Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday November 18th , 2009
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Place: Burton M. Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

AGENDA

  1. Approval of the October 21st   meeting minutes – Chair

  2. LIDAR Regional Project – Mike Smith

  3. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups
       Coordination & Communication – Mike Smith, Dan Walters

       ILRIS – Nancy Armentrout

       Education & Training – Tora Johnson (or designated Board member)

       Geospatial Data – Joe Young (or designated Board member)

  4. Subcommittee Reports
       • Financial – Larry Harwood

       • Policy & Marketing – Marilyn Lutz

       • Technical – Christopher Kroot

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday December 16th, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Burton M.
Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

Maine GeoLibrary Board
November 18th , 2009
Meeting Minutes

Present
Nancy Armentrout
Michael Smith
Marilyn Lutz
Gretchen Heldmann
Paul Hoffman
William Hanson, Chair
Daniel Coker, Co-Chair
Greg Davis
Stu Rich (by phone)
Jon Giles (by phone)
Aimee Dubois

Christopher Kroot
Staff
Larry Harwood
Visitors
Joseph Young, Floodplain Management Program, State Planning Office (SPO)
Vinton Valentine, University Southern Maine (USM), Maine GIS Users Group (MEGUG)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02

1. Approval of the October 21st meeting minutes
The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes. There were two changes on page 8, third paragraph. "The Maine Townsman" should be changed to "the e-newsletter MMA Today". In the sentence beginning "Other suggested venues…." add the "Maine Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO)". Aimee Dubois moved to approve the minutes as amended. Marilyn Lutz seconded. The Board voted 10 in favor, none opposed, the Chair abstaining. The motion carried.

2. LiDAR Regional Project
Mike Smith gave a detailed report, supported by maps (see attachment A) on the final ARRA[1] LiDAR request. The proposal is to fly all of coastal Maine to one township inland, townships on the Penobscot and Kennebec up to Bangor and Augusta respectively and all of Sagadahoc, Knox and Lincoln counties. This will be 3267 square miles of new LiDAR collection.

The total project request is for $2M, Maine's portion being about $635K. Matching funds for the Maine part are so far $50K to $100K from Nature Conservancy, $20K from the Geolibrary, $5K from State Planning Office, $25 to $40K from National Resource Conservation Service and $10K from Acadia National Park (to make sure the park is included in the footprint). In addition Androscoggin County has been flown for LiDAR by FEMA but it will cost $80K to have that fully processed to the required specifications. Other state matches are a possible $25K to $50K from New Hampshire, a possible $100K to $200K from Massachusetts, $343K from Rhode Island and none from New York or Connecticut.

On the technical side, deliverables would be
- 2 meter pulse spacing
- 15 centimeter vertical accuracy
- 3 returns per pulse,
- all returns classified and delivered per swath as .las[2] files
- 2 meter bare-earth Digital Elevation Model
- FGDC compliant metadata
- intensity data

Q: Can a town or organization add funds and coverage to the project after the grant is awarded?
A: Yes, it can be arranged if it is done before that town is actually flown. After that it would be too late.
Q: Is the funding being supplied for specific areas?

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[1] American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, an economic 'stimulus package' enacted by Congress
[2] A standard LiDAR data exchange format. The LAS file is intended to contain LIDAR point data records.

A: Some are, some aren't. For example Acadia Park certainly is and NRCS has indicated they may pay for Penobscot County to be flown.

Q: What is the smallest area that can be requested?

A: No less than a township certainly.

Q: Does this proposal include edge matching to existing LiDAR?

A: No but we can edge match the Digital Elevation Models ourselves.

Q: Are New York and Connecticut bringing anything at all to the table?

A: Yes, first the Federals are impressed with large regional efforts. Second their Congressional delegations have considerable impact on Federal decisions.

Q: Some states are using DOT funding on LiDAR, why not Maine?

A: Our MDOT was not convinced of the utility of LiDAR compared to other more pressing projects. However, discussions apparently continue at MDOT.

Q: Was there any funding from the Broadband Mapping project?

A: No, that was dismissed.

Mike Smith announced that Christopher Kroot was now part of MEGIS. He will be involved primarily with technical outreach to the Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Dept. of Labor to expand their use of GIS technology.

3. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups

Coordination and Communication

The Group has sent informational e-mails to those not already on the Geolibrary and MEGUG[3] list servers inviting them to sign on. There has been a problem with some people receiving the e-mails; they get code and unreadable ciphers. This seems to be due to default settings in their e-mail software. They are looking at ways to prevent this by explaining the settings at the start.

Gretchen Heldmann is working on the article "What is the Geolibrary" and should be finished soon. This will be sent out on the Maine Municipal Association's 'E-Newsletter' and posted to the Geolibrary website. Aimee Dubois will be working on the next article which will be about the orthoimagery projects.

Marilyn Lutz presented the latest version of the Implementation Group 'task matrix' (see attachment B) a digital 'wall chart' version of the goals and tasks. The original idea was to post this where all groups could log their progress. It was suggested that it could be posted on Google Doc, a free service where anyone can log in and make changes. Gretchen will look into using Google Doc. There was a suggestion that the Chair set some of tasks but it was informally decided to let the workgroups set their initial agenda.

ILRIS

Nancy Armentrout reported that the group has decided to change their name (and the name of this initiative) to GeoParcels. This seems to them more understandable than the acronym. The group is still working on their Mission Statement but should have something by the next Board meeting.

As reported last time, two subgroups have been formed. One is working on updated digital parcel standards and the other on specific goals for the initiative. The latter will be meeting this afternoon. The parcel standards group is working with the Geospatial Group and also with MEGIS. Mike Smith gave a brief description of the

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[3] Maine GIS Users Group

MEGIS project to get as much additional digital parcel data as possible as long as it meets at least the minimum standard. So far parcel data has been acquired from 27 additional towns.

Education and Training
Vinton Valentine reported that the group had their first meeting last Friday, with Tora Johnson presiding. Their Mission Statement will be forthcoming, probably by the next Board meeting. The meeting Friday coincided with one of Tora's conferences with high school teachers and other academics notably from Bowdoin and Colby colleges. The conference participants expressed considerable interest in the GeoPortal and in getting involved in its expansion and evolution.

Christopher Kroot gave a brief description of a survey of Maine economics and workforce done by one Dr. Charles Colgan from the Muskie School[4]. Among other things the survey identified Geospatial IT as a promising area of economic activity for Maine. The goal will be to develop college level courses that train the future workforce for developing areas of economic activity including GIS. This meshes well with the GeoPortal/education-training/distributed nodes concept. The Board should consider inviting Dr. Colgan to give a short presentation on his findings.

Geospatial Data
Joe Young reported that the group does not yet have a final mission statement but a draft has been completed and the final version will be presented at the next Board meeting. The group has a number of tasks going on simultaneously.

The orthoimagery sub-group, chaired by Dan Walters (USGS Maine Liaison) which is putting together a plan for the regular refreshment of the aerial orthoimagery. They are also reviewing the resolution, standards and distribution and cost of future orthoimagery. They have had 2 meetings and developed a very rough draft of a plan. The work should be finished by early January. The members are:
Dan Walters, US Geological Survey, Chair
Sarah Tucker, Town of Bethel
Brett Horr, Town of York
Greg Miller, Maine Forest Service
John Root, City of Rockland
Larry Harwood, Maine Office of GIS, Office of Information Technology
Brian Norris, James W. Sewall Company
Ken Murchison, Northern Maine Development Corporation, Geolibrary Board member
Tom Marcotte, Dept. of Transportation

Another informal sub-group is looking at a standard for land use codes as applied to parcel data. Janet Parker, SPO has done extensive research on this and despite efforts in the past there does not appear to be any system in general us in Maine. The Group will look at the known standards and propose one to the Board along with a justification for such a standard.
Q: Aren't there a lot of overlaps between towns?
A: Exactly. That's why we are polling the town assessors and others for information on what they use for codes and what they would recommend as a standard.

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[4] http://www.maineinnovation.com/mie/pdfs/Cluster_Report_Introduction_FINAL_040208.pdf

The Group is working in concert with the ILRIS Group in two areas. First in reviewing the existing digital parcel standards and making a recommendation to the Board. They will also be looking at the unorganized township parcel data maintained by MRS and LURC and the new LURC parcel viewer. Second is in the long discussed matter of combining the MDOT and E911 road centerline data. The most likely plan is to keep both sets separate but develop connections between them as needed. This is on hold until problems with the dispatch center data can be fixed.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Financial
Nothing having changed since the last meeting, there was no financial report. However the Board was reminded that it has virtually no funding left to operate with.

Sidebar.
There was a discussion of alternate ways to acquire and display orthoimagery, especially for little or no money. One alternative which has been used in other state agencies is MircoSoft Bing.[5] Bing is a new web search engine that also features map and aerial imagery displays. Microsoft will partner with those willing to pay to have them store and display orthoimagery. The cost can be very reasonable compared to other alternatives.

Policy and Marketing
Marilyn Lutz reported that Committee has been working on three policy documents; the conduct of meetings, geospatial inventories and publication of materials. The Chair asked if there was a policy on attendance. Apparently there was such a policy drafted some time ago but it was not immediately available. The Committee will retrieve it for the next meeting. Gretchen Heldmann volunteered to document attendance in 2009. Membership and attendance will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Technical
Christopher Kroot reported that about 80% of the first scope of work on the GeoPortal has been completed by USM. He is waiting for the exact details and review by their financial department.
- All 6 of the Maine State Plane projections requested are now working.
- The shape file up-loader is working perfectly well. No one knows why it was not working during the demo at the last meeting
- The remaining major effort will be the map viewer. This is progressing rapidly.

At the education conference (cited above) the idea behind the portal and the theory of its operation was very well received. It will not be hard to find participants wanting to upload their data/metadata including college

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[5] Here is a promotional site with demos: http://www.discoverbing.com/

and university departments. There will be issues of administration, stewardship, etc. , a 'learning experience', but overall it was a very promising development.

Q: Do we need additional policies?
A: It's hard to say at this point. We have policies mandating FGDC metadata and standard coordinate systems and we also have a policy on portal management. That is good for the time being.
Q: Is the portal "live"?
A: Yes except for the map viewer.
Q: I already have a list of functional problems, who should I send them to?
A: For now to Christopher Kroot or Mike Smith.
Q: The state plane projections are in both feet and meters?
A: Yes. Six altogether as requested some time ago.

Additional Business
The Chair reported that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the Office of Information Technology had been signed by CIO Dick Thompson and himself. There was one small change requested by the CIO, to confirm that OIT would take the lead for the upcoming preparation of the legislative budget request. This change was made in the agreement as signed.. Some Board members would have preferred not to make the change. The Board discussed the need to evaluate in future budget cycles, whether granting OIT a lead role in the developing state funding requests meets GeoLibrary objectives.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20

Attachment A

Part F - Site Location
Proposed Northeast Lidar Project Area
Phase I - ARRA funded coastal region

ARRA proposal area
New data collection - 10,130 sq. mi.
Data already collected - 3,342 sq. mi.

Total Area = 13,472 square miles
Total Coastline = 10,500 linear miles
Population = 20 million
Households = 7.5 million
Cost = $2,026,000

Proposed Northeast LiDAR Project Area Phase 1

MAINE

ARRA proposal area
ARRA
- ARRA requested
- AARA possible
- Available elsewhere

Total Area = 10,000 square miles
Total Coastline = 10,500 linear miles
Population = 22.5 million
Households = 8.2 million
Cost = $2M