

Strategic and Business Plan Development for Maryland in Support of The NSDI Future Directions Fifty States Initiative

Maryland Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Planning Committee Minutes

July 27, 2006

Present:

Chairs: Matt Felton, Ken Miller

Staff: Missy Valentino, Susan Wooden

Members: David Gillum, Richard Leadbeater, Michael Scott, Roger Barlow, Chuck Bristow, Virginia Peterman, Warren Campbell, Shahbaz Raza, Jim Thomas, Bruce Eikenberg, John Contestabile, Victor Henry, Charlene Howard, Mike Lettré, Mike Sheffer

Absent: Marshall Stevenson, Jack Martin, Tom Nasuta, Frank Siano, Shawn Wampler, Jennifer Gajewski, Jennifer Schottke

Location: Towson University Campus, Administration Building, Room 120

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. and ended at 5 p.m.

Topics of Discussion

1. Introductions

Matt Felton requested that everyone introduce themselves for the benefit of attendees who were not present at the first meeting. He reported that the PowerPoint presentations received from various Committee members have been posted to the MSDI portal. Committee staff are working on the format and content of a newsletter that will provide information about priority issues and will be available in print as a handout and also online.

Updates

Bruce Eikenberg announced that Ellis Kitchen, CIO for Maryland, will be the executive sponsor for GIS Coordination. The proposed statewide Geographic Information Officer position is “still on the board” and GIS Coordination will be presented as a strategic initiative by the CIO’s office. It is anticipated that funding will be available for 2008. DBM has recently established a PIN for a data coordinator. This position does not explicitly address GIS coordination, but rather data support for multiple agencies and projects. Bruce Eikenberg suggested that the Committee might want to consider membership in the ABLE committee to be non-political, i.e., not composed of members of the legislature, but rather senior executives with GIS priorities. With Ellis Kitchen stepping up to be executive sponsor for this project, the need for an ABLE to generate support for GIS coordination is less important.

Ken Miller listed additional funding prospects for the statewide orthoimagery project. Utilities companies are willing to contribute, but as yet there is no mechanism to accept their money. DNR is currently writing an RFP for that purpose. The MSGIC Executive Committee met with Pat Easton from DISDI and discussed willingness from the Navy for end-of-year funding contributions. Per Pat, there is a possibility that more money from state government will be available after October. Ken Miller drafted a memo to Governor Ehrlich in support of having the Emergency Numbers System Board contribute \$1-1.5M to the effort but do not want to give the impression that the Numbers Board will be the only entity paying for the orthoimagery. Other agency executives are encouraged to also send a similar memo. The estimated amount needed is \$3.3M.

Mike Sheffer reported that SHA is wrapping up 2005 updates to the statewide Centerline project and expects them to be completed for all state and local roads by mid September. The official kickoff date for counties' participation in the Federated Centerline Project is 8/31 at DNR. This project synchronizes the updating of county centerlines to be aligned with SHA centerlines and will result in one common, consistent centerline. Next steps include formulating a business plan for one shared centerline to make future updates less labor intensive, and creating mapping products. The cycle is "one year behind," i.e., updating centerlines for 2005 in 2006. Current staff is adequate for the cycle and is being supported by Towson University. The project's resulting dataset will be part of *The National Map*, so it has great significance for the nation, not just Maryland.

Roger Barlow and Mike Sheffer attended a DelMarVa Evacuation Management task force meeting. The group was informed about this committee and the GIS coordination project. Roger Barlow stated that a goal should be to mandate that all framework data be in the public domain. Funding must be leveraged and all participants need to be pulling in the same direction.

John Contestabile co-chairs the State Interoperability Executive Committee, which directs the funding of DHS grant moneys to Maryland. He reported that Eastern Shore counties are interested in acquiring the capability for Reverse 911 (use of computer technology to communicate information about disasters/incidents to area residents and businesses). He mentioned the orthoimagery project at a conference call meeting; no one involved in the meeting knew about the project. He stated that we have substantial issues to discuss with the Emergency Numbers Board. Chris Geldart (Governor's Office of Homeland Security) was asked to set up a meeting with the Numbers Board.

Discussion then occurred about the general lack of understanding the differences between 1" imagery, 3" imagery, etc., and the impact of the file size on data manageability. Mike Scott stated that lack of education about the properties of data is a universal problem. In an effort to foster more understanding of the issues, Roger Barlow suggested that one or more members of this Committee should consider attending a DelMarVa Emergency task force meeting. He will send the information to the Committee members.

Issues noted include: Numbers Board funded data are becoming out of date, but there are no current plans to correct the situation; there is a possibility of duplication of effort, which should

be avoided if possible; new data are needed to update and/or form evacuation plans. Relative to evacuation plans, MDOT is working on a project that Matt Felton could participate in, and the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) at University of Maryland College Park is working on a traffic modeling project that could include evacuation plans. It is possible that EMMA can be used to display this real-time traffic modeling information. While CATT's modeling skills are excellent, GIS is not their area of expertise. Matt Felton also mentioned that MEGIN and EMMA would be useful vehicles for modeling data on Avian Flu, which could pose a serious threat to the Eastern Shore poultry industry. Mike Scott stated that Delaware has implemented a system for its poultry industry in the event of an Avian Flu outbreak. Jim Thomas stated that the Department of Agriculture is collecting spatial data but as yet is not using the data or creating any new programs that would use the data. Rich Leadbeater stated that premises data are being captured, but there is little likelihood that other data are included. Discussion occurred on the possibility of offering GIS services to the Department of Agriculture. Warren Campbell stated that an effort is being made to encourage the department to consider the benefits of spatial data analysis.

2. SWOT Analysis of Maryland's Current GIS Coordination Effort

Matt Felton presented a PowerPoint that delineates NSGIC's Nine Criteria for GIS Coordination and Maryland's status for each criterion in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The Committee collaborated on editing the information. The final document is attached to these minutes and is also available on the MSDI portal.

Salient points include the following.

- Centralized project management is needed.
- There is a lack of outreach to local emergency management communities.
- Coordination by group effort is a strength versus a weakness.
- There is a lack of consensus about the definition of GIS coordination and "where it resides." If the coordination group is distanced from Annapolis (i.e., state government), there must be an individual (a leader?) who can bridge the gap.
- Maryland is embarking on a number of enterprise systems. Whether a threat or an opportunity, most of the systems do not consider GIS early enough in the process, if at all. GIS coordination located at the Department of Budget & Management would help change the planning process and would integrate GIS as a business process, since the systems are being coordinated through DBM.
- GIS coordination needs an internal mandate that could help protect against budget cuts and would garner broader, more consistent and active participation than MSGIC currently experiences.
- The payoffs to coordination include reduced effort and cost, and improved interoperability. Tracking the cost of data activities now will be a valuable benchmarking tool for 2007-2008.
- Interoperability can occur in planning, transportation, public safety, natural resources, and environmental applications, among others, and will further strengthen relationships among federal, state, and local government, metropolitan groups, the healthcare sector, and public health.

- As yet there is no entity in Maryland government that serves as a data coordinator; Towson University comes closest to serving that role for Maryland.
- In some states, the GIS coordinator FTE is based on one program initiative that is federally mandated.
- GIS should be a business process; being currently outside the box of usual business processes, GIS needs strong support from the top of the power structure. Implementation would then occur more timely.
- GIS is still perceived as complex and difficult to learn, although recent updates have made the software much more user-friendly.
- Political champions can help keep funding for GIS in the budget. The Technology Showcase is one vehicle for getting buy-in from legislators.
- State clearinghouse: If TU were to be recognized as the formal home of the state clearinghouse, would it be by MOU, contract, or a different method? A formal mandate would include other universities' clearinghouses.
- What is Maryland losing in terms of the Five Pillars by not having GIS coordination?

3. Lessons Learned from Other States

Missy Valentino examined the GIS Coordination plans for states that meet all nine of NSGIC's criteria, and the states that meet all but one. The spreadsheets and pie chart that track similarities and methods are attached to these minutes and are available on the MSDI portal. The makeup, locations, and level of authority of Advisory Boards were the most difficult parameters to track. Richard Leadbeater suggested tracking the staff levels of the boards to see if they are appointed or hired. He stated that GIS is often an executive transfer, and the incumbent has the position for several years. In most cases, states' GIS coordinating bodies were formed following an incident (i.e. a devastating hurricane), and some were mandated.

4. Possible Structures for Maryland

Matt Felton opened discussion on possible models for Maryland that includes user groups, coordination of Maryland's Spatial Data Infrastructure, and Advisory groups. Bruce Eikenberg invited suggestions for housing the GIO position and suggested that Towson University seemed like a good location since many activities were already occurring at that location. Discussion occurred about replicating the SIEC structure as a successful model for GIS coordination in Maryland. Currently, however, the SIEC is not housed in any location, nor is the Board of Public Works. SIEC is formed under the aegis of Homeland Security, with MEMA being the pass-through agency (the SAA) for funding. Parameters for housing the GIO include proximity to Annapolis, the position's nature as a traveling position whose incumbent needs to be available to all areas of the state. Who/what will be the policy coordinator? Will that role be filled by the MSDI? The user group could comprise a broadened MSGIC membership, and the advisory group could direct MSDI issues that affect all agencies and counties.

Rich Leadbeater suggested looking at other states' plans to learn the following:

- Desired skill set of the GIO;
- The number of staff responsible to the GIO, their job descriptions, and their status as hires versus appointees;

- Definition of the GIO position and criteria for hiring;
- Composition of user groups.

He also suggested looking at Maryland's systems, including the IT Master Plan, to learn the following:

- Who in the state is doing GIS?
- What is the grade: Enterprise, Basic, Low level?
- What is the cost of Maryland's data efforts in the past three years?
- Who contributes money to GIS projects?

We must rank NSGIC's criteria relative to importance to Maryland and we must discover mandates that can be linked to the GIO position.

Additional discussion on prioritization will occur during the next meeting.

5. Wrap Up

The SPC will meet again in August, date TBA.

Recording: Susan Wooden



July 31, 2006

Signature

Date

Reviewed: Matt Felton



August 3, 2006

Signature

Date