

July 13, 1999

Attendance –

Jeff Peake – UNO
Jim Lacy – CALMIT/UNL
Larry Zink – State GIS Steering Committee Coordinator
Scott Richert – Lancaster County Assessor's Office
John Erickson – Health and Human Services
Ed Kelley - Department of Roads
Kelley Klenke – USDA/NRCS
John Beran – SSO

Agenda

1. Membership Letter
2. Regional Meeting Status
3. GIS Day Activities
4. Organizational Task Timeline
5. Membership Committee Report
6. List Serv Consolidation
7. Other Association Business
 - a. Nebraska Information Technology Commission
 - b. Western Governor GIS Council
 - c. ESRI Conference

Membership Letter

President Scott Richert handed out a copy of a letter that is to be emailed to all of the membership. The letter was to thank the membership for their support and to inform them on the results of the Association questionnaire, the GIS/LIS listserv, GIS Day, the upcoming regional event, and the GIS Update newsletter. Larry Zink asked if there were to be more of these letters because the draft letter mentions "in this issue." Scott Richert said there would be more added to the letter, but there would not necessarily be another issue.

1. Jim Lacy had suggested that the idea of the main Nebraska listservers be joined into the Association listserv be discarded. Larry and the rest of the board agreed that the one of the perks of the Association was a dedicated listserv. The proposal to join listservers together was dropped. Larry Zink asked that an unsubscribe tag be added to the end of the listserv messages.
2. For GIS Day, Scott Richert announced that Lancaster County would be holding an open house on that day and asked if any other offices would be presenting something. Jeff Peake told the board that University of Nebraska Omaha would also stage an event for GIS Day. It would be held at the Durham Science Center on the UNO campus. Ideas were tossed around as to how to get the Association involved in GIS Day. Jim Lacy suggested producing voter district maps for legislators. Kelley Klenke proposed to send

out invitations to senators/legislators to attend GIS Day. Larry Zink thought that exploratory displays of GIS uses could be set up in the capitol rotunda. Larry also thought that the Association should have some sort of evolving membership form ready by that time. Just something to be visible to GIS users.

3. Larry would like to add regional contacts to part four of the letter. Larry felt that maybe that would spark interest in planning events in other regions of Nebraska.

Other than possible adding a section on GIS jobs in Nebraska and adding the Association web-page address, nobody else needed anything added to the letter.

Regional Meeting Status:

Jeff Peake informed the board that he was going ahead with his regional meeting. It would be a teleconference event so it could be statewide. The meeting will be using NebSat 3. This will allow the meeting to be viewed real-time statewide even though it will be held on the UNO campus. Other downlinks will be available in Kearny and Scottsbluff. Jeff is planning for a two-hour block in the afternoon sometime in August. The cost would be around \$100 for the meeting and about \$12 an hour for all technical support at the downlinks.

If a time could not be scheduled before classes started, Jeff would probably move the meeting to Mahoney State Park. Rooms at Mahoney are approximately \$50. It was suggested to invite ESRI to demonstrate ArcInfo 8. Concerns were made that the meeting could become an ESRI sales event, but most of the board felt there would be a lot of interest in the new ESRI product. Kelley Klenke said that the NRCS could be an alternative site. Jeff said that if the other regions were interested in participating all they would have to do is show up at the nearest satellite downlink, with maybe one person to advertise the meeting in their area. Other western alternative sites were suggested but concerns were made that Grand Island meeting would make it an all day event for some people. Larry felt the Association needed to keep the meetings as regional as possible to keep them productive. Jeff would also tape the event for rebroadcast and distribution. Larry suggested that the meeting be kept to about an hour to see how many people would get involved. Longer meeting could be organized later.

Jeff said that he would call people in Grand Island and Scottsbluff to find a volunteer to organize the downlink in their area, and call ESRI to see if they would be interested in coming to talk at the meeting. Scott gave Jeff one week to see if the telecast would work, then revert to another location at a later date. If nobody in Grand Island or Scottsbluff were interested the just have the meeting at Mahoney.

GIS Day Activities:

A discussion was made as to whether GIS Day was a one-time event or was it to become an annual celebration. Jeff suggested the creation of the voter precinct maps and Jim suggested that they be sent to the individual legislators. Kelly said that she would find the names of two particular legislators that should be focused on due to their current interest in GIS. Larry proposed a general increase in awareness in GIS was needed in the legislature and the

development of allies in the legislature. Jim suggested sending senators a map of their district, maybe a mug, a short letter explaining GIS and a way for them to contact the Association.

Organizational Task Timeline:

The task timeline would be put together in a table format. Any additional information should be directed to Scott.

Membership Committee Report:

Kelley informed the board that the membership form is now available on the Association web site. Jim said that there had been two people that signed up before it was even advertised. Larry thought that Scott's letter could address how to join the Association. Jim announced that he could merge the GIS news server membership list and the Association server list to get everybody in the Association on the GIS news server. Jim also noted that the merging of these two lists would not automatically add people to the Association membership.

Kelley envisions the membership committee as an agency to recruit new membership and to resign current members. Kelley asked to send out messages to remind people that even though they are subscribed to the listserv, they are not necessarily members of the Association.

List Serv Consolidation:

Had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Other Business:

Scott gave a mini presentation on the Woods Charitable Trust. The Trust is a group involved in elementary and middle school education and could be a future interest of the Association. More information could be received from Scott.

Larry suggested a brochure like the Wisconsin Association should be produced by the Nebraska Association to inform people on the benefits of GIS. Larry also suggested the Association could find a spokesperson to promote and motivate the Association. Larry added that Association bulletins could be placed in the Steering Committee's agenda.

Jim suggested that eventually the board should get somebody as a voting member of the Steering Committee.

1. Larry informed the board about the NITC, a conglomeration of committees and groups of IT professionals in Nebraska. Larry felt the Association could help influence the NITC on some standards or guidelines, and needed to do some creative thinking on suggestions that could be made towards IT decisions in the state. The NITC focuses on three areas: Education, Legislative decisions, and staff/purchasing decisions. Larry will keep the board updated on NITC news.

2. Josh Lear of the NRC can be contacted for information on the Western Governors GIS Council. The goals of the council are to observe how western state governors are affected by GIS decisions.

Treasurers Report:

Jim reported that nothing has really changed since last meeting.

Data Sharing Cooperative:

Larry would like the board to think about the Cooperative. Agencies would sign an agreement to share data with other members. The goal of the cooperative is to help maintain more data and correct errors found in other members data. Data can be stored in a "clearinghouse" to be sold on certain terms. Larry would like both the Association and the Steering Committee to monitor this group and decide if it could work for Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 12, 1999 in room 397A at the Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska. Visitor parking is available on the west side of the first level of the Federal parking garage. (Located on the south side of "O" St. between 15th & 16th Streets.)

Meeting Minutes submitted by John Beran, State Surveyors Office.