members. Christopher K. noted that some of their data is useful but it's really hard to figure out what they have on their website.

7. Nancy Retirement – THANK YOU NANCY!!!!!!

Will probably see her at the January mtg. Chair thanked Nancy for all of her hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to share her knowledge. She always had thoughtful input and helped to keep ideas balanced. We will miss her very much and hope she visits often.

8. Committee Reports

- Financial Committee – Chair

No report

- Policy & Marketing Committee – Vinton Valentine

None.

- Technical Committee – Christopher Kroot

GeoPortal Update and Recommendation for Moving Forward

There are two primary issues, hosting and completion of the portal. The server was down but the student Nevins is very responsive and fixed it.

There are two students and one professor (David Briggs) charged with completing the portal development. One student has been very ill and home-bound while the other student needs more guidance and oversight. David Briggs is going to try to guide the still-active student and take over the responsibilities of the ill student. He is also going to try to get a previous grad student on board for completion of the shapefile uploader. There is renewed commitment from the remaining student to work two days a week. Mr. Briggs stated again they are committed to seeing it finished, but he does

not have control over the student's time. There is little incentive for the students to continue working on the project because it is not tied to a grade or other performance measure.

The chair expressed frustration and states that she would advocate for making other arrangements for completion if significant progress has not been made by the January Board meeting, and Mike Smith agreed.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding sending a letter to USM. Vinton suggested the letter should go to Bill Wells with a cc to Dick Thompson, which gives USM a chance to internally solve this.

The result was for the Chair to draft a letter to address the following:

- 1) Alert David Briggs that we're going to be sending a letter to David Briggs, with a cc to William Wells, Dick Thompson, Steven Houser - Exec Dir of Computing Services
- 2) The letter should explain the situation in that the project has been stalled for a year, and ask for response within a few weeks of a workable solution and resources needed.
- 3) January meeting – make a decision based on response received and the work done, if it has been significant or not.

Ken Murchison motion to accept steps 1-3, Mike Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nancy Armentrout asked: what about quantification of what's been done percent-wise vs. what needs to be done? Christopher Kroot – cooperative agreement mentions hosting and application development, so it is all laid out in detail there and boxes can be checked to easily determine percentages of what has been done and what is still outstanding.

✚ A motion was made (as stated above) to have the Chair draft the letter and send to all Board members for editorial review. Voted: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Vinton)

#### 9. Next meeting

Mike S. made a motion to not meet in December. Chris K. seconded.

✚ Voted All in favor.

The next meeting will be in January – elections.

#### 10. Guest Comments

John Cassidy noted that Prezi – internet based presentation tool – might be useful for lightning talks.

#### 11. Recommendations for Next Agenda

Elections

Mike Smith motioned, Dan Coker seconded to adjourn 12:17pm

✚ Voted All in favor

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 10am – 12:30pm, Cross Office Building, Rm. 400 Augusta.