

Maine Counties GIS Needs Assessment

Discussion #1

What do Maine Counties
Want for GIS (if anything)?

.... to serve internal county needs.

.... to serve the GIS needs of communities.

What do Maine Counties Want for GIS (if anything)?

- **What questions would GIS help answer?**
 - Where is growth and development happening?
 - Do we encourage it?
 - Do we discourage it?
 - How do we protect the environment/natural resources?
 - Can we improve our public safety?
 - Where are risks/threats?
 - Where are sensitive/critical facilities?
 - How do we respond to an emergency?
 - How do we integrate information from adjacent counties?

What do Maine Counties Want for GIS (if anything)?

- What do we know about a parcel of land?
 - Where is it located and what parcels are around it?
 - What do we know about the parcel and its surrounding?
- Where is our infrastructure? What's its condition?
 - Transportation
 - Utilities
- What is the most cost-effective way for towns to manage GIS data?

What do Maine Counties Want for GIS (if anything)?

- Is county-based GIS feasible in Maine?
- This study is not “selling” GIS
 - Determination of what is wanted/needed
 - Is it feasible to build/provide what is wanted/needed
- “NO” or “Nothing” is a reasonable answer
 - Useful finding from this study
- “It depends” is also a reasonable answer
 - Study should identify those dependencies
- ***If answer is YES, “how to meet the needs” will be pursued in the second discussion session after lunch***

What do Maine Counties Want for GIS (if anything)?

- What do we need to answer those questions?
 - **Data**
 - Layers
 - Attributes
 - **Applications**
 - Web-based tools
 - Desktop software based tools
 - **Technology**
 - Software
 - Web access
 - Equipment
 - **People**
 - Our own staff?
 - Help from other organizations?
 - Councils of Government, Regional Planning Commissions
 - ME-GIS/GeoLibrary: “Regional Service Centers”
 - Communities within the county



Questions & Discussion

- *We will document the discussion in real time...*
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Discussion #2

How can Maine Counties
Get What they Want for GIS?

What Organizational Models Could Work?

- **Counties fund and staff their own GIS office?**
 - Within MIS?
 - Another department?
- **Counties use resources?**
 - Direct support from MeGIS?
 - Staff hand-holding?
 - Deployment of county focused web based applications?
 - COGs, RPCs
 - “Regional Service Centers” (RSCs) envisioned in the GeoLibrary Plan
- **Counties use resources provided by strong GIS programs within the county (e.g. a municipality)**
 - For example, York County supported by Town of York?

How can County GIS be Funded?

Show me the money

- **Existing county budgets?**
 - In this day and age???
- **State GeoLibrary Support?**
 - Perhaps via an RSC model?
- **Outside Grants?**
 - Especially for things like homeland security
- **Dedicated Fees?**
 - Explored as part of the GeoLibrary Plan
 - E.g. “real estate transfer fee”
 - Town of York implements fee-based funding



Questions & Discussion

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