POLICY REVIEW OF
MONTANA SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE
(MSDI) FRAMEWORK THEMES
November 19, 2010 Update

Policy Issues:

1. Funding
   - The greatest need expressed throughout the MSDI Framework Themes is the need for the GIO to aggressively seek and secure stable, long-term adequate funding. **GIO & MLIAC**
     i. **At the State level, this will be a discussion item for the Executive Branch ITMC Task Force. For example, at their first meeting I noted the economic value to Montana of the Cadastral framework layer (cost-benefit study).**
   - Adequate and stable funding is critical for data maintenance, framework application advancement and planning
   - Permanent funding is essential to the fostering of the Base Map Service Center and all other stakeholders responsible for developing the Framework Themes.
   - Public and private partnerships must be fostered for boosting non MLIA funding. **GIO**

2. Marketing
   - The GIO must promote the benefits and needs of MSDI Framework Themes to policy makers, especially the Governor and his cabinet members, and to campaign for the integration of themes and stewardship programs into state agencies as a necessary part of their business processes. State Departments of Revenue, Transportation, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Environmental Quality, even Health and Human Services must become regular contributors to framework theme data development. **GIO & MLIAC**
     i. **Passed on the economic value of Cadastral (see above).**
     ii. **At the Task Force meeting, agencies were asked how many use one or more State-sponsored framework data; all present raised their hand.**
   - All statewide elected officials – the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, Superintendent of Schools and State Auditor – must embrace the benefits of GIS and the MSDI and consider ways to contribute through their business processes.
   - Theme application discussions should b regularly disseminated to MACO, the Montana League of Cities and Towns, the Montana Conservation Districts, the Montana Association of Realtors, the Montana Association of Planners, and other public/private interest groups (e.g. surveyors, title insurance companies, Clerks and Recorders, etc.) **GIO, NRIS & BMSC**.

- Examples of "best practices" should be marketed to encourage user of MSDI Framework Themes over less accurate similar data, with added emphasis on the development of metadata. **MAGIP**
- State agencies must be encouraged to develop internal policies to require the use of and contributions to the development of the framework layers. **GIO**
    i. **As reported in September, I have embarked on a project to develop a CIO (MITA) policy requiring State agencies to use available framework data unless they have a statute, Executive Order or approved CIO exception.**

3. Training
    - The professional community is a vital participant in providing training opportunities and there should be greater focus on the work of the Montana Association of GIS Professionals. **MAGIP**
    - Training may be provided through websites but must be continually updated.
    - Training may be facilitated through theme stakeholders' meetings as well as integrated theme meetings.
    - By improving local government data provider technical skills through education and training opportunities, data integration (for those themes that require local data input) would improve, as would local government support.

4. Data Integration and Standardization
    - Framework data sets must be adopted as the standard for state agencies, local governments and all other data users. **GIO**
        i. **See above**
    - Clarification and coordination of roles of and between theme stewards and counties is imperative. **GIO & MAGIP**
    - Development of themes must be coordinated with seamless integration and with intent for no duplication of efforts.
    - Promote networking, stimulate technological growth, and advance ideas.

In addition to the above policy issues, another common issue expressed was the distress over the time involved in writing grant applications to fund the various themes. Ana edit recommendation from Alan Peura is that references in the Cadastral Theme to CAMA be replaced with the Orion database.

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