

## **Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting**

Date: Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> , 2009

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

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

### **AGENDA**

1. Approval of the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes – Chair
2. LIDAR Regional Project – Mike Smith
3. Live Session of the Production GeoPortal – Christopher Kroot
4. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups
  - Coordination & Communication – Mike Smith, Dan Walters
    - status of memo promoting single list server
    - status of Mission Statement
    - Maine Municipal Association newsletters- Gretchen Heldmann
  - ILRIS – Nancy Armentrout
    - status of Mission Statement
  - Education & Training – Tora Johnson, Vinton Valentine (or designated Board member)
    - status of Mission Statement
  - Geospatial Data – Joe Young (or designated Board member)
    - status of Mission Statement
5. Subcommittee Reports
  - Financial – Larry Harwood, Chair  
2010 bond funding & legislative champions
  - Policy & Marketing – Marilyn Lutz
  - Technical – Christopher Kroot

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup> , 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,  
Burton M. Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

## **Maine GeoLibrary Board October 21<sup>st</sup> , 2009 Meeting Minutes**

### **Present**

Nancy Armentrout

Michael Smith  
Marilyn Lutz  
Gretchen Heldmann  
Paul Hoffman  
William Hanson, Chair  
Daniel Coker, Co-Chair  
Jon Giles  
Aimee Dubois  
Christopher Kroot

**Staff**

Larry Harwood

**Visitors**

Dan Walters, US Geological Survey (USGS)  
Joseph Young, Floodplain Management Program, State Planning Office (SPO)  
David Briggs, University of Southern Maine (USM) Research Computing Group (RCG)  
Alexander Peppe, USM RCG  
Steve Weed, Assessor Town of Bar Harbor

The meeting was called to order at 10:12

**1. Approval of the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Marilyn Lutz moved to approve the minutes as written. Gretchen Heldmann seconded. The Board voted 7 in favor, none opposed, the Chair abstaining. The motion carried.

**2. LiDAR Regional Project**

Mike Smith reported that the Broadband Mapping ‘stimulus fund’<sup>1</sup> still has \$500,000 allocated for LiDAR collection as far as is known. The project has still not been officially announced but it should be within a couple of weeks. The proposed LiDAR collection is universally supported in concept if not entirely with funding. Mike and Dan Walters are still working with the other New England states on funding and coordination.

**3. Live Session of the Production GeoPortal**

Alexander Peppe of the University of Southern Maine (USM) Research Computing Group (RCG) gave a formal presentation on the production version of Geolibrary GeoPortal. There were many questions and requests for additional demonstrations of functionality in the course of the presentation. It is given here in order with notes, questions and comments.

**The GeoPortal front page**

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<sup>1</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) State Broadband Data and Development Grant



### Updated banner.

- Does not have the *GeoNetworks* logo
- Added text “*Website in Production and Undergoing Improvements*”

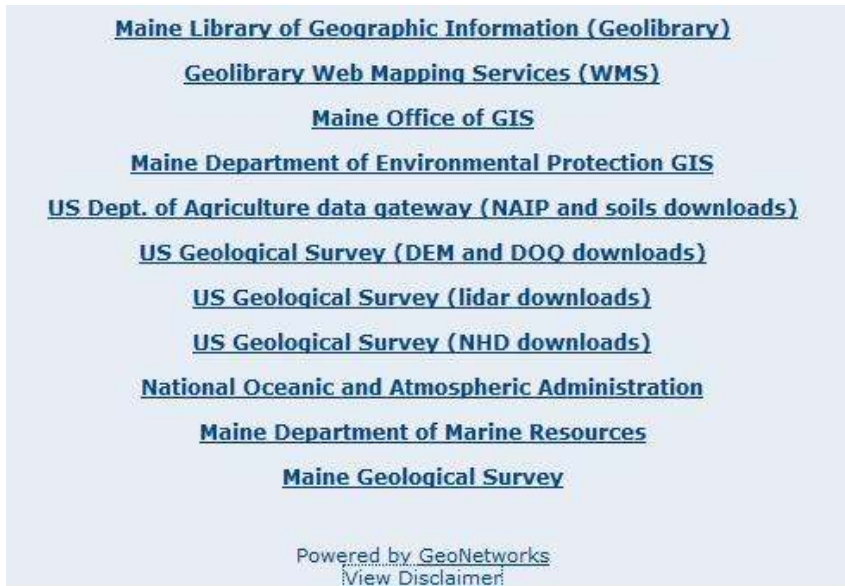
### Sidebar Changes

- GeoLibrary and GeoNetwork sections
- Some are links to external pages



### Links Page

New links page added to the GeoLibrary section



There was some discussion as to who should be hosting what links and which website should be doing what. It was the opinion of some Board members that the Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS) website should be in the background or drop out altogether and allow the GeoPortal to take over those functions. It was noted that all state offices have a website and was unlikely that MEGIS would not have one of some sort. The consensus was that this was an old point of difference and this discussion needed to take place at another time. Anyone wanting to add links to this page should send them to Christopher Kroot as soon as possible.

### Alert for External Websites

A warning will make sure users understand they are leaving the GeoPortal by choosing a link

### The Disclaimer

- There is a link to the disclaimer at the bottom of every GeoPortal page
- When the link is clicked, the disclaimer will open in a new window



### Metadata Upload Button

- Metadata Validator opens in a new window

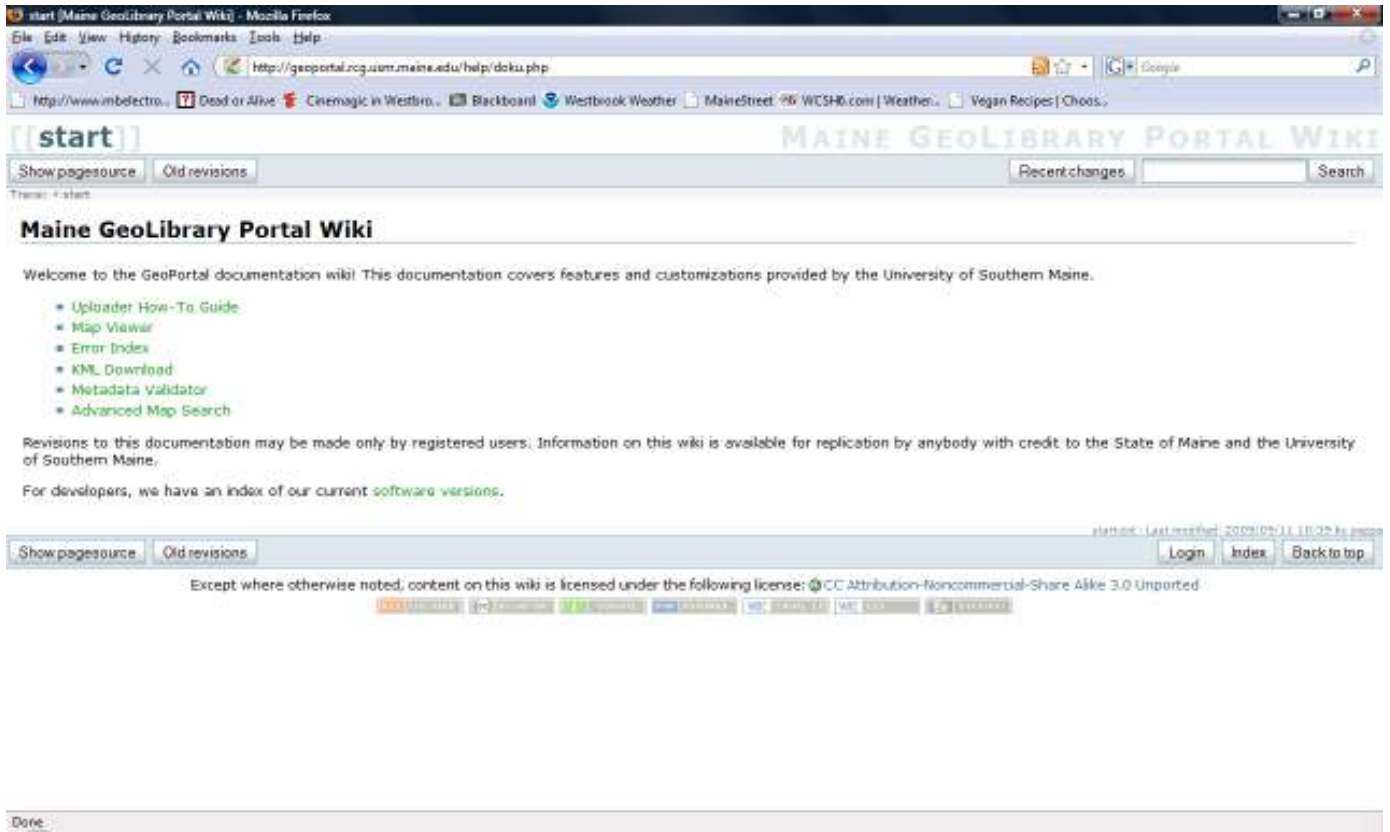
- Click “Browse...” and find Metadata



## Documentation

- New documentation in the form of a Wiki

- Can be accessed from GeoPortal home page or from the Uploader
- Basic documentation already written
- Documentation is printable
- DokuWiki—A simple online help site
- Only registered users can edit the Wiki



It was noted that the “About the Maine GeoPortal” document has been written except for some details on functionality. If those minor points are added the document can be published at any time.

### Alternative text

- Alternative text is used by accessibility programs and older browsers to help people view web pages
- All images must have alternative text for ADA and WCAG<sup>2</sup> compliance

### Clear Labels

- All buttons, tools, and icons must have clear labels
- This is an ongoing process, and there will be usability testing after development is completed

<sup>2</sup> Americans with Disabilities Act and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

By request a few ad hoc searches of the metadata/data were demonstrated. It was pointed out again that the data searches can only discover what is in the metadata documents. For example the word “download” would have to be added to allow a search on that. The regional search capability was also demonstrated; there was a minor problem with the index map display which will be looked into.

## Map Viewer

It was explained that the out-of-the-box map viewer is rather primitive and does not have all the features asked for in the second amendment to scope of work. One possibility is the open source and free software called MapFish<sup>3</sup>

## Future Additions

The map viewer must be able to...

- mark prominent features on the map
- print correctly to a PDF
- be resized and moved

Additionally, the map viewer must be limited to *only the State of Maine*

## Mapfish

- Uses OpenLayers like our current map viewer
- Has all the features we wish to add (and the price is right)
- Mapfish has a separate printing module which we can insert into our map viewer



## Mapfish Samples

- Map Cycling in Switzerland <http://map.veloland.ch/>
- R.T. Hicks Consultants [http://216.93.164.45/RTH\\_MF/](http://216.93.164.45/RTH_MF/)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mapfish.org/>

Users will need to create a user account to enjoy all the functionality of the portal. By request the metadata creation tool was demonstrated. The shape file uploading tool was for some reason not working on this occasion but it has been functional. Mr. Peppe indicated he would address this after the meeting.

MEGIS staff had reported that metadata uploaded was sometimes duplicated; an aggravation but not a show stopper. It was pointed out that there are known bugs in this version of NetWorks and upgrading would fix them but that would be expensive.

Q: Can the portal view Web Mapping Services?

A: No, not as such from 'the outside'. It can view uploaded shape files.

Q: Can we arrange to add 'downloadable' to incoming metadata.

A: Possibly but it is not a typical of FGDC metadata. We could probably add it to the state agency metadata.

Q: Can shape files in state plane be uploaded?

A: Yes as discussed earlier, in the "2 zone" format. (east and west)

There was a significant discussion of adding data 'channels' to the portal and how important thematic elements are to inexperienced users. As demonstrated, channels do exist as "sample group" or "kind category". More work can be done on this by the administrator pre-selecting data sets to fit general classifications.

It was noted that USM will be launching a significant public relations effort on the GeoPortal. The Board should collaborate as closely as possible.

The Board will be given access to the current iteration of the portal and submit suggestions for changes to Christopher Kroot. Christopher will be meeting next week with the USM team to discuss additions, changes and updates and the cost.

#### **4. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups**

##### Education and Training

The group is constituted with the following members confirmed:

Tora Johnson, UMM, Chair

Marilyn Lutz, Geolibrary Board member

Bridgit Kirouac, OIT

Cathleen McAnney, UMF

Gordon Longworth, COA

Vinton Valentine, USM

The group plans to hold its first meeting sometime in November.

##### Coordination and Communication

The group has completed its mission statement which is as follows:

"The Communication –Coordination Workgroup seeks to continually improve Geolibrary outreach relations with federal, state, county and local governments, academia, non-profits,



private industry and the general public by way of documenting and promoting the activities of the Geolibrary thru various media delivery methods. The Workgroup also seeks to educate people on the importance of GIS and using geographic data to solve problems, find new data contributors to the Geolibrary and obtain a wide base of support for the efforts of the Geolibrary.”

The Group intends to use one place for all list servers for the Maine GIS Users Group (MEGUG), the Geolibrary and all others. There has been some very negative feedback on unsolicited e-mails so everyone on the list will have the option of only receiving messages weekly if they want. It will also be quite clear how to unsubscribe.

The Maine Municipal Association has agreed to publish some articles on the Geolibrary in their E-Newsletter *MMA Today*. Gretchen Heldmann will write the first article “What is the Geolibrary?” for the November issue. The next article, which Aimee Dubois has agreed to write, will be on the orthoimagery project (specifically that the Geolibrary was responsible for the imagery). Additional articles can be on the parcel grants project, the LiDAR proposal and Federal/State cooperation. Other suggested venues were the Maine Society of Land Surveyors, the SPO newsletter *Maine Floodplain Management and Mapping News* and the Maine Association of Assessing Officers.

### ILRIS

Two subgroups have been formed. One is working on updated digital parcel standards. They met last week and members are Steve Weed, Ellen Jackson, Anji Auger and Patrick Johnson. The deadline for their work is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The second is working on ILRIS ‘Specificity’ or narrowing the focus to specific goals. The members are Nancy Armentrout, Mike Smith, Steve Weed and Aimee Dubois; the first meeting is this afternoon.

### Geospatial Data

The group’s mission statement is being written and should be ready for review at the next group meeting. Three subgroups have been formed: orthoimagery headed by Dan Walters, land use data standards headed by Liz Hertz and Janet Parker (SPO) and roads data headed by Tom Marcotte (DOT) and Nancy Armentrout. The group is also coordinating with ILRIS parcel standards subgroup. The next full group meeting is October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. Subcommittee Reports**

### Financial

There was no financial report. MEGIS staff are still working on reconciling the accounting records with the Geolibrary financial sheets.

The Chair opened a discussion on possible funding sources. The Memorandum of Understanding with OIT notes that the Board will “..lead in the preparation of a legislative agenda with a common message that addresses the funding needs of both parties...”. The Board needs to decide if they are prepared to again rally to seek funding from the State. The Chair and Marilyn Lutz had met with Jim Page, CEO of the James W. Sewall Co, and former Board member to discuss funding possibilities.

1. Can we form a working group to make a funding plan to present to the Board? It was pointed out that the previous bond request was still valid and could be simply used again all or in part. This suggestion was well received.
2. Can we designate Jim Page as one of our champions plus others such as Evan Richert<sup>4</sup>? Certainly and we should seek out other members of the private sector as the legislature tends to listen to them.
3. We need to coordinate closely with the CIO, Dick Thompson. Mike Smith would be best for that as he is the CIO's designate to the Board.
4. What exactly is the bond route, governor's package, legislative package, other? In this case we need to go directly the CIO. The request then has to survive the Governor's cut before going to the legislature. The legislature may make their own changes but it is rare.
5. The Board needs to communicate in effective detail the consequences of under-funding Maine's GIS capabilities to a wider audience than just the legislature.
6. The Board should capture as much grant money as possible. Everyone is working strenuously on this.

To-Do Items:

Larry Harwood will get out the last bonding request and forward to the Chair.

The Chair will contact Jim Page and others.

Mike Smith will see about submitting the bond request to the CIO.

Policy and Marketing

There was no policy report to make at this meeting.

Technical

The GeoPortal having been discussed, there was nothing further to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45

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<sup>4</sup> Formerly Director of the State Planning Office & instrumental in the formation of the Geolibrary.