

Washington Geographic Information Council

August 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Department of Information Services
James R. Larson Forum Building Boardroom
605 11th Avenue SE
Olympia, Washington
Various Video Conference Sites

Areas Present:

Spokane
Seattle
Longview
Olympia
Bellingham

Creating an Online Network for Rapidly Sharing and Visualizing Data

Eddie Pickle, ERDAS Inc., presented an overview of ERDAS TITAN, a shared geospatial information network solution. The system enables multitudes of stakeholders to publish data into a network or consume the data within the network all in one online collaborative network. One of the advantages of TITAN is the ability to provide streaming access to data.

TITAN is a geospatial data bridge by which users can consume data from multiple public or private sources and use them in a variety of applications. It provides a universal translator to be utilized with the different client applications. Users publish information to others within TITAN but with permissions. Within those permissions, details on specific layers within the information can be designated separately. The data remains dynamic through the sharing process.

Ian Von Essen, Chair, requested information on how TITAN links with web-based emergency operations center (Web EOC) systems, since that is the standard within Washington. Mr. Pickle will follow up with that information.

Mr. Pickle offered to provide a free TITAN GeoHub™ to state and local agencies through November 30, 2008 to set up a practice GeoHub™. Joy Paulus, Department of Information Services (DIS) has further information about this offer for those who are interested.

Overview of WAGIC Retreat

Ms. Paulus provided an overview of the Washington Geographic Information Council's (WAGIC) fifth user retreat. Approximately twenty-five practitioners from the federal, state, and local government and higher education community attended the retreat. The primary objective was to renew WAGIC's connection with the Geographic

Information Services (GIS) user community and to get a better understanding of how WAGIC was going to support the state users in the future. WAGIC is the state's multi-jurisdictional technical advisory group. Many of the state GIS managers who participate with WAGIC also serve on the Information Services Board (ISB) Geographic Information Technology (GIT) Committee. The ISB is responsible for information technology (IT) project oversight at the state level, policy and planning.

Ms. Paulus advised that Tracy Guerin explained at the retreat that there is an opportunity for WAGIC to collaborate with GIT, ISB, and DIS and influence policy. Mr. Von Essen advised that prior to the retreat many WAGIC members expressed a lack of information about the GIT. Ms. Guerin's presentation provided some background and perspective on how WAGIC and the GIT relate to each other.

Ms. Paulus reviewed the presentation provided by Cy Smith, Oregon GIS Coordinator and National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) President. Mr. Smith provided an overview of Oregon's GIS program. Oregon has a Geospatial Enterprise Office along with the Geographic Information Council. Oregon has fourteen framework data initiatives with committees established for each. Mr. Smith advised that Oregon is facing the same challenges as Washington in determining how to manage a shared resource across the federal, state, and local jurisdictions. There are no mechanisms for showing integrated packages and no financing for maintenance and integration projects.

Presentations and meeting materials from the WAGIC retreat are available on the WAGIC website under the June 12, 2008 meeting link.

WAGIC Action Items and Discussion

Mr. Von Essen shared the following priorities which relate mainly to the GIT:

- updating the WAGIC and GIT Charters, organizational charts, and functional definitions;
- defining the relationships between WAGIC, GIT and NSGIC;
- defining the GIT's relationship with the Orthoimage Portal Project Phase 2 and continuation of the framework efforts;
- reorganizing GIT Committee meetings to be more effective and have a larger audience;
- obtain commitment of resources from GIT members to WAGIC so that projects could be carried out; and

- fill vacant slots on the GIT, especially those within the local and tribal governments.

Kerry Brooks, Chair Elect, discussed the top four action items:

1. Establish a program office for state agencies. There is an existing framework for a Program Office within the GIT Enterprise Architecture, Conceptual Solutions Architectural Detail.
2. Revise and update the WAGIC Strategic Plan.
3. Create a business plan for GIS in Washington.
4. Define the functions, rolls, and reporting mechanism and organizational chart for WAGIC, particularly with the Framework Management Group.

There is \$50,000 in grant funds available through the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) for the Fifty States Initiative that would assist in funding these action items.

Mr. Brooks advised some of the un-ranked priorities include:

- re-establish working groups; the Framework Management Group has been active, but establishing a more defined scope and possibly breaking the Group out into different categories;
- updating metadata statewide along with a clearinghouse update; and
- re-organize the WAGIC meetings to encourage more active participation. Ideas to accomplish this include e-mail list expansion, improving the website, implementing WebEx for the meetings, and scaling back on presentations and ensuring they relate to the agenda topics and current GIS issues in Washington.

Concerns were raised from the Council about the commitment level needed to complete the action items. Some items are labor intensive such as the enterprise architecture, updating the Strategic Plan, and creating a Business Plan. The Council agreed that the focus should be on those priorities that will provide the best results with the least amount of state funds. A consultant can be hired during the next budget period utilizing the federal funds from the Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant to complete the top four action items.

George Spencer, Department of Transportation, and Mr. Brooks requested the NSGIC and the Washington State Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

(URISA) relationships be defined in the new Charter along with the GIT and ISB. Ms. Paulus advised that she has been sending in newsletter articles on behalf of WAGIC. She also requested that current members of URISA share current activities of both the Council and URISA.

Ms. Paulus will take the lead for the CAP grant application process with support from Mr. Brooks, Mr. Von Essen, and Scott Van Hoff, United States Geological Survey (USGS).

WAGIC Budget

Ms. Paulus presented an update to the WAGIC budget. There is a carry over of \$17,000 into next year. Part of that is from a \$5000 carry over from last year. DIS established a separate cost center for WAGIC last year which allowed for more specific tracking of expenditures and income. The final budget from last year and the projected budget for this year will be added to the WAGIC website.

USGS Funded Projects

Mr. Van Hoff provided a review of some of the funding projects that USGS completed in Washington State this year. Washington had a very successful year in terms of getting data for urban areas for the National Geospatial Defense Agency and also supporting science partners in hydrology and biology study areas. Several Ortho and LIDAR Projects were conducted in San Juan, Olympia, Quinault Tribal, and the upper Nisqually River area. Washington received a total of about \$240,000 for projects. Nationally USGS funding for geospatial data collection averaged about \$35,000 per state.

The success of this year's projects was greatly due to the planning conducted ahead of time. Mr. Van Hoff is following up on the funding and completion of these projects as well as planning for future projects.

2009 NAIP Meeting and Upcoming GIT Meeting

Ms. Paulus provided an update of the Washington National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). Many of the participants with the Washington NAIP efforts in 2006 are assisting with standing up the Orthoimage Portal. The Orthoimage Portal Project was accepted by the GIT and placed in a phased production stage but has not been announced to the public.

Washington has been selected by NAIP for the 2009 flight. The flight is contingent on funding. The consortium has been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the base funding model. One third will come from the farm services agencies, a third from the national resource conservation service, and a third from other partners. The other partners consist of state, tribal, county, and city agencies;

universities; and federal agencies such as USGS, the forest service, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The base product is a one-meter color flight conducted across the entire state during the peak growing season. There will be some buy-ups available. There is discussion about utilizing a digital camera, getting three bands, 18 inch resolution, etc. The buy-ups will be funded separately.

Department of Natural Resources is developing some information materials and web page content regarding the flight. Contact has been re-established with Shelly Snyder and Ron McFarland to recruit their services again for the 2009 flight.

Closing Site Roundtable and Adjournment

Ms. Paulus advised that the next GIT Committee Meeting will be September 18, 2008. The agenda includes the Orthoimage Portal Project, Phase Two; an update from the Parcels Project, the WAGIC Retreat and action items; and the revised GIT Charter.

Ms. Paulus introduced Walt Jones with Department of Personnel. Mr. Jones is working on expanding the GIS training program. He requested suggestions and requests from WAGIC on what they would like to see in future GIS training programs.

Meeting was adjourned.