

**NRIS Advisory Committee
9:00 a.m., June 2, 2009
Montana State Library,
Grizzly Conference Room
1515 E. Sixth Ave., Helena**

ATTENDEES:

Members: Damon Murdo, MHS, Janet Hess-Herbert, FWP, Stan Sternberg, MDT, Robin Trenbeath, DOA, and Dan Sullivan, Ag.

Staff: Darlene Staffeldt, Allan Cox, Sue Crispin, Gerry Daumiller, Jeff Dobb, Steve Jeffery, Jim Kammerer, Duane Lund, Diane Papineau, Sara Groves, and Jennie Stapp.

Visitors: Chris Stump, DEQ, Deb Wambach, MDT, Lorie Palm, CEIC, Joyce Funda, MSL Commissioner

Chairman Hammer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Introductions of attendees and staff.

Montana GIS Portal Update

This is viewed as our “core function” in the clearing house role.

3.1 Portal in production. Staff is working to develop the 9.3 Portal which was released by ESRI last fall. 9.3 has improved search capabilities which improves search results with more reliable sorting. This version will also have more integration with other NRIS applications such as the topofinders and the Digital Atals.

This tool is only as valuable as the data in it so it must be used by publishers.

Stewardship update

Hydrography

Duane Lund has been improving the National Hydrography Dataset for Montana making corrections to flow directions and line connections. This has now been completed for the entire state though the data will continue to improve as it gets more use from other agencies including DNRC, DEQ, FWP and the Forest Service.

Duane Lund and Evan Hammer attending a meeting of NHD state stewards in Denver in April. Common concerns shared by many states include the need to incorporate water rights and fishery needs.

NRIS applied for and received a FY2010 MLIAC grant for NHD stewardship outreach. Funds will be used for more training, to reinvigorate an NHD Work Group and for more meetings with stakeholders to increase the number of NHD users.

Orthoimagery

As co-stewards of imagery, NRIS and the Base Map Service Center submitted a joint grant to MLIAC to fund the 2009 NAIP. Included in the grant is a timeline to develop an imagery stewardship theme. Again, an imagery work group needs to be reinvigorated. Also needed in the imagery plan is a policy to manage archival imagery.

Stimulus Mapping

NRIS is currently testing a free online mapping application made available by ESRI which can be used to report stimulus fund expenditures at the county level. When released, this application will be made available through the Governor's recovery.mt.gov site. Additionally, NRIS and the Base Map Service Center co-authored a cartographic standard to be followed by all agencies who present maps on the recovery site.

Base Map Development

There is a recognized need for Montana base maps which can be consumed by GIS users for a variety of purposes including map services. A number of "base maps" are currently in use including the Portal base map and the Cadastral base map. A user survey would be helpful to determine which are the most useful. NRIS and the Base Map Service Center are currently drafting both a survey and four or five base map options for users to react to. These will be the basis for standard base maps supported around the state.

Collection Development Policy

NRIS staff are currently conducting a data inventory. This will be analyzed and used to develop a GIS collection development policy which will include archival data. This collection development policy will be integrated into the wider Montana State Library Collection Development Policy which is approved by the MSL Commission.

There was a request to have a regular NHP update as an agenda item.

Framework Assistance Document

There is a natural division in the current Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure between the physical and human geography. But there is also a need for careful integration, i.e. where roads and bridges (Transportation) overlay rivers (NHD)

Additionally, there are many requirements of MSDI theme stewards that are going unmet for a variety of reasons. NRIS and the BMSC propose that they take on the role as steward assistants with NRIS serving as the assistants for the stewards in the physical geography cluster. This assistance may include developing a theme web site, or map and web services for theme data.

There was a question about how the themes were categorized. The divisions were based on the types of data, the rate of change of certain types of data as well as staff who have

expertise to work with specific types of data sets. This also leverages already established working relationships.

A suggestion was made that physical geography name be changed to the natural geography cluster.

NRIS Funding

The Legislature approved in House Bill 2 the move away from RIT funds for NRIS to General Funds as was originally proposed in the Governor's budget. This means NRIS is no longer reliant of receiving RIT funds. While it was show in the past that NRIS qualifies for RIT funding, these funds are becoming more and more scarce and relying on these funds put us in competition for those funds with some of our key stakeholders including core funders. We are pleased that we are no longer put in this position.

Funds originally earmarked for the GIS Portal have been incorporated into the overall NRIS budget. Though no longer line-itemed, a considerable percentage of our budget still goes to Portal development.

NRIS will once again prepare Memorandums of Understanding for Core Funders. Though previous NRIS staff had decided to move away from using MOUs we feel this is a valuable document. MOUs provide opportunities for communication and transparency; they provide a baseline for what we offer agencies and they set a boundary between NRIS core functions and project work.

Outreach

Janet Hess-Herbert commented that the faces of our core funding agencies are changing. She requested that we meet with some of their new policy officials to inform them of what NRIS is and what we do.