

Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 15th , 2010

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

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

AGENDA

1. Approval of the August 18th meeting minutes – Chair
2. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups
 - Coordination & Communication – Mike Smith, Dan Walters
 - GeoParcels – Nancy Armentrout
Additional sources of data
 - Education & Training – Tora Johnson (or designated Board member)
 - Geospatial Data – Joseph Young (or designated Board member)
3. Committee Reports
 - Financial Committee - Chair
funding options & \$ amounts
talking points
time frame: next legislative session
 - Policy & Marketing Committee
 - Technical Committee – Christopher Kroot
Status of GeoPortal

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, October 20th , 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Burton M. Cross Building, Conference Room 105.

Maine GeoLibrary Board
September 15th , 2010
Meeting Minutes

Present

Dan Walters
Michael Smith
Nancy Armentrout
Vinton Valentine
Gretchen Heldmann, Chair
Kenneth Murchison (by phone)
Paul Hoffman (by phone)
William Hanson, Co-Chair (by phone)
Greg Davis (by phone)
Judy Colby-George (by phone)
Jon Giles
Aimee Dubois
Christopher Kroot

Staff

Larry Harwood

Visitors

Steve Weed, Assessor Town of Bar Harbor
Brian Stearns, DeLorme

The meeting was called to order at 10:04

1. Approval of the August 18th Meeting Minutes

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes.. Mike Smith moved to approve the minutes as written. Vinton Valentine seconded. The Board voted 10¹ in favor, none opposed, no abstentions². The motion carried.

2. Strategic Plan Implementation Groups

Coordination and Communication

Mike Smith reported that Dan Walters and himself are continuing to work with county and municipal officials on the Hancock County GeoParcels project. Although some of the town officials are apprehensive about making certain data available, they have been very cooperative and very interested in using the GeoParcel viewer. In fact some towns would like to post additional data for example local roads.

The Northeast LiDAR contract is in the final stages of completion. The total expenditure for the project is \$3.8 M of which \$1.4 M is stimulus funding, \$1.3 M is in other cash sources and the remainder is match in kind. Maine's part of the funding is approximately \$800,000 of which various Federal entities contributed approximately \$700,000.

Mike Smith and Mike Shillen from Photo Science presented a webinar to the New England URISA³ group about the New England LiDAR project. The webinar presented the history and status of the project as well as an overview of the technology and its capabilities.

GeoParcels

¹ Due to members arriving and departing during the meeting, the numbers may change.

² Unless otherwise indicated, the Chair abstains from all votes.

³ Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, a nonprofit association of professionals using Geographic Information Systems

At the last meeting, the Board had requested that the GeoParcels Group return with a proposed standard for Land Use Codes for parcel data. Nancy Armentrout proposed that at the October meeting the Group could bring a plan of action for developing the standard. This was well received by the Board. A separate sub-group chaired by Dan Walters will work independent of GeoParcels Group. The sub-group will eventually propose a land use coding standard to the GeoParcels Group which will bring it before the Board. The Group has a meeting today after the Board meeting.

Dan Walters reported that Mike LaChance is returning as a USGS funded intern. Mike will be working again with municipalities to help them submit data and metadata to the GeoPortal. This will not necessarily be digital parcel data.

Q: Is there a new digital parcels standard?

A: The GeoParcels Group produced a draft of a new standard. It has not been put on the website yet but we certainly can do that.

Vinton Valentine reported that Tora Johnson, University of Machias, has a project going to digitize municipal parcel data. She has a number of questions about the current parcel standards and these should be looked at in completing the new standard. As soon as it has been reviewed by the parcel standards sub-committee and the University of Maine at Machias team, the consensus was that the revised standard will be posted on the GeoLibrary website and made widely available. All questions and problems will be reviewed and eventually the Board will vote on the revised digital parcel standard.

Education and Training

Vinton Valentine reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow (the 16th in the same room, 105) to discuss the implications of the esri⁴ offer of GIS licenses to schools. Attending will be Tora Johnson, representatives from MLTI⁵, representatives of esri and other interested parties. It will be recalled that esri is now offering full site licenses for K thru 12 schools. Licensed schools may use, quite literally, any esri product they wish. Vinton also noted that classes have started at USM.

Geospatial Data

Dan Walters reported generally on the meeting yesterday (the 14th) of the Geospatial Workgroup. Two items were highlighted, the MDOT/E911 roads conflation project and the proposed southern Maine orthoimagery pilot project.

The E911 staff has one person working entirely on the conflation. There have been some problems in communication between DOT and E911 on updates of DOT road topology. A series of meetings have been planned in this month and in October to deal with the problem. One suggested solution is to expand the use the Footprints system to track changes. The DeLorme company is also proposing to join the E911 attributes to their own road centerlines which should be very similar to the DOT road centerlines. They are proposing to start with Oxford County as an experiment. A meeting is scheduled next Wednesday (the 22nd) with DeLorme to see the details of their proposal.

There has been a proposal to fly 2 foot resolution orthoimagery for Cumberland and possible York County funded by contributions from the federal, state and county governments. To that end there have been many discussions with individuals and organizations, the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), York and Cumberland county officials, legislators and others. The object is to secure base funding for a regular program of orthoimagery refreshment after which it can be expected that many other contributors will participate. There has been serious interest among the business community and they are also very interested in LiDAR collection for flood insurance rate mapping. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has

⁴ Formerly Environmental Systems Research Institute, makers of the ArcInfo suite of GIS software. The corporation now goes by this acronym.

⁵ Maine Learning Technology Initiative, the K-12 'school laptop' program.

approximately \$20 M per year nationwide for LiDAR collection and they will be cooperating with U.S. Geological Survey on contracting.

In related matters, the USGS is now cooperating with the Bureau of the Census on roads data. The US Dept. of Transportation however is not currently involved in this initiative. Also the USGS has begun using NAIP⁶ 1 meter resolution, leaf-on aerial imagery as a background to the latest 7.5 minute quadrangle maps. There has been some concern that USGS is not using the higher resolution imagery available but the NAIP imagery is the most recent and available state-wide. A beta site for Maine quad maps has been set up at this site.

[http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/\(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&care=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&care=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do)

Q: Is there a Federal standard for roads data?

A: Not as such no. There is something of an FGDC⁷ standard for road data but it is not used by everyone.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Financial

Talking points

Next legislative session

These topics were very briefly discussed with no substantive ideas being put forward. The Chair tabled them to the next meeting.

Funding options

In the matter of funding sources, the USGS Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grants will be available for application in October⁸. The Board can apply for the Category (CAT) 1, Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance grant, since it has been five years since the last one was awarded. This is once again a good chance. The CAT 2, FGDC-endorsed Standards Implementation Training and Outreach grant is possible but not as likely to be a successful application. Maine is not eligible this time for the CAT 3 or CAT 4 grants (Fifty States Initiative: Strategic and Business Plan Development and Fifty States Initiative: Business Plan Development and Implementation). The CAT 5 grant, Return on Investment (ROI) Methodology and Business Case Development for Multi-agency NSDI Projects, is particularly interesting because it fits into previous discussions about determining the return on investment of Geolibrary projects. Finally, the CAT 6 grant, FGDC Standards Development Assistance, is also a possibility with regard to the GeoPortal work.

In discussion, the idea of documenting a return on investment with a CAT 5 grant was very well received. The consensus was to create a small sub-committee to work on the application for a CAT 5 grant as soon as possible. Membership, informally, may include Aimee Dubois, Mike Smith, Nancy Armentrout and Vinton Valentine. Dan Walters volunteered to start work on an application for the CAT 1 grant. This would be up to \$25,000 with Maine matching 50% of the award with funding or in-kind services neither of which would be a problem for the Board.

Two other funding options were briefly discussed. First it was suggested that the Board look again at subscriptions to fee-based services. This has been used with some success in other states with web-based services. Secondly a bond issue was mentioned but somewhat pessimistically. It seems unlikely that the Governor's Office bond package would be a successful vehicle and a legislator-proposed bond is lacking.

Policy and Marketing

⁶ National Agriculture Imagery Program run by the US Dept. of Agriculture.

⁷ Federal Geographic Data Committee, an interagency committee that promotes digital data and metadata standards among other things.

⁸ For a complete description of the CAP grants, see <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2011NSDICAP/2011CAPDescriptions>

Vinton Valentine has accepted chairing this committee. He has taken over the list server administration from Marilyn Lutz. He has also brought out and revised the list of policy documents not yet completed and/or voted on (see Attachment A). On a related note the Maine GIS Users Group (MEGUG) has a new database administrator.

Technical

Status of the GeoPortal

Christopher Kroot reported that the portal is not yet entirely finished but functional and moving towards completion. There are a few remaining especially with the drawing time of the map and some difficulties still with the metadata. The map does now display Maine data layers. Some problems may be simply bugs in the current version of GeoNetworks. Christopher will send around another list of portal functionality to the Board.

Q: Has USM upgraded to the next version of GeoNetworks?

A: They have not decided yet. In any case we will not be paying for the upgrade if they decide to go with it.

Additional Business

Common Operating Picture

MEGIS has been working with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to develop a common operating picture using Google Earth (GE). Common operational picture (COP) is a military term meaning a single identical display of all relevant operational information, e.g. the position and status of important infrastructure such as bridges and roads, shared by more than one command. In this case the information is shared by all participants in an emergency; this could be a very large number at the federal, state and local levels.

For a recent exercise and demonstration MEMA is using a GE globe made available by a vendor. A GE virtual globe provides the user with the ability to freely move around in the virtual environment by changing the viewing angle and position. Different globes can provide different aerial imagery and other base data. The version of GE used for the MEMA COP allows for various formats of geospatial data to be displayed without conversion and has very robust security.

State government should have the 'enterprise' Google Earth licenses running in November. Anyone doing business with the state should be able to get a license. There are 8,000 individual GE licenses available.

ArcGIS Online

ArcGIS Online is an Esri sponsored website that provides access to online 2D and 3D base maps, reference layers, specialty maps, and task-based functional services, such as geo-coding. Arc users can post their own map compositions and data layers to be shared by others. There is also a web based viewer that displays ArcGIS maps and data layers without requiring a local GIS software license. Users can turn layers on and off and bring in non-spatial content such as YouTube videos, tweets, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30

Attachment A

Outstanding Policies

1. Conduct of geospatial data inventories annually (state agencies, local governments, academia?, and non profits?) (method and process)
2. Composition of committees, workgroups, interaction of members???
3. **Adoption and updating of standards; completion of current parcel standards and examination of standards needed for ILRIS**
4. Updating the data warehouse, particularly orthoimagery, parcel, uniform roads and addressing, and high-resolution geospatial data (e.g. appropriate timetable for data update cycles and establishment of data standard validation routines)
5. Set of policies for sharing public and private geospatial data: notification of new and updated data and access to that data
6. Policy on standards and workflow that addresses geospatial needs among local, county, state and federal governments, as well as not for profits, academia and the private sector

7. Coordination – policies that will be required for the Coordination Work Group to
8. Policy re: open space data standards (appendix d-9)
- 9. Conduct of meetings (public input, agenda items, voting methods) – drafted; on hold 2/15/2010**
10. Publication of materials, annual report, promotional material and minutes
11. Policy regarding “the public’s right to public data vs. a public agency’s need to fund its GIS operations”
12. Preservation of spatial data: Policy on the collection and preservation of data sets for posterity. (The Technical Committee would address the technology issues)

Outstanding Policy Revisions

1. Portal Metadata Policy - revise to include policy regarding topics and keywords; naming convention

June 18, 2010