**Maine Library of Geographic Information Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

Agenda:

1. Roll Call – Leticia
2. Review Notes from Planning Session and Minutes from Regular Meeting
3. Executive Director’s Report - Jay
4. January Planning Meeting – Board Discussion

New Business

1. Rob Hoey – “Wet Boundaries”
2. Doug Suitor – “NWI Update”
3. Other New Business

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Seat #** | **Attending** | **Present/Online** | **Notes** |
| 1 | Sharon Horne | **A X** |  |
| 2 | Brian Guerrette | **P X** |  |
| 4 | Nate Kane | **PX** |  |
| 5 | Vinton Valentine | **P** |  |
| 6 | Gregory Copeland | **AX** |  |
| 7 | *Vacant - Municipal Association* |  |  |
| 8 | Leticia vanVuuren | **P X** |  |
| 9 | Walter Anderson | **AX** |  |
| 10 | *Vacant, Reals Estate and Development* |  |  |
| 11 | Sarah Haggerty | **P X** |  |
| 12 | *Vacant, Public Utilities* | **-** |  |
| 13 | Aaron Weston | **P X** |  |
| 14 | Patrick Cunningham | **A X** |  |
| 15 | Mal Carey | **P X** |  |
| 16 | Maria Jacques | **PX** |  |
| **Staff:** | |  |  |
| Jay Clark, Executive Director | |  |  |
| Jon Giles | |  |  |
| Rob Hoey | |  |  |
| Doug Suitor | |  |  |

Meeting began at 10:00 AM

1. Roll Call – Leticia: 8 members present as shown above.
2. Review Notes from Planning Session and Minutes from Regular Meeting

The notes from the November Planning meeting were reviewed. The minutes from the

December board meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved by all members present.

1. Executive Director’s Report – Jay: The report discussed the new LiDAR acquisition project partnering with USGS that was just accepted. The 2023 report to the Legislature was reviewed.
2. January Planning Meeting – Board Discussion: Leticia and Vinton discussed the idea of meeting in person in Augusta on January 17. The consensus of the Board is that meeting in person would be good at least 2x per year and more if needed. All in-person meetings will also be shared with any outside parties via Teams as we have been doing. Maria will have a larger facility available in her new location in the Public Safety building, but the IT services for Teams are not yet complete. We will meet at 51 Commerce Drive in January with the same timing as November.

New Business

1. Rob Hoey – “Wet Boundaries”

Email from Rom Hoey to The Geolibrary 11/13/23

*I want to commend the staff at the GeoLibrary for updating the county boundary data in a timely fashion. The update included a correction to the Waldo/Knox County boundary in Penobscot Bay pursuant to LD 119 passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this year.*

*Of course, pending is an update to the town boundary data. For this update I recommend removing all town boundaries from the coastal waters of Maine. I have found nothing in Maine law that gives the towns jurisdiction over the coastal water. Therefore, our maps should not indicate that they do. It should be noted that the counties also have no jurisdiction over the coastal water. However, MRS Title 33, Sec 1213 established "Water boundaries" for the sole purpose of delineating in which county registry of deeds islands were to be registered.*

*I have already edited the town data I use to incorporate the recommended change. The edit removed the coastal water from the town boundary shapefile and saved it as a separate shapefile. I can forward the shapefiles if you think they will facilitate your update.*

*Rob*

*Robert E. Hoey*

*Geographic Information System Planner*

*Waldo County Emergency Management Agency*

*685 Swan Lake Ave. Swanville, ME 04915*

*207-338-3870, Fax 207-338-1890*

*Public Safety Call Sign: EMA 1603*

*E-Mail:* [*gis@waldocountyme.gov*](mailto:gis@waldocountyme.gov)

Rob explained his request to “remove all town boundaries from Maines costal waters” as described above.

There was comprehensive discussion on the boundaries, their general use, and the processes for modifying them.

The Board did not come to any conclusions on the matter and encouraged Mr. Hoey to stay in touch.

1. Doug Suitor, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Boundaries.

Doug Suitor Letter RE: NWI Update 11/28/23

Here is an update on our plans to discuss a revision of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI). During our 11/20/23 meeting we informed you of our intentions to begin a scoping project to assess the feasibility of updating the NWI. You offered at that time to add the update as an agenda item at the 12/13 Maine Geolibrary Board meeting. DEP would not necessarily be the lead agency on all the project goals. Our primary focus was to get interested parties together to discuss an update.

I would like to provide you this brief outline of our immediate short-term goals, with possible future goals beyond those.  Other goals may come out of committee discussions.

Short Term:

1. Assemble a committee of interested parties to outline the steps necessary to update Maine’s National Wetland Inventory (NWI) dataset. This is a deliverable task as part of an EPA wetland Program Development Grant.
2. With assistance of the committee:
   1. Inventory existing NWI mapping efforts by States. – 2023/24
   2. Researching federal wetland mapping standards. - 2024
   3. Develop cost estimates. – 2024/2025
   4. Build partnerships and identify entities to do the update. – 2025
   5. Determine feasibility of the project and make determination on continuation of efforts.  - 2025

Medium Term:

1. Select focus areas. – 2024/2025
2. Establish a funding source for completion of the project. – 2025/2026?
3. Adopt MOUs and contracts with partners to begin mapping efforts. - 2026?

Long Term:

1. Deliver an updated NWI data layer for inclusion in the USFWS National Wetland Inventory dataset. – 2030/2032?
   1. Update to include NWI+ attribution.
   2. Integration with the USGS 3DHP (NHD) dataset.

Thank you.

Doug

Doug Suitor

Biologist

Division of Environmental Assessment  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

SHS 17, Augusta, ME 04333  
[douglas.suitor@maine.gov](mailto:douglas.suitor@maine.gov)  
207-441-6616

Questions and comments from the Board ensued.

Mal Suggested that Peter Slovinsky of MGS, and Jamie Carter would be good to contact.

As explained in Doug’s email, this will be a long-term project and he suggested that it may be a candidate project for a work group.

The Board agreed that this project was needed. Doug agreed to keep the Board informed and let us know as things progressed.

1. New Business

There was no new business.

Leticia adjourned the meeting at 11:26 AM