

**Minutes of the
Arizona Geographic Information Council
Data Committee
January 14, 2009
Arizona State Land Department Building**

Attendees Included:

Angela Wills, ADHS
Wes Korteum, ADHS
Nicole Brown, AGFD
Victor Gass, ADEQ
Dave Minkel, NGS
Tom Tyndall, State Parks
Kevin Blake, Yavapai County
Jana Hutchins, ASU
Brian Sherman, GITA
Bo Guo, GISTIC
Keith Larson, USDA
Gene Trobia, SCO
Boyd Larkin, Revenue
Tony Maslowicz, ASLD
Susan Smith, ADWR
Tim Colman, SCO

Committee Members via Teleconference:

Tom Sturm, USGS
Candace Bogart, NFS
Howard Ward, Terra Systems

I. GIS Inventory (Ramona) update – Jana Hutchins

Jana Hutchins mentioned that she and Tom Sturm have been working on this effort. She showed the Committee a spreadsheet showing the status of work on the inventory. Work is ongoing on getting county information into the inventory. Next up will be to develop a strategy for prioritizing and getting city information into the system. A general discussion ensued on getting contacts for counties that have not yet been inventoried. Kevin Blake mentioned he could provide a contact to Coconino County. Gene requested an action for members: If they have contacts for counties, please provide them to Jana. Jana volunteered to write up

an e-mail on this subject and send it to Tim Colman for distribution to committee members.

Action Item –Dave Minkel will work with Brian Dallager, Maricopa County, for Geodetic Control uploads

Action Item – Tim Colman will send emails to committee members to request local contacts for Jana to use for the AZ GIS Roundup.

II Height Modernization (HM) Update – Dave Minkel

Dave reports that four additional stations are being established; activities are ongoing in Tempe, Maricopa, Star Valley and City of Surprise. Eight stations are currently up and running. There are still four to five uncommitted stations. Dave is looking for sites for these in counties with limited infrastructure or budget to establish their own stations.

Currently the AZ HM team is working with Mohave County Flood Control District on a pilot project for a Real Time Network (RTN). A set of RTN guidelines will be developed, as a part of this project, by the NGS for FEMA. Mohave County will install an additional five base stations. FEMA may use these stations to better control geospatial data needed for their RISK maps. It is expected that it will take a couple of years to develop the guidelines.

Action Item – Dave Minkel will work to get a FEMA representative to talk about their RISK maps at the next committee meeting.

III Changes to the USGS mapping (graphics) program – Tom Sturm

Tom used a PowerPoint presentation to describe how the USGS is working to develop orthophoto-base graphic products. The USGS is beginning to make these in 2009 and plans to complete one-third of the US every year. Beginning next year, the program will be linked to the new NAIP 3-year cycle. The initial versions of these will have limited content such as roads, collar, grids, and names. One of the advantages of this short cycle time will be that content improvements can be incorporated quickly into the products. State-level partnerships will be an important part of the content improvements. Tom noted that a priority for the USGS will be hydrography and elevation data integration and improvement. He also mentioned that the USGS does not plan to make these orthophoto-based products over Forest Service lands. The Forest Service has its own map on demand system in operation that can produce a line map that is similar to the traditional USGS topographic map. The Committee requested that Candace Bogart report on the status of the Forest Service program at the next meeting. Dave Minkel asked Tom if the USGS is working on dealing with ellipsoid heights as part of their elevation data collection efforts.

New elevation data will probably include Lidar, rather than traditional DEM data.

Gene Trobia added that a LIDAR initiative for the nation is one of the proposed items that may be included in a federal stimulus package.

Tom reported that the goal is to produce 15,000 maps per year and utilize NAIP imagery as a base, which is produced on a 3 year cycle.

Action Item – Candace Bogart – Will report on what the Forest quads consist of at the next committee meeting.

Action Item – Dave Minkel requested Tom check on whether there is a technical paper on using Geodetic Control for Lidar data.

IV Serving AZ Imagery Data – Gene Trobia and Jana Hutchins

Jana Hutchins told the Committee that ASU is migrating the AZ Imagery Server over to a virtual server network at the University and migrating the database from SDE to ARC GIS Server (with caching). This should lead to faster performance and should reduce the cost of maintaining the system over time. Utilizing a virtual server network is similar to what State government is implementing. Implementing this approach now at ASU, will be consistent with State implementation of major servers. Gene mentioned that the transition is covered in a revision to the existing Memorandum of Agreement between State Lands and ASU. Funds are available for the transition, primarily from remaining contributions collected to acquire the NAIP imagery and provide to the Arizona GIS community. Additional funding will be required around the end of the calendar year. The Committee will need to address this with the AGIC Board in the Summer or Fall of 2009.

V GIS data “archiving” (State level – brief update) – Victor Gass

Victor discussed Dept. of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) ongoing effort to manage their GIS data archive as public records with retention schedules according to State guidelines and requirements. Victor commented that DEQ now must focus on archiving as “public records”. He has come up with some good information on archiving and has a working copy of his work to share with the committee. Bo Guo has experience in this area and volunteered to work with Victor and the committee on archiving processes. Bo suggested the use of geodatabases as he has done with Maricopa County. Angela Will from the Department of Health Services also volunteered to assist. Gene asked if the USGS had any policy related to data archive and records retention. Tom Sturm will look into this.

Action Item – Gene will set up a meeting with ADEQ and State Library & Archives.

VI Discuss and Prioritize Committee Objectives for 2009 - Gene Trobia and Tom Sturm

Gene Trobia passed a print out of the 2009 objectives for review.

Gene requested a review of the membership list and a review the 2009 Committee goals work plan. He wanted to prioritize, add to, or remove goals and objectives based on current issues.

Through discussion, the Committee decided on the following prioritized list of goals:

1. Street Centerlines – This is a high priority for many members. Tom Sturm expressed concerns about the status of the effort and what can be achieved. Victor suggested a two-pronged approach. This could provide a way to address short term data needs while still supporting ongoing efforts with ADOT for a longer-term approach to producing a State street centerline database.
2. Imagery – Focus on the AZ Imagery Server for 2009. This will continue to be a priority. Need to make sure we can integrate local imagery, provide access to current imagery and focus on making sure we are in good shape for dealing with 2011 NAIP when it becomes available.
3. AZ GIS Inventory – Continue effort as described in Jana’s report, above.
4. AZ Clearinghouse – Both AZ3D and legislative activities are moving the Clearinghouse forward. The Committee will follow through and provide assistance as needed.
5. Cadastral – Candace asked what is happening with cadastral data. Gene replied that the primary focus is on integrating ALRIS data with the BLM GCDB but that other objectives, such as developing a state-level holding of other collections of cadastral data (such as county parcels) was also a goal. A discussion ensued about cadastral standards, the characteristics of the FGDC Cadastral Standard, and modern tools that aid making different datasets more interoperable.
6. LIDAR/GNSS – National efforts at LIDAR collection are moving ahead with significant interest by the AZ State Geologist. Not much going on at the State or local level with Arizona. Tom Sturm suggested that the GIS Inventory was a way to identify any existing collections of data. It was decided that the GNSS (Height Modernization) has been added to this goal.

7. Archiving – Victor and others will be working on this new objective. It will be added to the list of objectives. Based on findings, this may be kept or deleted from the list.

Dave Minkel commented that that LIDAR still needs to be controlled to be locationally accurate with other geospatial data. There is a possibility to pool integrate LIDAR with Height Modernization activities as part of the Mohave County RTN project. A key issue may be that many agencies do not realize that Lidar would benefit from good geodetic control. Dave proposes bringing in a FEMA representative to discuss these connections.

Action Item – Tim will work with Gene to update the 2009 objective based on this discussion and post a new 2009 workplan on the Data Committee website.

Action Item – The Committee will review the list at the next meeting and add actions and a lead to flesh out each objective.

VI Other announcements

Brian Sherman requested he be added to the Data Committee. Done.

Meeting Adjourned 11:57 am.