

Executive Summary
Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
Helena, Montana

Attendees:

Members or Designees: Chairman Jennie Stapp – Montana State Library (MSL); Dawn Anderson - Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP); Mike Bousliman – Department of Transportation (MDT); Ted Chase for Cynthia Moore – Department of Revenue (DOR); Daniel Chelini – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Rudy Cicon – Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors; Lance Clampitt via telephone – Department of the Interior; Warren Fahner – Lake County; Fred Gifford – Tetra Tech Inc.; Wendy Largent – Montana Association of GIS Professionals (MAGIP); Cathy Maynard – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Dennis McCarthy – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Art Pembroke – Lewis and Clark County; Michael Sweeney – Department of Administration (DOA); Linda Vance – Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP); Christiana von Reichert – University of Montana (UM); and R.J. Zimmer for Ken Wall – Geodata Services Inc.

Guests: Ron Baldwin – DOA; Lydia Bailey – FWP; Allan Cox – MTNHP; Jane Horton – MTNHP; Kelsey Jensco – U.M.; Liz Lahey – Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Michael Sweet – U.M.; and Leslie Zolman – Department of Commerce.

Staff: Stu Kirkpatrick and Marlys Stark.

Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of November Executive Summary:

Motion was made by Member Pembroke and seconded by Member Maynard to approve the November executive summary as presented and the motion passed.

Legislative Update – Jennie Stapp

In discussing HB2, legislators took a close look at personal services and fixed costs for Montana State Library (MSL). This included the funding transfer and authority for the MLIAC account which of course is contingent on the passage of HB38. They also looked at one time only funding for a water information manager position.

The Base Map Service Center transfer and the transfer for statutes such as MLIAC which are part of HB38 passed through the house and out of the senate committee to the floor with no amendments to this point.

Senator Phillips, Lance Craighead and Lance Clampitt have drafted a request for a lidar interim study committee which should be introduced soon. The current proposal is for collection of roughly 51,000 acres of lidar data over the Bridger Canyon area. Jennie Stapp will keep members up to date of the status of this request.

MSL produces a Legislative Snapshot for every session that provides legislators information about the district they serve. Much of this information is spatial in nature and presented in map form. MSL provides print copies to each legislator and the document is also available on-line. MSL has received a lot of positive feedback on this effort.

SITSD GIS Update – CIO Ron Baldwin

Ron is the new CIO for State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD). He was appointed by Governor Bullock and is coming in from the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). He headed a ten million dollar GIS project in the eighties and feels there is many opportunities for GIS in the future. They will not be hiring a new GIO but instead Ron will assume those duties himself and take advantage of supporting GIS systems and networks across the state including many provided by MSL.

He feels areas of interest to explore would include identifying in terms of IT what are the biggest challenges/roles of GIS in the future, enhancing state and federal partnerships, and pinpointing how to help agencies use GIS and further develop it to be more useful for them. Educating potential users as to the ability, use and technology for GIS applications would be of key importance. Ron feels his role will be as more of a liaison, leveraging individuals with GIS backgrounds and working closely with Jennie.

FY'14 MSDI Draft Work Plan – Stu Kirkpatrick

In presenting the draft, Stu explained that the format was similar to that used last year and the current version is the result of many hours of collaborative work by several individuals. An effective plan needs to receive input from many people statewide.

Members discussed the draft. Regarding elevation, one comment was that the budget appears low and another member wondered what all would be going on with elevation. Current elevation data is 10 meter and anything different would depend on funding for nationwide lidar. Currently no state agency has assumed stewardship of the elevation theme so while many may need more accurate data there is no coordinated advocacy for such. One Council member inquired whether the plan had the flexibility to support elevation projects like the proposed lidar study.

Climate as MSDI Framework – Mike Sweet

Mike Sweet and Kelsey Jensco gave a presentation of the value of climate data as a MSDI framework. This will be considered as an action item at the June meeting.

MLIA/MSDI General Administrative Budget Status – Jennie Stapp

These are the budgets for GIS coordination, the MLIAC and MSDI theme support. Currently 7.5 FTE are funded through MLIA. Due to careful budgeting and vacancy savings these accounts are currently under budget and are expected to remain that way through this fiscal year. In FY14 certain factors including the passage of a state pay plan containing pay raises could impact these budgets. Permanent non-MLIA funding is the goal for all these positions although that may be a slow and difficult process.

Meeting was recessed at 12:11 for lunch and reconvened at 1:02.

MLIA Grant Status Report – Stu Kirkpatrick

MLIA Collections seem to be up. The FY14 grants have gone to the subcommittee to review and they will meet in late April to score the applications.

MT Heritage Land Cover and Wetlands services – Linda Vance

The Montana Natural Heritage Program provides data and other resources to those involved in research or planning regarding plant and animal species and habitats. By implementing and leveraging technology MTNHP achieves its goal of making their data as self-service as possible. Other goals are to obtain the most accurate and current data possible, conduct research and integrate data and applications.

MAGIP Report – Miles Wacker

MAGIP Webinars and GoToMeetings are archived and are on youtube. The spring meeting will be held May 21 to 23 at Miles City Community College. Elections will be held soon.

Council Updates

MSL has progressed forward with combining the separate Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and BMSC programs into one Geographic Information program. Services will continue to be reviewed, combined and organized to provide the most efficient program possible.

The MSL/Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) 2013 workgroup met January and March to discuss the transportation framework. A survey which went out to MAGIP has received over 40 responses. One of the present problems is that the data isn't well attributed because data is collected from local government but they don't always collect standardized information such as pavement types and so on.

Montana is one of four states and a couple of local governments to work on the federal pilot on census geography.

MSL is working with legislative services to provide a new state map.

Stu Kirkpatrick attended the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) mid-year which had a public safety focus. A state membership of five was purchased and there is still one open membership which a council member should consider. Anybody interested should contact Jennie as this needs filled before September in order to attend the NSGIC annual meeting.

Any members that want to continue on the council should reapply as June will be the last meeting for the current council.

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) requested that Jennie serve as the liaison to the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) regarding broadband for schools and so on. The national conference will be the first week of May and will focus on broadband mapping.

Open Forum and Public Comment

Michael Sweet said that the Cobell Institute at UM will have the GIS emphasis for tribal communities in Montana. They are building a GIS lab and are hoping to engage Native Americans in learning. They are looking for resource people.

June Meeting Date, Location and Agenda Items – Jennie Stapp

The next meeting should be back at the Capital the week of June 17 on Tuesday or Thursday. Several members felt Tuesdays were better and the MAGIP seminar is scheduled for Thursday so the meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 18. Send agenda items to Jennie or Stu but there will be a climate discussion including cost with coordination time.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.