

Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC)
Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2010

(to be approved)

The October 21, 2010 meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee was held in Room 302 of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Nick Nydegger, Chair, Idaho Military Division
Gail Eckwright, INSIDE Idaho (phone)
Gail Ewart, Idaho Geospatial Office
Dennis Hill, City of Pocatello
Diane Holloran, HDR Engineering
Donna Phillips, City of Hayden
Donna Pitzer, Bureau of Reclamation
Frank Roberts, Coeur d’Alene Tribe (phone)
Keith Weber, ISU GIS Center

Others Present:

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO
Bruce Godfrey, INSIDE Idaho (phone)
Jim Hetherington, City of Boise
Ryan McDaniel, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
Bryant Ralston, ESRI
Craig Rindlisbacher, Madison County/City of Rexburg
Nathalie Smith, ESRI

WELCOME

Nick Nydegger welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Gail Ewart moved and Donna Phillips seconded a motion to approve the August 19, 2010 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

<http://itrmc.idaho.gov/minutes/jgc/20100819.pdf>

IGC MEMBER REGISTRY STATUS

Nick Nydegger reported that the membership database, which can be accessed online, currently has 72 records. Another message calling for enrollment will be distributed to the Geotech list server, URISA and regional groups. Craig Rindlisbacher suggested adding an attribute to the database that would allow council members to automatically become members of their corresponding regions. Nick felt that this could be easily done. Donna Pitzer suggested advertising the registry on GIS Day, Dennis Hill volunteered to produce a poster to encourage enrollment. Nick asked everyone to help increase awareness and share ideas for contacting groups directly.

IGC-EC MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Nick reported that a nominating committee had been formed (comprising Gail Ewart, Scott Van Hoff, Gail Eckwright, Diane Holloran and Donna Pitzer) and nominations should be submitted as soon as possible for the following positions: 2 state, 2 open, 1 federal, 1 local government and 1 utility. These 7 available positions means the potential turnover in council members this year could be 50% which is ideal for continuity and new ideas. As in previous meetings, Nick encouraged those members standing down to remain involved until replacements were in place. IGC-EC may need to convene before the December meeting in order to progress more quickly with integrating new members.

Ryan McDaniel, Cooperative Technical Partnerships Coordinator for the Dept. of Water Resources, introduced himself and expressed an interest in standing-up as an IGC-EC member. Bryant Ralston (ESRI) noted that he would have to decline the invitation to stand due to other time commitments.

A discussion followed about the process for elections, given that the Council is still relatively small and not yet in a position for each stakeholder group to elect their own representatives. In order to move the process along now, Nick proposed that, once the nominating committee had produced a list of people willing to stand for election the Idaho Geospatial Council general membership would vote for all stakeholder candidates collectively. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would call for elections by the Council members.

FGDC CAP GRANT

Nick encouraged everyone to look at the FGDC website to view information about the NSDI CAP grant. The deadline for proposals is January. Gail Ewart is asking for proposal information to be shared ahead of time in case there are similar requests. Gail added that USGS is no longer supporting road centerline projects; they are shifting their focus to elevation and the US TOPO product.

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER PROJECT STATUS

Keith Webber reported that the comment period for the draft generic version of the RRC Business Plan had closed on October 15 and, along with consultants Bill Masters and Pete Crowell, they were now working on the RRC Business Plan specific to East Idaho. The Eastern and South East Idaho proposals or RRC entities have merged into a single RRC. This was a good decision after analyzing regional requirements. Eric Smith will present the process for creating the RRC Business Plan guideline at GIS Day. This will be followed in the afternoon by an RRC meeting that will be open to everyone. Although the contract work will be completed by the end of the year, the grant does not close until March so there will be time for changes if necessary. A request was made for a greater presence of the RRCs on the state website.

IMAGERY TWG

Nick made a personal observation about the acquisition of all framework and non-framework information, saying the GIS community needed to broaden the scope of its thought processes regarding consortiums which can be created within the state at any time to purchase any data in order to promote framework and geospatial technologies in Idaho.

Gail Ewart applauded this way of thinking, but noted that it should be “de-coupled” from the decision by the Imagery TWG regarding the 2009 cycle of NAIP. This decision not to partner involved careful consideration of the opportunity, costs and timeline involved – there was a shortfall of \$100K and the cycle had been moved up a year which meant most of the budgeting cycles for local governments had been missed. The data will be available to everyone for no additional cost and the suggestion that it could be purchased individually had been mentioned only because it was suggested by FSA.

Keith Weber reported on a presentation from Spot Image Corporation at the America View 2010 Fall Technical Meeting. The Pleiades 1 and 2 satellites provide very high resolution satellite imagery which could easily compete with aerial acquisitions for NAIP. Spot Image is open to working with large groups wanting to acquire this imagery.

Keith told the committee about LISA (Landsat Image Service Archive). With the use of a new grant, the ISU GIS Center will be co-registering Landsat imagery for the desert region of SE Idaho (dating back to 1984) and serving it out as normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) layers for every single year through 2010. This is a pilot project funded by America View. Keith will be presenting TIM (The Idaho Map) and LISA at GIS Day.

ELECTION CONSOLIDATION

Craig Rindlisbacher reported on discussions with the Secretary of State's Office in connection with GIS support for election consolidation, using Madison County as an example:

- Craig demonstrated the overlay of precincts, jurisdictions, tax code areas and school district trustee zones which results in over 600 polygons.
- Craig has developed a process model for determining the voting area for each combination, which interfaces with the voter registration system.
- If the overlay process can be made to work then it could automatically assign the unique identifier numbers used by the voter registration system. Ultimately, this could be used to produce lists sorted by street, map or other application.
- The data needs to be cleaned up in order to synchronize with the voter registration system. There are some alignment problems; in many cases the maps that the county clerks are working from are not current. This will be the expensive part of the process, getting the databases to synchronize and building data that an application could utilize.
- The processes behind the data need to be documented to increase the understanding of what is involved.

There is a serious disconnect in communication between the various parties involved regarding expectations and understanding what is involved. There is an attitude that the GIS community is over complicating the situation, this may appear to be true in the smaller counties where there might, for instance, be only two precincts. The Secretary of State's Office attended the Boundary TWG discussion and now has a greater awareness of the issues and the support that GIS can provide. Betsie Kimbrough will continue to meet with the Boundaries TWG. She will also provide voter registration system training to GIS professionals. It will take time for GIS support to be embraced statewide, but this will evolve. Ryan McDaniel suggested this would be an opportunity to write a white paper on recommended practices and to list pilot projects.

US TOPO

Nick shared information about the new USGS Topo, the new topographic quadrangle maps which are now available digitally online. <http://nationalmap.gov/ustopo/index.html>

VISITOR OPEN DISCUSSION and LOCAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

No comments or issues were raised and there were no reports on local activities. A query was raised about whether GIS Week will continue to be held at the Capitol. Gail Ewart would like feedback, given that attendance this year was lighter than last year.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM; the next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO