

Executive Summary
Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)
Thursday, November 13, 2014
Helena, Montana

Attendees:

Members or Designees: Chair Jennie Stapp – Montana State Library (MSL); Dawn Anderson – State Agency Representative; Dave Carlson for Ron Baldwin – Department of Administration SITSD; Kevin Kauska for Mike Bousliman - State Agency Representative; Annette Cabrera via phone – Local Government Representative; Rudy Cicon – Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors Representative; Warren Fahner - Local Government Representative; Matt Heller on phone - U.S. Interior Department Representative; Wendy Largent - GIS Professionals Representative; Cathy Maynard – U.S. Department of Agriculture Representative; Ted Chase for Cynthia Moore - State Agency Representative; Art Pembroke - Local Government Representative; Linda Vance for Christiane von Reichert - University System Representative; and Meghan Burns for Leslie Zolman – GIS Professional Organization Representative.

Guests: Audrey Hinman - SITSD; Scott Moore - ESRI; Nathalie Smith - ESRI; and Drew Swayne - DNRC.

Staff: Troy Blandford, Allan Cox, Maya Daurio, Evan Hammer, Stu Kirkpatrick, Karen Newlon, Diane Papineau and Marlys Stark.

Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

September Executive Summary – Council

Motion was made by Member Largent to table the agenda item until the meeting in March and the motion passed.

Application Demonstrations – Audrey Hinman, SITSD

Two applications were demonstrated, the Montana Site Selector and the Montana Data Portal.

The site selector allows users to find commercial properties and demographic and business data surrounding those properties. The application consumes Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure data from the map services MSL provides.

The data portal's purpose is to provide a mechanism to share data between agencies, as well as the public, to conform to the Governor's transparency (open data) initiative. Its application is hosted on SITSD servers and the data is hosted in the cloud. The primary users are researchers and educators however the media, application programmers and businesses all make use of it as well. About 50 percent of the data is public and 50 percent is secured. Updating can be done as an automatic load or a manual load. Currently 146 datasets have been uploaded.

2015 Legislative Session – Governor’s Budget – Jennie Stapp

There are no updates at this point. The Governor's budget will be released soon and there were 799 bill drafts as of November 12, 2014 including LC349 to update the Montana code to address breed and half breed names, and LC555 to clarify assignment of road and street addresses. Jennie and staff will watch these and any other bills that will impact the council and GIS community.

MLIA Account FY'15 1st Quarter Analysis – Stu Kirkpatrick

Collection of funds is still down so the account will need close monitoring. Suggested reasons for the downturn are fewer oil leases, few refinances and new home purchases remaining sluggish. A survey of impacts that counties are experiencing will be considered for the future.

FY'16 Land Information Plan - Stu Kirkpatrick

The land plan committee consisted of Members Largent, Cicon, Bousliman and Zolman. The format is different from in the past since there has been some prioritization. Water is a priority due to the lack of reliable data. The plan continues to fund the grant program at a reduced level. The \$200,000 cut in the budget was challenging but accomplished evenly between grant and MSDI funding.

After council approval, the State Library commission will approve the plan on December 10.

Motion was made by Member Largent and seconded by Member Maynard to approve the land plan with corrections to the wording and the motion passed.

MLIA Report to the Legislature - Jennie Stapp

The report is required by statute to be submitted every other year. The issues presented are much the same as in the land plan. It mentions that control was given to MSL, highlights funding issues and is intended to be a communication tool. This draft will be reviewed by a few other people then approved by the commission. Comments will be solicited from the senate and house representatives to see if it resonates.

One comment is that the graphics need to be larger and color needs used. Simple terms rather than jargon are preferred and primary users of layers and what they use them for should be highlighted. Additional comments and thoughts need to be submitted to Jennie and Stu by December 1st.

Strategic Vision Tasks – Jennie Stapp

Members Maynard, Zolman and Heller are on the policy work group to develop policy statements. Work has been done on the legislative report and snapshot and negotiations are concluding for the state enterprise license. Stu reported that many items are completed or are in progress so choosing future tasks will be put on the March agenda.

MLIA/MSDI General Administrative Budget Status- Jennie Stapp

There is an open GIS Analyst position which will be kept open until January to get past the holiday season.

MLIA Grant Status – Stu Kirkpatrick

There are six FY'14 grants which were extended to December 31. There have been no additional extension requests.

Reports have been received from most of the FY'15 grant recipients and they seem to be on track. The ARC GIS online training provided by GeoData to several counties is reportedly going well.

MSDI Status Updates – Troy Blandford, Maya Daurio

Troy Blandford reported on the MT Hydro/NHD status and the accomplishments and future direction of the program. A work group has been established and meets quarterly to provide guidance. The next meeting is in December.

Work has been done on improving the quality of the dataset, basin wide revisions and the reducing the edit queue. Improvements have been made in transparency to editing and maintenance and how to request and edit or submit a revision. There is a web application for searching and flagging NHD problem areas as well as tracking the progress of revisions. Maya Daurio reported on using wetlands data to improve NHD.

The workgroup is discussing future direction. Montana must be prepared to end the current stewardship agreement with USGS for NHD if necessary as the benefits of the agreement may not outweigh the downsides. The USGS is not always responsive to Montana needs and it may be better to simply focus on a Montana Hydro dataset.

ESRI ELA/Managed Services Update – Dave Carlson, SITSD

The negotiation is complete with ARCGIS online subscriptions included in the FY16/17 enterprise license agreement with Esri. It is a two year contract rather than a four year contract and includes reduced EAP credits. Discussion is currently ongoing on how to best existing credits. The contract is currently with the attorneys with signatures expected next week.

Regarding managed services, SITSD is trying to find alternatives for the GIS infrastructure that SITSD maintains which is expensive and understaffed.

The meeting was recessed at 11:57 a.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

MAGIP Report – Meghan Burns

The MAGIP Board's annual retreat has been held with the work plan finalized and posted. Accomplishments are being finalized. The MAGIP technical session will be held in Bozeman next week. MAGIP will assist the Montana Library Association with the Library Legislative Night. GIS day is next Wednesday with MAGIP is sponsoring an AGOL application contest.

Council Updates

Dave Carlson reported that the make-up of the 9-1-1 Advisory Council may be revised in the future with opportunity for GIS representation.

Jennie reported on the release of both the print and online versions of the bi-annual legislative snapshot which incorporates a log of GIS data and maps. The Library Legislative is January 15 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The annual NSGIC meeting was held in South Carolina and attended by Jennie Stapp, Evan Hammer, Stu Kirkpatrick, Erin Fashoway, Annette Cabrera and Dave Carlson. Stu and Erin presented on PLSS enhancement with Utah and the U.S. Census Bureau. Evan presented on open data.

Open Forum and Public Comment

Diane Papineau reported that related to next gen 911, Stu has her doing more communication about what is accomplished with the communication going out via e-mail and Facebook. With Facebook it can be seen who has interacted. The next gen post received immediate responses and she was surprised to see how many and how quickly they responded.

Rudy Cicon commented on wetlands data going back to 1996 where photos don't go back as far and often only averages or most recent imagery are used.

March Meeting Date, Location and Agenda Items – Jennie Stapp

2015 meeting dates will be the second Thursday of March, May, September and November. Those dates will be verified with a follow-up to members. Agenda items will likely a dashboard of the strategic vision action items, legislative proposals and a Liberty Schools grant presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.