

Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday June 17th, 2009

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Place: Burton M. Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the May 20th meeting minutes – Chair
2. CAT 3 Project – Nancy Armentrout
Functional Specification
Promotion Plan
3. LIDAR Regional Project – Mike Smith
4. Strategic Plan Implementation and New Funding Possibilities - Chair
5. Subcommittee Reports
 - Financial – Larry Harwood
 - Policy & Marketing – Marilyn Lutz
GeoPortal System Management
 - Technical
Status of the GeoPortal – Mike Smith, Christopher Kroot

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday July 15th, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Burton M. Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

Maine GeoLibrary Board

June 17th, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Present

Nancy Armentrout

Michael Smith

Greg Copeland

Gretchen Heldmann (by phone)

Ken Murchison (by phone)

Paul Hoffman

William Hanson, Chair

Dan Coker, Co-Chair

Jon Giles (by phone)

Aimee Dubois (by phone)

Christopher Kroot

Staff

Larry Harwood

Visitors

Vinton Valentine, University Southern Maine (USM), Maine GIS Users Group (MEGUG)

Rich Sutton, James W. Sewall Project Team (by phone)

Dan Walters, US Geological Survey (USGS)

Joseph Young, Floodplain Management Program, State Planning Office (SPO)

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

1. Approval of the May 20th meeting minutes

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Smith moved to approve the minutes as written. Paul Hoffman seconded. The Board voted 8¹ in favor, none opposed, the Chair abstaining. The motion carried.

To accommodate schedules the Chair moved to item # 3 on the agenda.

3. LiDAR Regional Project

Mike Smith reported that he and Dan Walters presented the New England LiDAR concept proposal to the National Digital Elevation Committee (NDEP) via teleconference earlier this month. Also participating were representatives of Rhode Island, New Hampshire and New York. The New England regional project was very favorably regarded by the federal participants. The NDEP committee consists of representatives from federal agencies who use digital elevation data. They are responsible for establishing federal standards, sharing information about elevation projects and overseeing NDEP activities. Facilitating partnerships with state and local organizations in support of large elevation projects including LiDAR acquisition is an important component of the program. The committee expressed support of the New England proposal and many made a commitment to seek funds to help with the project. Mike and Dan will be following up with the agencies soon.

There is a \$500,000 cap per project so the New England strategy is to have each state project technically separate but coordinating with the others. Any matching funds are looked on very favorably. Non-cash matches in kind – elevation data for example - are accepted if they can be incorporated into the project.

Q: Can this be coordinated with the NAIP² collection?

A: No, the collections are at different altitudes, LiDAR is often flown at night and there are other technical problems.

Speaking of NAIP, this year they will collect infra-red as a “fourth band”. This can be purchased for all of Maine for about \$87,000. The vendor is collecting at low enough elevation so that 2 foot resolution imagery can be produced instead of the customary 1 meter resolution imagery.

Q: Will you be submitting the coastal collection proposal?

¹ Due to Board members arriving at or departing from the meeting, the total number of votes may vary.

² National Agriculture Imagery Program, which acquires aerial imagery during the agricultural growing seasons in the continental U.S.

A: Yes, and Maine will not be asking for a vector contour product, just LiDAR.

Dan Walters reported that there will be a strategy session next week between the participating federal agencies. They will be trying to work out a formula for coordinating allocations over the 6 New England states. There is about \$4M in USGS ‘stimulus’ funds for elevation data and (not to be forgotten) orthoimagery. There was some discussion of what areas were “underserved” by higher resolution orthoimagery – or any orthoimagery other than leaf-on NAIP imagery.

Q: How were the priority areas for orthoimagery determined originally?

A: We started with an analysis of population, parcel density, population density, etc. prepared by the staff. This was changed somewhat by the Board due to a number of concerns until it resembled what we have now.

Q: Is there private sector interest in upgrading/updating the orthoimagery?

A: Perhaps but we don’t really know at this point.

Ken Murchison agreed to contact large corporate landowners to determine their level of interest in orthoimagery upgrades, particularly for Maine’s Unorganized Territories. Mike Smith agreed to prepare a map showing the original 1 foot resolution areas (aka “Tier A”) and overlay recently received high resolution orthoimagery. This should give a picture of the “underserved high resolution” areas. The Board members were encouraged to talk to their constituents about funding for updating and upgrading the orthoimagery. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Sidebar

There was a short discussion of the replacement for the current Geolibrary/MEGIS orthoimagery viewer. The plan is to replace it sometime this summer with a new service based on MapServer, an open source internet mapping software. The new viewer will show all of the available orthoimagery. Downloads will also be available as before except those restricted by license agreements such as DeLorme imagery. Also discussed was the difficulty of using orthoimagery to do heads-up digitizing of buildings. Users are not paying attention to the imagery resolutions resulting in miss-matches of data. Also some users are unknowingly trying to verify survey work, done at a much higher level of accuracy, with orthoimagery. Possibly the Board could sponsor some education in this area.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Financial

There was no financial report. There will be a more extensive report at the next meeting.

Policy and Marketing

Marilyn Lutz was not present. None of the Policy Committee were prepared to lead a discussion. The Chair tabled this to the next meeting.

Technical

Mike Smith and Christopher Kroot reported on the status of the GeoPortal. They have been working with University of Southern Maine (USM) on the amendment to the Cooperative Agreement, specifically the technical specifications for the portal. As previously there are 3 levels of ‘functionality’. The first level is required on deployment. The second level is required within a certain amount of time and the third level is desirable but can be optional. A few of the specifications have been rearranged since the Ionic reviews. Mathew Bampton from USM is still waiting to begin – in conjunction with Tora Johnson from the University of Maine at Machias (UMM) – training communities to use the GeoPortal.

Dan Walters announced that he had finally gotten funding to hire an intern to, among other things, help with the GeoPortal. Specifically the intern would locate and help prepare municipal metadata and help register same in the GeoPortal and Ramona³, a GIS inventory application. There was a suggestion that the intern be from USM as this would make logistical sense. Dan thought this could certainly be done.

Mike reported that Anji Redmond at MEGIS has loaded all of the Data Catalog metadata into the portal. One DHHS metadata document was also loaded at their request. Gretchen Heldmann will be demonstrating the portal as currently configured at the Maine GIS User Group meeting this Friday (06/19/09).

2. CAT 3 Project

Nancy Armentrout reported that very few comments had been received. These had been incorporated in the current versions of the Functional Specification and Promotion Plan. These documents had been available on-line for viewing and also formed part of the meeting materials package.

A few changes were suggested and informally accepted with modifications.

- Functional Specification, section 2-5, change UTM zone 19 to “Board approved coordinate system” to allow Maine State Plane used by surveyors.
- Functional Specification, section 2-4, replace language on a single, standard agent with “Geolibrary certified vendors or pre-approved vendors”
- Promotion Plan, section 3-4, Municipal Promotion, last bullet beginning with “MEGIS/Geolibrary hosted applications”, add language to the effect of “explore methods of cost sharing”
- Promotion Plan, Introduction, second paragraph, to “persons interested” add “surveyors”
- Promotion Plan, Introduction, second paragraph, to “information about” add “zoning”.

Christopher Kroot moved to accept both documents as amended. Greg Copeland seconded. The Board voted 8 in favor, none opposed the Chair abstaining. The motion carried.

³ Ramona is produced by the National State’s Geographic Council (NSGIC) as a tool for states and their partners. Its primary purpose is to track the status of GIS in federal, state and local government to aid the planning and building of spatial data infrastructures.

4. Strategic Plan Implementation and New Funding Possibilities

The Chair directed the Board's attention to *The Maine Geolibrary: Strategic Plan 2009-2012*, the 'short version' of the Strategic Plan in the meeting materials. This had been prepared by Marilyn Lutz and Nancy Armentrout as an action plan for the Board. The Chair proposed to put an editable or "live" document on the Geolibrary website to be updated as tasks were completed or progress made. This was informally agreed to.

On page 3 of the 'short version' of the Strategic Plan, 5 workgroups are described. The object today would be to staff these groups and with more than just Board members. It was also suggested that each group have a Chair specifically not a Board member. These ideas were well received.

Dan Walters suggested that some group or team start immediately on the next bond and legislative funding work. The Finance Committee, traditionally composed of the Geolibrary Board Chairs, staff, MEGIS manager and others may be able to serve in this function. There was no definite decision on this. There were suggestions that bond funds and legislative appropriations have been unsuccessful and other funding mechanisms should be explored.

There was a wide ranging discussion of the workgroups and related topics. The results can be summarized as follows.

- Each group will have a Chair who is not on the Board.
- Board members are asked to seek group members among their constituents. It is important to have other than Board members in these groups. This will be brought up at the MEGUG business meeting this Friday in an effort to get some volunteers.
- The Coordination and Communication groups will be combined. Mike Smith and Dan Walters will be in this group as they are already undertaking "Geolibrary GIS Coordinator" duties. Gretchen Heldmann and Marilyn Lutz will also be in this group.
- The ILRIS group is already formed and will remain so. The group will meet before the next Board meeting to strategize and decide on their next moves.
- Suggested members for Education and Training group who will be asked to participate: Barbara Charry former Board member, Gordon Longworth, College of the Atlantic, Tora Johnson, University of Maine Machias, Mathew Bampton, USM.
- The Geospatial Data group will have intermittent work. Joseph Young, SPO will be asked to Chair this group.
- An editable document will be put on the Geolibrary website to track the progress of the groups.
- The appropriate extracts from the Strategic Plan will be sent to each group.

The discussion being concluded, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 PM.