anscript

0:00

All right, let's go ahead and get started. We have a a forum. We are unmuted.

0:07

Zoom is going to be morning everyone. Welcome to the September business meeting of the

0:13

Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council. My name is Jenny Staff. I'm the state librarian in chair of the council.

0:20

Um before we go around and do council introductions, I want to start off by

0:25

introducing Victoria Gersto. Victoria is our new administrative assistant at the

0:31

state library. So, she's providing all of the logistics and coordination for this meeting. She's here taking minutes

0:37

and she'll be following up with all of you on your travel reimbursements. One change to note for that process,

0:44

Victoria is going to be doing that via docuign. So, you should look for those documents to come to you in the next few

0:49

days in your email via docu sign. We're really glad to have you with us,

0:54

Victoria, and thanks for everything. Thank you. Uh Erin, my name is Erin Fueway. I'm the

1:01

state GIS coordinator and I staff the council. I'm Moren Seander. I'm the GIS manager

1:08

for Kester County and Mile City, Montana and I represent local government on the council.

1:14

Uh Lee Moltz, I'm the GIS manager for the city of Missoula and I also represent local government.

1:20

I'm Valentine Hoff. I work at the fire center at the University of Montana represent university system.

1:29

Joe introduce Excuse me. I'm Joe Coff land surveyor

1:34

representing um Alan Armstrong representing the federal

1:40

government. I'm with the BLM and currently have way too many jobs these days, but I'm still keeping a smile on

1:48

my face. Happy to be here. Well, thanks again for hosting in various

1:53

locations in Tela. Uh, good morning. I'm Eric Spangberg. I

2:00

am I'm on the council and I represent the mega community, the Montana GS

2:06

Montana professional GIS community. Thank you. I don't think we have any

2:11

council members online. Let me double check.

2:19

Sorry. Adam, do you want to introduce yourself? Yeah, sorry about that. And I'll be in

2:25

person here in a little bit. I got caught with in a previous meeting, but yeah, Adam Carpenter, chief data officer. And wonderful to be here,

2:31

everybody. Great. Adam, look forward to seeing you in person. Thanks for being here.

2:36

And we are expecting one more council member to join us, Brian. So, if he is able to arrive, we'll have him introduce

2:42

himself. We have a couple of council members or seats not with us right now. Um, we're in the process of

2:48

transitioning our state rep, Karen Coleman, will no longer be serving on the council and then our private sector

2:55

rep is currently open. Um, there are a number of seats that are also up for reappointment right now, but it is state

3:03

law that people are in those seats continue to serve until they're either reappointed or those seats are filled by

3:09

someone else. So, um, we'll be such or they resign. You can always resign, but please don't

3:15

don't Uh and so we'll be in touch with the the governor's office about the status of

3:20

those reopenments here moving forward. Uh thank you all. We do have some staff

3:25

both in person and uh online that'll be doing presentations or available for

3:31

questions. We'll have them introduce themselves as we move through the agenda. Um a couple of notes. Want to

3:38

thank the Department of Military Affairs and for the use of their conference room space to host us. Uh if you're not

3:44

familiar with this space, restrooms are behind us. The women's restroom is closest and keep going and you'll find

3:51

the men's restrooms. Um and then we have lunch from Chipotle arriving sometime

3:57

between 11:45 and noon. So we will break for lunch when when lunch arrives.

4:03

Any other logistical question? If the bathrooms are closed, you go through the double doors and they're on

4:10

your left hand side. There's another set of restrooms.

4:17

Do we have to resubmit our paperwork to if we're expiring?

4:23

I'm aware. Not that I'm aware of, but we'll find out. Okay. For sure. I And actually, I don't know. I haven't

4:28

looked to see when that when our expiration dates are for time. So, we'll follow up with you if necessary.

4:35

Okay. Okay. All right. Let's go ahead and get

4:42

started with the agenda. Uh, are there any changes or additions to the agenda?

4:52

I have one. Okay. The Montana Geospatial Information Act grant recommendations.

4:58

So, those will it's we'll hear from the memo, but the full um recommendation

5:03

report will not be ready until the November meeting. We'll talk about more more of that. And linked from your

5:09

agenda is a memo discussing that as well.

5:14

Let's see. The first order of business is acceptance of the May 15th executive

5:21

summary. Are there any changes or corrections to the executive summary?

5:29

Okay. All right. Hearing none, those meetings must stand

5:35

approved. And then your next action item and and

5:42

sort of the the major point of business for this meeting is the 2025 through

5:49

June 30th, 2028 geospatial information plan. First, I want to thank all of you

5:55

for all of your input into that plan. And I know you've been working hard to

6:01

solicit comments and feedback from the groups that you represent to uh ensure

6:06

that we're hearing from everyone who is represented by the the goals and priorities of the plan. And so I want to

6:14

thank you all for that. Um it's it's been a long time drafting. Just want to

6:20

remind everyone including those people online. Uh we used to do an annual land

6:26

plan and thanks to some updates to statute, we now have the opportunity opportunity to do a longer plan, it does

6:34

put more emphasis on us to make sure that uh we do a good job of drafting that plan and seek public input on it um

6:41

to make sure that we're we're trying to put forward a plan uh that really will stand the test of of several years as we

6:48

move through the goals and priorities. But one of the things that we're excited about at the state library is having

6:55

more opportunity to really understand the impact of the plan and make sure

7:00

that we're doing adequate uh data collection, evaluation, and reporting to

7:06

to determine whether or not we're on the right track and make sure that as we

7:11

continue to update and modify the plan going forward that we have adequate information to do so.

7:19

Um, I also want to say that I'm just really

7:25

pleased with the introduction of the case studies into the plan. Um, for

7:31

someone like me who's not a GIS professional, for people like members of the state library commission who will

7:37

review this plan at their October meeting, it makes the contents of the

7:43

plan and the application of the plan and our work just so much more concrete and tangible. So, thanks to those of you who

7:50

helped contribute to those case studies. I really think that they were very meaningful and helpful for us.

7:58

I want to start by asking if there's just any general comments or questions

8:04

from any members of the council about the contents of the plan.

8:09

I did like the uh the introductory after the executive summary the impact because that's what you're talking about. We

8:16

have what did we have three? I I would suggest that we all contribute

8:22

something to that. I mean, even being federal, we have a tremendous number of

8:27

users that use this data. Yeah. Uh within the state. Yeah. So, I I could

8:32

certainly write something up on that. I I I was not asked. Yeah. I'm not complaining, but I'm just saying

8:38

that everybody should have an opportunity to write something or should everyone should contribute a section to

8:44

this from all of our saints that we that we represent in the future. I love that idea, Ellen.

8:51

We can also do a annual impact report too. We're doing something similar right now

8:57

with the Montana State Reference Network. We're soliciting case studies and those will be posted on the MTSRN

9:04

website and we can very easily do something similar on the plan page or

9:10

something like that.

9:20

any other general questions or discussion.

9:30

One of the one of the things that um we're interested in getting your

9:35

feedback on and hearing more from council members is um making sure that in the plan we we sort of see what

9:43

success looks like. we see uh and understand what it is that we're trying

9:49

to accomplish and that we are collecting

9:54

data um both quantitative and and qualitative through case studies and other means that we're reporting that

10:01

back to you. So, we're interested in your feedback on,

10:07

you know, are we on the same page about what success looks like? What does success look like? And through what

10:14

means, through what avenues would be helpful for you as the council to see

10:20

that impact to to understand that we're making progress.

10:35

Inviting comments. I'm inviting comments. I'm I'm looking at you with direct

10:42

stare. Not prepared to comment. I'm sorry. Yeah.

11:02

I think about it. I mean, I've I've been involved. I mean, I I try to attend the the uh um

11:10

the working group meetings. So, I mean, I I feel that I'm I'm informed of what's going on because,

11:16

you know, as long as, you know, this you're advertising those meetings and you're sending out the Zoom links, you

11:22

know, I as long as it's done, you know, a little bit in advance, you know, long in advance. So it's you know I try to

11:29

attend you know any and all those those work group those uh the

11:35

standard layer work groups and so for me that makes me feel that I know what's

11:41

going you know I'm I'm informed with what's going on. Um you know I also have the benefit of being in town so

11:48

occasionally run into people so it's it's easy to get and have conversations that way as well. I mean that's

11:54

obviously not a council thing but it's but in regards to what's going on with

12:00

these data layers I I feel pretty good about being you know what in my position

12:06

of being informed what's going on because I attend those meetings and I see what's going on. So so

12:12

long as those are you know continue to be public and we continue announcing those I I feel from my my viewpoint I'm

12:20

I'm being informed with what actions are going on. So,

12:26

and I think the the focus at those meetings recently on the data matrices and and and looking at data value, you

12:33

know, does directly tie back to the priorities that we've laid out in the plan. So,

12:38

yeah. So, making sure that those those working group meetings um sort of elevate the point that that

12:47

work is an extension of the priorities that have the priorities that we've laid out in the consequence.

12:54

I agree with Eric. I like the um MSDI theme reports and that they're online

12:59

and that we get notice of those and that they're recorded. So if for some reason I can't attend during the actual

13:06

meeting, I can go back and I can watch it and I can still get all the updates on what's going on. And I think um

13:14

putting that out there publicly like that really helps. And so, yeah, it's been nice sitting in on those updates

13:21

and seeing what's going on and how much work is going into getting this out

13:28

there and usable.

13:47

The other things that we want to focus on after the plan is adopted is sharing the plan with different user

13:55

communities. Um we're wanting to know from you.

14:01

Are there specific communities you know besides the obvious for or and make it

14:08

for example that we should be getting in touch with offering to do webinars

14:14

uh with sharing communications? Are there newsletters that we might be sharing updates through? Um, you know,

14:22

it's we really want to make sure that this plan is not something that is just

14:27

held within the echo chamber of the GIS community because the impacts are obviously much broader. And it's

14:34

important for us to make sure that people beyond the GIS community know that this plan exists. um know that

14:42

there's people at the state library and within the GIS community that they can talk to about questions and and

14:48

obviously then are aware of the data and services that are available to them to help their jobs. So um suggestions for

14:57

for groups and channels that we might use to be in communication with others.

15:09

Well, I know that there's been presentations at like the quick recorders conventions and I'm not sure

15:15

about the treasurers conventions, but the different elected official conventions, that's a good way to get it

15:20

out to other than Mako, you know, because a lot of those don't attend

15:26

Mako, per se. Those are mostly just commissioners and those higher elected county officials. And so, I think that's

15:34

a really good outreach. Um and um basically kind of my meeting with our

15:42

clerk and recorders office and the elections administrators was how this impacts them.

15:47

And you know kind of the story that we put in there in the case study they really see the impact

15:53

of that and so you know when you make it more personal like that it just really they it grabs their attention better.

16:00

Your case study was so powerful. Yeah.

16:06

I think another thing would be your expertise on from from your individual

16:12

communities. What's the best way to present it? Yeah. Because it's probably needs to be heard

16:17

differently by different people like is it is it a presentation? Is it a webinar? Is it being in person at a at a

16:24

conference or to the exact team of whatever group?

16:31

I think it's really hard to capture the attention of executive level um in

16:37

something like a webinar. Yeah. You have if if they make the time on the calendar to show up, they're most

16:43

likely multitasking. So to get their and keep their attention something that they're intentionally at

16:50

at the conference at the cities and towns and make stuff like that is

16:56

probably some of the most effective. I think that's a great point. Yeah.

17:02

much better return on our investment. Yeah. Yeah. What about the local government SIG? Are they is that

17:09

something where we could attend a meeting or offer a webinar, a training, something like that?

17:15

Yeah, I think that would be more I do. Yeah.

17:21

Yeah. I don't think they've had one in your life. Have one today.

17:26

Yeah. No, I managed to miss it. It's just so frustrating.

17:31

No, it missed it. Okay. How often do things monthly? We're

17:38

Ms. There's usually at least five MSL staff like between three and five MSL staff on those.

17:44

So you guys know how to get on the agenda for Oh, yeah. I

17:50

Yeah, I think he's got open wings as well. Yeah, we just finished a whole series with USGS.

17:56

Yeah. Yeah. Allen. So yeah, I have a question about that group. I've

18:02

been on it a few times, but it's been a while. Introduce yourself. Demer got to So

18:11

is that group primarily GIS professionals? And what I'm wondering is there are a lot of people in local

18:16

government that aren't they wouldn't call themselves GIS people but use GIS and I worry about them feeling

18:24

intimidated by GIS and GIS people you know GIS professionals and I don't but I don't

18:29

know if that does anybody know if that group gets many people outside of

18:35

I don't think so. No, it's mostly. Yeah. So, I'm wondering particularly I mean

18:41

anybody that has thoughts, but particularly local government folks if you have thoughts on ways to get more of

18:48

those people that are outside of what we traditionally think of as CGI community involved in that group or involved in

18:59

I think with the SIG you have to be a member of your call. Indeed. So, so I, so I think with the

19:07

special interest group, so the local local government SIG, meaning those are

19:13

they're all going to be make it members already. So they're going to be folks

19:18

who've already are already the GIS people, if you will. Um, I think

19:25

getting the plan out comes back to your suggestion of um,

19:32

each of our professional areas, you know, reaching out type of thing, you

19:38

know, sending out to make it lister, the makeup listerve, you don't have to be a member, you know, so anyone, anyone of

19:46

interest can, you know, follow and get those emails. Um,

19:52

now if those emails cross post to other

19:57

organizations such as I think at one time we used to get cross postings from like Colorado

20:04

feeds, you know, that type of thing. I don't know if that still happens or not, you know. So, you know, if if we could

20:12

somehow auto install the Makeo email

20:17

list or, you know, I'm just shooting from the hip

20:23

here, you know, type of thing, but you know, other other email lists, you know, I mean, I get the may post and then I

20:31

get the state libraries, you know, post about this meeting, about

20:37

the library council meetings, you know, that type of thing. So, I'm I'm on that. I'm on a Montana legit. I'm on a Montana

20:44

local government it still haven't figured out how I got on that one, but it's always fun to get

20:50

their security meeting calls and stuff like that. And so, so

20:56

I've never I've never unsubscribed because I find it those come from like they're fascinating.

21:01

Do they come from Carly King? Uh, no, not those. That one's MT legit.

21:07

That's local government it. Um Joe um Brolic.

21:13

Oh yeah. Yeah. He's the siso. Yeah. So I get those. I get a lot of those. So I in my opinion

21:20

I think what would be good and a few I know I know a few of you have done this is we have to send you know we have our

21:27

responsibility to notice and you know some people like medical you know but if

21:33

you draw attention to it and and say hey this was sent out this is important for

21:39

these reasons for our community I think that would be also impactful or send it out

21:44

separately. Um I can draw an analogy with the uh NSDI strategic plan. Josh

21:51

Del Monaco was the head of the um federal geographic data committee with

21:57

the feds and he did not personally send me an email about asking for updates on

22:02

the strategic plan, but it came to me through NISJIC and said, "Hey everybody, we want all 50 states giving uh comments

22:10

on this." And so kind of taking that similar approach because you know he has to do his he has that time or or staff

22:17

to notify you know every single GIS manager in the US and the feds. And so

22:24

um kind of think of that broader one taking it down to like the Montana scale that we could probably try to

22:31

practice something similar and say this is the reason why to um post to these groups and and this is

22:39

why we want your response.

22:45

Do you mind dig a little more? You mentioned the makeup lister and that's a wonderful tool. Do you know like I just

22:51

because I know a little bit about this in Card County and Helena there's some other GI people outside of you and Jason

22:59

right there's other maybe a water do you know if they're on the list

23:05

uh I've told them to or I should say I have I have shared it with them and

23:11

asked them and and pointed it out to them. So, you know, whether they are or not, I I I wouldn't I wouldn't know

23:19

because I have that same word. You know, it is there's a lower barrier, right? All they have to do is sign up, but

23:25

still worried. I know there at least two that probably

23:30

is there a way to request um that I might get the names of.gov

23:38

users that are subscribed to that? I would really like to know. I tried to beat the drum a lot. I think we have a

23:43

lot of users and I I usually push out the major posts. Yeah. Post to all of my users

23:50

because I know a lot of them don't get it. You know, the things from uh uh Eric Templar and just other news about

23:57

conferences and stuff like that. It there's got to be a way to find out are there any USDA.gov.gov

24:04

address who could do this? talk to him if he gets that

24:12

Jeff does manage manage that list so we could probably

24:18

work with him to sort that out. Okay. I could ask yeah dig into that still on

24:25

who my who my users are. Yeah. Um

24:30

just to see it be nice to see if it increases ever. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I can ask you.

24:36

Yeah. Okay. Um, still thinking about local governments, you know, we try to attend

24:42

planners meetings. Are there other other groups at the local government level

24:47

that come through from through my

24:52

not that really public? Yeah, that's what I'm kind of thinking

24:58

is we we started or we've had in the in the

25:05

past couple years we met for a while kind of a GIS managers meeting where local government GIS managers um Eric,

25:12

myself, Yale from Boseman, Aaron Great Falls, we've we've kind of started our

25:18

own little um meetings and I I think what might be really useful is to put together a

25:25

little bit of an email list of GIS managers through local government,

25:30

counties, even um other levels of of

25:36

government or or industry. Um and then

25:41

send an email directed to that level. Yeah. And say, hey, can you can you disseminate this amongst your users in

25:47

your organization and and make it a direct ask to that level, that kind of middle

25:54

management level. Um because it's something like you know Eric does and and Ellen I I do the same thing. Um

26:05

but I don't know I don't always remember and um I don't know how many other

26:13

people do that as well. So folks like Mike Snook and you know others

26:18

at that level just a little bit of a little bit of a friendly targeted outreach from us friendly folk from us

26:25

to you to to then make that ask. Yeah. Yeah.

26:33

because I don't at least I know for in city Missoula the other GIS users within

26:40

the organization that aren't my staff aren't subscribed to those lists. They

26:45

if I'm not pushing it to them, they're not attention.

26:52

Simultaneous thoughts within the university system. Such a diverse group. It's pretty hard.

26:58

I think they're all GIS experts probably by virtue of their interest in spatial

27:04

data. Yeah, people come in frequently just, you know, one-on-one asking questions both

27:10

faculty and students, but if it's beyond my floor, don't see very much. So, getting information out to people are a

27:16

little out of their way or even about institutions like in the US, that'd be something to think about how to get them

27:22

more involved. Yeah, that's huge. Yeah, maybe that's something we can

27:27

follow up with you on going forward. We have, you know, some relationships with

27:32

different offices within the UN university system, but you know, we've been we spent the summer working with

27:38

folks from the A department at MSU. And it's it's astounding to see how many

27:44

different groups and programs there are and and frankly how siloed they all are.

27:52

But it' be easy to reach the students maybe like in a class or so like especially in the introductory classes.

27:59

data and I'm drowning in data. No idea where to look for but they're always

28:05

get I always point to state library but high quality data to get some feedback

28:11

would be good. Yeah. I don't know if students would be

28:16

interested too in in in in the idea of data governance and and and you know if

28:23

people are planning to pursue careers in as GIS professionals having an idea of what that looks like at the

28:29

state level might be of interest as well since we don't have a geography we always have the department major anymore

28:36

changed a little bit certificate is really popular but those people don't necessarily want

28:42

to be GS professionals they want to have enough gas. Sure.

28:48

Yes. To get a job sometime

29:01

for you at the federal level. It's it's that that much harder and and then some.

29:08

Do you have any other other thoughts or ideas on more outreach that we could or should be doing?

29:14

Well, starting with who who my users are in the help, I'd like to see like who's

29:20

listening in. Yeah. So, I'll ask Jeff for that. And then, you know, just you need somebody to push

29:25

that information out. I I fulfill that role at this point, at least with the the three states that we deal with.

29:35

You know, MD stuff doesn't really pertain toas too much, but you know,

29:42

they can then go back to their state and say, "Hey, could we get something the one like Montana has?"

29:48

Yeah. Yeah. Because it's a model for the whole country.

29:54

Now we have a what I call occasional users. We have tremendous number of

30:00

occasional users of GIS. Yeah. That need help from the very basics on

30:06

how do I fire up our pro to where do I find data? So I send them out

30:11

information about for the the state library data. How do you get to it?

30:16

Here's how here's how you can you can pull in those services and such.

30:22

I don't know if you've gotten ever any outreach from federal agencies too much or do they just go within their own

30:29

walls of confinement? I don't know. Oh yeah. I mean, we're constantly

30:34

working with certain departments. Yeah. NGS, USGS, USDA,

30:42

BIA. BIA. Yeah, I meet regularly with the BIA.

30:47

Um, could ask. It'd be cool inviting you

30:53

to that group. We've got um KR Bixby and Caroline Rowok are our

31:01

regional geospatial adviserss coordinators for the BIA. So they cover all the um tribes that exist within

31:10

Montana boundaries. And then but we've also invited Heidi my counterparts Heidi

31:15

Martin from Wyoming to join us because KR covers the Wind River

31:23

Reservation and the tribes. I don't mean I don't remember the tribes that exist in the Wind River but um so we meet we

31:32

have a coordination call and KR wanted to invite Brian. And so Brian has

31:39

occasionally joined this um the council trial council rep. The other thing I

31:45

think we could potentially do is to um

31:50

get you connected with Megan Compton with the Federal Geographic Data Committee. Maybe they have some sort of

31:58

the FGDC and the NGAP. Perhaps they have some recommendations or understanding on

32:04

what could be done there and how to coordinate. They're the probably the ones that get

32:10

tapped into. Well, we do a tremendous amount of coordination within Fed.

32:15

Yeah. So, I don't I just don't know how much of that spills over to state by state by

32:22

state. Yeah. Coordination. Oh,

32:27

yeah. Or the the council of councils too. They are not meeting currently which I'll bring up later.

32:33

Yeah. But Megan, I think it will be key there because I might try to harness her back

32:39

in because she she was one of the ones that led helped lead. She was one of the leadership uh folks on the council on

32:45

councils which is an working group. We have a tremendous number of meetings and

32:51

we get almost never. So it's it's a frustrating

32:56

it's it's a very slow turning car. Yeah. I sat on ENGAC for a while. Yeah.

33:01

Appreciate how slow it is.

33:08

Joe, your relationship with Mars, how do you how do you feel that's working?

33:14

I think it's great. Yeah. forget more involvement.

33:22

Like we said, Michael and and Evan will both be in Fort Bettney tomorrow

33:27

attending that workshop. We're trying to get a little bit more

33:32

engagement with the chapters, figuring out how to get in front of them, sharing

33:38

more information at kind of that chapter level. Sure. Um rather than just at the state level.

33:46

Yeah. Um, I know the Flatheads kind of active chapter, you know,

33:51

there's different chapters all over the state, you know, over in Eastern Montana, my part, there's only like two

33:58

of us. Yeah. You know, and yeah, Troy and myself.

34:09

Yeah. No, I think um pretty much you guys are Yeah,

34:19

I can tell if Evan looked like you wanted to say something or ask. Okay, I think the other thing to note maybe

34:25

Joe is how you report regularly and I know Dan did the same thing and he's

34:31

kind of yeah taking you through that. So you actually report back to your Yeah, I write up a report from our

34:37

meetings and then take it back to our board and you know give them an update

34:43

what's going on.

34:53

One of the other things that's on our mind when we think about the goals that's are laid out in the plan is how

35:00

we prioritize. Again, you know, this is a two and a half to threeyear plan. We we don't necessarily need to try to

35:07

accomplish everything in the next several months, but there's some there's some some sort of highlevel goals

35:14

identified in the plan. Thinking about three, four, and five, for example, that reference um understanding how GIS fits

35:22

into key state workflows. we could extend that in future plans to local

35:29

government workflows of workflows etc. Um and you know just thinking about for

35:36

example when we were advocating to the legislature about our water information system we identified

35:43

I think I don't think it's an overstatement to say dozens of state needs for coordinated water information.

35:52

So, so there are dozens if not hundreds of workflows that could be prioritized.

35:59

Um, and understanding how they relate to MSDI, our priorities for data

36:05

development, I think is really important. Um and then I think I think there's a role for the council then um

36:12

to help us prioritize um how we can make more sort of targeted

36:19

interventions if you will. Obviously this plan focuses keenly on addressing

36:26

data and there are numerous numerous workflows in state government. you know,

36:31

we've said every single state agency has some kind of mailing list at a very

36:37

minimum. So, uh, you know, we're interested in having an influence in how

36:42

those kinds of workflows exist and can better utilize our data. I think that's

36:49

something that um, with the state rep, we talk about with GIS managers at the

36:54

state level. Um, I don't know if Adam is still on the call or if he's on his way here now, but as the the data

37:02

coordinator, um, being able to identify and work directly on some of those

37:09

specific efforts is important to us, making sure we're reporting back from council and and then leaning to the

37:16

council as we identify these to kind of help us prioritize, especially if there's opportunities that you see that

37:23

would um extend and the benefits of that engagement beyond the state government

37:28

to to other se sectors.

37:34

Absolutely. Thanks. Thanks, Adam.

37:41

Adam, do you forgive me for not knowing this, but um what would you recommend as

37:48

as sort of a a a better mechanism or process for working with departments,

37:56

for example, on getting to a standardized address data

38:02

standard for for state government?

38:08

It's a good question. There are, I think, a few things, a few ways to do

38:14

it. To your point, it's a really hard problem to solve because there are just so many cooks in in frankly so many

38:20

kitchens. Um, so we try to make I I think at a high

38:26

level the answer is we try to make best practice the path of least resistance. So we try to and we would you know try

38:32

to figure out how do we how do we make setting a new address standard the easiest way for everybody to operate.

38:39

Um, if we can do this in a relational data way, then Snowflake is a really

38:45

good tool for us to mix back and forth um with agencies and get to cohesive

38:52

cross agency data sets. Um, and then you get that same functionality in our GIS

38:57

uh at that level. So um if it needs to be in in the GIS tool directly, we can

39:03

do that same thing there. and and then it it you know it's working groups and um you know we have elation as a data

39:11

catalog that we just got some money for uh from the last legislature to bring in statewide. Um so that's an option too

39:18

because that's a governance tool allows us to go in and define standards and um

39:24

and things like that. Uh so there are there are a few ways that we approach problems like that and I think yeah we'd

39:30

be happy to help. That's definitely one we need to solve.

39:35

And I think it'll be the easiest one. Yeah. Yeah, it does sound absolutely

39:40

approachable, right? I approaching my soap box there. Yeah, we share the soap box. Um I do

39:48

believe it uh I think it's the Secretary of State

39:54

who's responsible for um certain addressing data sets. And so it's

40:00

interesting. It's like one of those things where the Secretary of State's office through geo enabled election geo

40:06

enabled elections um they have some addressing authority. I think it's maybe

40:11

with businesses and whatnot and so um we were going to be uh it was um Stuart

40:19

Fuller and I's idea to well we've been wanting to do this for a while but now we have the actual workflow in place on

40:26

how to put that standard into practice. So if you guys remember the workflow, we would work at someone we could either

40:33

someone could ask us for a standard or give us ask us to give input on an

40:38

existing standard or create a standard. And so when Adam did ask me last week, he's like, do we, you know, what are our

40:44

addressing standards? I was like, it's kind of complicated because we have a geospatial technical standard, but the

40:50

standard that we're trying to get to in state government is to everybody uses the same addressing data. So um so it's

40:57

kind of complicated. there are multiple standards and so I think that the usage like everyone we're all on the same page

41:03

we're all using the geocoding service um to validate information and then that we

41:09

could even have a reporting standard how things are reported incorrectly or or you know how things are dealt with and

41:15

handled and you know because we already we already know where the um authoritative data sets come from that

41:23

lead the local and regional ones that lead to the to the state uh data standard and it's already been

41:29

solidified um with the the NAD which is the national address data set and we are

41:35

trying to put that a as a national um group and I was invited to be on the working group because I started speaking

at the wrong time I was volunte um

like that's great you're going to be on the working group for advocacy to further advocate to have a national standard as well um because the NAD is I

think now the the federal standard, but we're trying to make it the national standard so that you don't have to call

Eric to update addresses or you don't have to call us and you know there's

there's going to be one streamlined process. You don't have to update addresses in Google and all these other places. It's one standard way of um

addressing corrections and dealing with the technical pieces. But then there's this beautiful flow of data to the

national and one day maybe global.

Um, one thing I was wondering if it would be helpful and and Adam if you

would be willing to have maybe make a presentation to this council about the

the data catalog and your your vision for how that might work. kind of what a

what a path forward might look like working together to help agencies adopt

42:54

a an address standard. Absolutely. Yeah. And I mean I I think

42:59

there's there's two parts to an address standard. The catalog helps with the the sort of format. Make sure that

43:05

everybody's using the same nomenclature and the same fields and so on. And then there's the everybody using the same

43:11

data piece which that also helps with because it's kind of a dinner menu. everybody is better able to know what's

43:17

available. Um, but I think another part of this is

43:22

is and by the way the answer is yes. I'd absolutely be happy to do that presentation to to set that or to answer

43:29

that question succinctly. But um I think to that and to Erin's point previously I

43:35

uh and the original question another part of the answer to this is some of the work that we've already done um to

43:41

that path of least resistance point this service now integration that it just did to pull some of that exact address data

43:48

over um uh and now going forward the state's workflow

43:54

system instead of using whatever addresses it was using before is using the state's official

44:00

address system from the library and it's like moves like that because y'all have the data so available um you know that

44:08

was the easiest way for them to get address data and so now they're on the standard so I think that continuing that

44:14

sort of engagement is really helpful I've made a note of that and maybe for a

44:20

spring meeting we could make sure doing something like that great yeah it actually would be an excellent

44:27

way to show the um co office and and the

44:32

and the GIS office working together. It's it'd be a good national um discussion as well. Um because we

44:39

Adam, I can't remember what was what the exact application was, but we were on call with the service now team and

44:46

oh I can I can sort of very succinctly describe that. So because it's it's big.

44:51

We are you know service now is a workflow system. So, it needs to be able to understand the assets and the people

44:57

scattered all over the state. Everything the state government works with and owns could potentially be part of some

45:02

workflow, right? I need to buy a new truck. I need to on board a new employee. I need to purchase something,

45:08

whatever it is. Um, and that means that it needs to have an accurate view of

45:14

address of who works for the state and of all those things. And it's operated for six or seven years without that. and

45:21

they're completely rebasing the entire state's workflow management system onto

45:27

the official address standard. So, it's it's huge. I mean, it's it's really big and a really uh important upgrade for

45:35

the Service Now product for the state. Cool. I mean, huge.

45:40

I know. I'm very interested in learning more. I think we also would as well. So, great. So, noted.

45:48

And this might be a something Adam, you and I in the next um appointee from the

45:55

DNRC can help break down, but I feel like there's it doesn't feel like to me,

46:01

and Matt maybe could jump in as well, that developers are well connected. They

46:06

don't really have development groups in state government. And we kind of tested that theory recently and it rang true

46:14

again. And so sometimes developers use the easiest thing possible. And so um

46:21

and they're, you know, they're wicked smart and they have to do things fast and um and so it's that group. It's that

46:28

group that list group or whomever that we need to hit to tell and even just what's accessible through our EZRI

46:34

contract. Um, and I'll talk a little bit about the course or webinar we offered

46:40

recently for developers, but it was it was it's kind of it's kind of a hard group to find.

46:46

It is. And and they're scattered everywhere. Oh, sorry. A real estate group.

46:53

No, developers as in uh computer programmers

46:58

developers. Yeah. They want to be they just, you know, they're they're a

47:04

certain type. if they want to do their job and Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. Exactly. Exactly.

47:10

I will say I mean all humans like water finds the lowest uh point all humans

47:16

will take the path of least resistance. That's why you have to make good you know the best practice the path

47:22

of least resistance. And so yeah if they I guarantee if they knew it was so easy to just call the libraries API and get

47:29

the address. We I what's funny is the story of that service now team is we

47:34

told them about it and they're like I don't know how to get the libraries data. They're like it's easy just call them and they called them and two weeks

47:41

later they had it done right and a week after that it was delivered in production and so

47:48

you guys actually usually are the path of least resistance and we just need to let more people know that you know

47:54

maybe that should be our tagline Adam state library path of least resistance.

48:00

I'm working on marketing copy for y'all now. There we go. Awesome.

48:08

Um, couple of other questions. The plan for the first time identifies kind of the

48:15

financial gap that our staff have identified for what we think

48:23

like a truly successful fully resourced. not going to say fully

48:28

but well resourced um GIS spatial data infrastructure and

48:33

coordination uh office could look like and and I want to be clear you know

48:39

we're not necessarily asking for this amount of funding um we're not planning

48:44

to spend this amount of funding but we also know that um there's no way in the

48:53

future to get the resources you need if you don't have a good idea of what resources are necessary and start

49:00

calling attention to that fact. And so we felt like it was important and valuable to have that information

49:05

contained in this plan. Um this is a public document obviously and so um

49:13

we're we're aware of the fact that it might kind of shine a spotlight on on

49:19

this financial need in a certain way and we're mindful of that. And also, we think it's really important to call

49:25

attention to this information. Um, I see nods around the table. I'm wondering if

49:31

anybody's heard anything or have any other reactions to this gap analysis.

49:38

Can I also just add I mean there's there's the money side of it certainly, but I think the other valuable thing

49:44

here is we're putting a lot out there. I think historically we often said, "Oh, yeah, we just can't

49:51

do that." you know, and and it might not have ever gotten here to the council, but I think it's important in putting

49:57

all this out there for you guys to know, yeah, we know all these things are out there, and if we're not bringing them

50:03

here, but you think those are priorities. Yeah. You know, or if you think there's something that we're missing that should

50:09

be on that list. Yeah. I I hope this is a little more transparent and Yeah. hope you'll work with us to um

50:17

prioritize the work. Yeah. Thanks, Can I ask a question? the the fees that

50:22

are collected at the at the clerk and recorders for recording. Is that all documents or does it have to do with

50:28

land and really all documents? Any document? Okay. I' I've recently been working with

50:34

our minerals folks because we do mining claims and those require

50:41

u recording courthouse although minimal two or three pages at most but but that

50:47

is a contributor as well. It is absolutely I'll tell you mining claims are on the rise because gold is so high.

50:53

That's a good point. That's a really good point. So there are more there are more more recordings.

50:59

Yeah. And I think it's only the certificate of uh No, the proof of labor that has to be recorded, not the actual money. We we

51:07

had that their proof of labor if they choose to to do work those are those are recorded.

51:14

Yeah, there are certain documents with special fees and andor exempt ones, but I don't

51:20

know what those I don't know those. Okay. But it is all documents. It is. Okay.

51:26

Yeah. You might remember it, you know, it was kind of 2008 2009 during that

51:31

financial crisis, the housing market dropped off precipitously and we sort of experienced our first

51:40

decline in in in revenue. um it wasn't quite as sharp as we thought it would

51:45

be. And Stuke or Patrick at the time did a really interesting analysis of what

51:51

counties were seeing recordings and it was those counties whose recordings were largely driven by real estate housing

51:58

real estate transactions that had dropped off. particularly in eastern Montana where the oil and gas leasing

52:05

was so strong at the time ahead of the Bacan boom that we were seeing just

52:10

significant number of recordings continuing. It was a was just a really fascinating analysis at that time.

52:17

We could um bring back uh a clerk and recorder to do another presentation

52:24

if that's in of interest. We had an analysis done by

52:30

yeah a um statistician or an economist but maybe it'd be good for one of the

52:38

clips and reporters we could reach out and if they want to describe the documents process yeah good point

52:46

any other reactions positive negative to the gap analysis I appreciate Evan's suggestion that we keep sort of keep

52:52

that a living document making sure that it's capturing priorities

52:58

I guess in in my mind I'm thinking that the biggest gap that we saw was the

53:04

grant program that had to be stalled for two years and how that impacts local government and that's a huge gap that

53:12

could be communicated maybe more on you know a personal level to the officials

53:18

that you know your communities aren't able to capture a lot of this data because we aren't able to offer that

53:25

assistance. And so, um, I think showing where

53:31

not being funded well enough impacts the whole state. Yeah, that's a good point, Marie.

53:42

Has a library experienced any more shortcomings of funding from federal? I

53:47

mean, there was that scare there for a while. Yeah. You were at the library association.

53:52

Yeah. Because Yeah. Um, let me let me make a note of that. I'll talk about that when I get to

53:58

the um the funding or financial reports, but the short answer is things are

54:04

looking much more promising forward. So, but I'll make a note to to update the council on federal funding as well.

54:15

I was just curious on the gap, the numbers fluctuate quite a bit. I I don't know how you predicted fiscal years 27

54:23

28 29 30 that gap it went up significantly in 8 28 and

54:31

then down a lot 2029 and back up. How how could you forecast that far up? Can you pull up the document please?

54:39

Sorry name of the do the man or the judicial commission. Yep. I maybe it's

54:45

just the way I don't know but I think it was based on spending not predictions

54:52

was assumption of flat funding I think it's the last but there were different things that

54:58

are you talking about this doc this this piece this side the one writer of that okay where you had the gap one numbers gap

55:06

one numbers there so the the major the major differences

55:11

well yeah why why it fluctuates so Not is is is

55:17

fiscal year 29 expected to be a you know

55:22

a less of a gap for some reason because no that would be enacting a uh imagery

55:28

program a two-year imagery program to rotate between NAPE

55:35

so we would collect theoretically collect imagery on the off years that NAPE is not collected

55:41

okay so that has to so it's NAPE so it's like imagy That's what changes. So it's not an annual imagery program.

55:46

It's an every other year. So that's why there's such a huge flux. And I'm just looking really quickly to see if there's

55:52

anything else there. That would be that would explain it because I

55:57

Yeah. I just wonder what Yeah. Based Yeah. That's why we have a roller coaster. Yeah.

56:03

But based and that was based on imagery numbers that I had gotten through some of NISTIC's um business partners that we

56:10

work with with imagery and some of the folks that attend our imagery working group meetings what if it could but

56:16

you know we try to allow for inflation too. Yep. And that that would describe that.

56:23

Would it all come from the same pot? Probably not, you know, but

56:29

yeah, people don't like to see fluctuation every two years in a couple months.

56:34

So,

56:48

any other comments about the the financial gap analysis?

56:55

Another thing while we're talking about the plan that I want to make sure to bring to everybody's attention is is the

57:01

focus on the tier one grant priorities. um that this is the first plan that

57:06

we've had in my recollection where we really have just focused on those kinds

57:11

of tier one priorities. Um so that's a fairly significant shift. Um, we'll talk

57:19

about this a little bit more when we talk about our our internal review of the grant program and some of the

57:24

feedback that we've heard, but um, any any feedback, comments, discussion,

57:31

anything you've heard about the the refocus, the prioritization on those

57:36

tier one grant priorities. We started using the tier structure

57:42

probably five or six years ago.

57:51

I think in that the the strength of the clarification in that will be helpful.

57:56

You know in the last grant cycle that got cancelled as we went through it

58:03

there was confusion about that. So the clarity that

58:09

maybe we can lean on on council members, particularly our local government reps, to help us with that communication,

58:15

making sure that we're hitting the mark that

58:33

and then I think one of the one of The final points that we at the state library have been thinking about is the fact that, you know, this is a plan that

58:39

takes us out through, you know, middle of 2028. So, a significant period of time. And we make no mention of of

58:47

artificial intelligence or AI anywhere in the plan, even though I'm sure that's on a lot of people's minds at this

58:54

point. Um, in talking about that fact recently, um, we we do acknowledge that,

59:02

you know, there is AI embedded in some of the software tools that we're using. Those are improved. The state is in a

59:10

process of hiring a chief AI officer. Uh, and I know that position will be

59:18

looking at opportunities to help guide the adoption of AI within state

59:24

government. I've had some conversations with Kevin Gbertson, the CIO, about

59:29

doing some initial piloting with the state library in particular. That's

59:34

something that we're very very interested in. Um, but we feel like given given the time, it's important to

59:40

acknowledge that right now this plan does not call attention to AI. While while things are certainly in in flux

59:47

and in development, you know, the state is still figuring out kind of the regulatory framework for how AI can be

59:54

adopted and used. There's increasing adoption of different AI

1:00:01

tools, but I certainly wouldn't say that there's widespread AI adoption at this

1:00:06

point. Um, I think probably in future plans that's going to be more

1:00:11

significant area of focus and and something that we might as a council think about as we look at updating the

1:00:17

plan in the future.

1:00:29

Safe to say that if something came up and we felt like we absolutely needed to get something AI in here, we could

1:00:35

always have in this plan. I guess I guess

1:00:44

so uh my team I I'm on the interview panel for that uh CIO

1:00:51

position. My background is actually AI and machine learning engineer. Um, and

1:00:58

my team does essentially the the implementation side of AI roll out for the state. Right now, this new person is

1:01:05

going to sort of work almost as an adjunct member of the team

1:01:10

and is is going to be responsible for use and adoption and helping to your point you everything you laid out select

1:01:15

things for the state. Um but we do implement these things quite often and

1:01:20

increasingly um to to uh to your point as as it's that's accelerating a great

1:01:27

deal. Um but I will also say um and this may change but because we're

1:01:34

in this sort of economic AI bubble moment the solutions right now in that

1:01:39

space are actually almost absurdly cheap.

1:01:46

No. So I guess my question is is how I mean

1:01:52

is is are we when you say AI is not addressed in the plan? I mean are we are

1:01:57

we saying that you know is that coming underneath of how someone could use it to do

1:02:04

something? you know, I mean, are we saying that, you know, say down the line

1:02:10

at Y27, we get a grant and we we write in our grant that in order to save

1:02:16

money, we are going to use AI feature extraction to get everything, you know, is is I guess as long as we say, yeah,

1:02:25

we're going to get use AI to do feature extraction, but we will then also come

1:02:31

back with the human touch to ensure it's integrity and its

1:02:37

um relevance to fitting within the statewide data sets. I mean, is that is

1:02:43

that how you're is that what you're is that what you're addressing? Is that the that the plan would say no use of AI or

1:02:49

please use AI or I don't know that we would get to to that level. I think you know

1:02:54

I'm not certain why it's a a topic of discussion with the plan at all. I guess

1:03:00

I think more we were thinking along the lines of calling attention to

1:03:06

um discovering the capabilities of AI. We don't have a we don't have a goal. We don't have a priority identified that is

1:03:12

more broadly understanding the application of AI to address the the

1:03:17

goals of the of the plan. I think it's also it's technology so it's inferred right

1:03:24

throughout like it's just the next level of technology but at 31 really that

1:03:31

would I think kind of allow us to explore policies and best practices around it and um I mean you've been to

1:03:38

the UC you see some of the cool stuff that is able to be done and our I think our information is ready

1:03:46

for it our information is ready for And this was one thing that our state

CIO and Evan and I had a conversation with Jack Dangererman about. Our

information is ready but our architecture is not. And so that is one

thing that we have to kind of explore with um with Ezri with uh future

legislators this council. We believe um we saw a major spike in usage

um for AOL which runs Cadastro on the back end and um we were forced to make

some quick moves and move to an M2 storage. I'm getting getting a little technical here, but it was almost like

it was throttle throttling our no not throttling it was debilitating our RJS

online and um so M2 premium data store was able

to like basically give us more capacity in the cloud in the SAS product that

that um Ezri provides and we use very heavily and so we couldn't figure out

any another reason why all of a sudden things were getting hit pretty hard and we believe it's because people are

starting to use AI. So that was we kind of dug into it a little and that's what we had surmised and so hopefully in in

1:05:10

in future AI this is this is the reason to have strong policy in place

1:05:16

nationally and locally is that they won't hit you for Luc and Clark County

1:05:21

data they'll hit the state or the national data sets. That that's what we really want. so that it's it's spread.

1:05:27

But I think that's kind of where we're going and

1:05:33

eventually we'll probably see more of it where he I mean you heard some of the discussions at Mischick last week.

1:05:38

They're it's starting to be talked about more and frankly most of the states are not ready.

1:05:44

They don't have policies. Adam, go ahead. No, sorry. Sorry. I didn't I didn't mean to cut you off. Um so yeah, agree with

1:05:53

broadly with all of that. Um I think I I so I do talks about this at conferences

1:05:59

and so on all the time. Um the right way to think about AI is exactly as an laid at. It's software

1:06:06

now. It's it's a powerful new class of software that in some cases so far can really accelerate your work. Coders are

1:06:13

really moving a lot faster with it right now. For example, things like that. And frankly, you don't even have to use AI

1:06:20

to take advantage of it. our vendors are releasing features at rates that two years ago would have been insane.

1:06:26

Um, but yeah, the the concerns that you have that one has rather generally, I'm

1:06:33

not calling anybody on here, but that that an org would have when selecting an AI product are the exact same concerns

1:06:38

you have when selecting software. You know, what's happening with my data? How do I secure it? How do I control access

1:06:44

to it? Um, where is it sitting? Uh, how's it hosted? All of those things. um

1:06:50

it's the same kind of it's the same set of concerns. There are some new specific security concerns and things like that.

1:06:55

But um that's always true of new software. So um yeah, I don't think I

1:07:00

think that certainly the group should proactively look into these tools because I think over the last two months

1:07:06

they really have switched from toys to tools. But um I don't think it needs to be some explicitly laid out part of the

1:07:13

plan. I think that'll happen as just part of your process of course you know and it already is.

1:07:19

Can we quote you on that? Toys to tools. Yeah, absolutely. Um that's a great way to describe it. Yeah,

1:07:27

they've there's I mean I you know I'll spare everybody the technical details, but there have been essentially two mathematical and one software

1:07:33

breakthrough over the last six months that really are going to mean that over the last two and the next six that

1:07:42

there's going to be a real phase change in the way these things work and they're going to be a lot more capable than they

1:07:48

than you know chat GBT4 or whatever. And it's important for us to stay informed

1:07:56

for those that might not work in the industry. So perhaps Adam, we could

1:08:02

Yeah. with when the new AI person you guys, we could tag team with them and you Adam

1:08:07

and provide like a what is AI discussion for the council. Yeah. Or what?

1:08:12

That's the kind of that that's exactly the kind of thing he wants to start doing. That's why we're hiring him is my

1:08:17

team hasn't had time to start doing the education and outreach and skills building piece,

1:08:23

but I think we owe it to like every employee in state government and and elsewhere that we can reach to skill

1:08:30

them up on this new set of tools because wherever they go, they're going to need it.

1:08:36

Great. Any other comments, questions, discussion

1:08:42

points that I haven't raised regarding the plan.

1:08:53

Two things. Um, the plan does not currently contain a budget. We're planning to have a budget

1:09:00

discussion with the council at your November meeting. um that is ahead of

1:09:05

our typical budgeting budget setting process that we go through in the late

1:09:11

winter and spring for FY27. Um we'll talk about this a little bit

1:09:16

more when we talk about our internal review of the grant program, but we are planning to prioritize funds for for a

1:09:23

grant program beginning in FY27. So, um, just a a note for your agenda

1:09:30

for your November meeting that we will be talking about kind of what a budget looks like for our ongoing operations as

1:09:36

well as some of the priorities that are identified in the plan. Um, assuming positive action by the

1:09:44

council today, the next step for the plan is adoption by the state library

1:09:49

commission and their meeting is on October 8th. That's a Wednesday.

1:09:55

uh and that meeting will be available via Zoom. So any council member is

1:10:01

invited and welcome to attend. We'll send out that agenda for that meeting next week. So again, you're all welcome

1:10:09

to join us for that meeting um of the commission on October 8th.

1:10:18

Anything you would add before I ask problems? Um, do we want to address well

1:10:23

uh the the memo with the public? Yes, please. Will you pull up the um

1:10:34

I dropped it in the chat.

1:10:39

Okay. So, just to reiterate, um we uh or take you back through how long this has

1:10:45

been out for. So the the the plan was originally um sent up for public comment

1:10:51

at the end of May and went through June and um and then we received the public

1:10:57

comments uh in I think it's I think well the dates are in there for each of the

1:11:02

submitted public comments. We received a handful and then um because we weren't

1:11:07

going to have a quorum at the June at the July 11th meeting, we decided to

1:11:13

reopen and we didn't really have a ton of public comment. We wanted to give people more opportunity since there was

1:11:18

going to be a lot of time between um July and September. So, we reopened public comment until September 5th. I

1:11:25

went ahead and made updates to the um to the plan based on some of the public

1:11:31

comments or just some of the issues that we had seen. Um so, it's pretty minimal those original updates that were made um

1:11:38

for the first round of public comments. And then because we wanted to get the plan out there and the public comment

1:11:44

submitted, um I did not make any of the suggested updates. So the one the two

1:11:51

that um Megan Burns had submitted were just basic additions. Um one was to add

1:11:58

dollars uh to the uh figure five in the

1:12:04

uh geospatial information plans page 10. So, it says millions and so she suggested saying millions of dollars,

1:12:10

which is a great suggestion. And then the link uh in the third paragraph um in

1:12:16

that uh on page 10 does not work. So, I'm going to fix that link. Um and so

1:12:23

when we do have a call to action, it would be with those changes or any other

1:12:29

changes that are needed between if anybody has any found any last minute errors.

1:12:40

We did have a discussion. I reached out to a lot of you individually. we met um

1:12:46

with Lee um to just kind of discuss how we want to do things moving forward and

1:12:51

there's a discussion of like you know why aren't we getting public comment and I think we have some good ideas that

1:12:57

come out of came out of the previous discussion but um and I think you know with your

1:13:02

suggestions and your help we want to get this plan was adopted out in front of those user communities and then build

1:13:09

their awareness and engagement of the plan so that the next time we're updating the plan we have a a broader

1:13:17

stakeholder base from which to solicit comments as well.

1:13:25

Let me go ahead and ask for public comment. Is there any public comment? Um

1:13:30

I'm looking at Matt, Rebecca, and Evan in the room. And

1:13:36

then anybody else online? Is there any public comment? Please, if you're online, feel free to raise your hand to

1:13:42

be recognized. Any

1:13:53

public comment?

1:14:01

Is there a motion to recommend the 2025

1:14:06

to 2028 geospatial information plan to the state library commission?

1:14:14

I would make a motion to recommend the forwarding of the 2025 to June 2020

1:14:21

geospatial plan to the library commission. Is there Adam? Thank you.

1:14:28

There any further discussion?

1:14:34

Hearing none. All in favor say I. I. I.

1:14:39

Any opposed say nay. Any abstensions?

1:14:47

All right. Thank you and thank you again for all of your hard work and your input, soliciting comments and feedback.

1:14:54

Staff, thank you for your hard work. This is this is a big lift and an important step forward in our

1:14:59

coordination efforts. Um why don't we take just a brief break

1:15:07

to 10:30. So, those of you online, we're gonna take a brief recess and we'll

1:15:12

reconvene at 10:30. Adam, you gonna head over?

1:15:19

Yes. Although, I'm 30ish minutes away, so I'll hop on my phone and listen while I'm driving.

1:15:25

I think it's a good point for you to come over. Yeah, seems like it. Okay, cool.

1:15:31

Thanks,

1:15:52

All right, we are calling the MG business meeting

1:15:59

back to order. The next item on the agenda is a discussion about the state library's internal review of our grant

1:16:06

program. We had intended to share a report with the council at this meeting.

1:16:12

Um, I think most of you know that we've taken this period when we haven't been

1:16:17

issuing grants to to do a comprehensive review of how we have administered the program historically to make sure that

1:16:24

we're we're accomplishing what we want to accomplish and and that we're administering the program as efficiently

1:16:30

as possible. Um, couple things happened. One, we felt like the report wasn't

1:16:35

polished as it as well as it could be. So, we wanted to just take a little bit more time with the report. And then Sean

1:16:42

Anderson, who is our grants and contracts coordinator, uh up until

1:16:47

yesterday at about 3:30, thought he was going to be on jury duty today. So, we

1:16:53

um we gave him a pass. Uh he did find out that he the case was settled in. So

1:16:59

Sean is online with us um this morning to talk about the the internal review

1:17:06

and and the progress that we've made with that review. Couple of points I

1:17:12

want to make and then I'm going to ask Aaron and Rebecca to talk about a series of interviews that they conducted over

1:17:19

the summer with past grant recipients. Um, as I said when we were talking about the plan, we are intending to open up an

1:17:28

application period this winter and then issue grants in the spring. We will have

1:17:35

a a discussion as I said in November about the budget and how much funding we want to allocate. Uh but there has been

1:17:42

some questions and perhaps a little bit of confusion about the move to a bianial

1:17:48

grant cycle as opposed to an annual grant cycle and particularly what that means for the funding. Um and I want to

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be really clear. I want to take an opportunity at this meeting to say that it is not the intent of the state

1:18:02

library then to have the amount of funding that's going to the grant

1:18:07

program. um you know, we're we're not in a position to say we're going to um make

1:18:14

have every year a commitment of 250,000, for example, or a $500,000 program.

1:18:19

That's a discussion we need to have with the council. Um but it is our intent to make sure that we have a larger amount

1:18:27

of funding available for grant recipients to spend over a two-year period rather than over an annual

1:18:35

period. and we'll talk about why the reasons for that um moving forward in in

1:18:41

the review of the internal grant review. Um,

1:18:46

and then, you know, I think the other thing we want to acknowledge is again the the move from the multiple tiers to

1:18:56

a tier one program and kind of what that means for um the the capacity building

1:19:03

grants and the the grant priorities from local governments for example. That'll be something that we'll be talking about

1:19:09

as well. So, um, any questions before I ask Erin and Rebecca to share an update

1:19:15

with the council?

1:19:23

Um, yeah. Any any

1:19:35

bats and I um went on an epic Montana road trip this summer and we visited

1:19:42

eight different grant recipients to conduct structured interviews. And what that look like looked like was a series

1:19:49

of questions that we put together to get candid feedback both positive and

1:19:54

critical so that we can incorporate that into the grant program review that we're doing.

1:20:00

And you know, we had some really great insights from from those interviews and

1:20:06

there'll be a report that's appended to the review and you'll get that in in November. Um, some of the ones that

1:20:13

stood out to me I summarized towards the end of this report

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and one thing that stood out from many of the applicants we talked to u was a desire to see simplified

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reporting requirements as well as a standardized kind of way of applying for

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the for the grants. So, um seeing more templates, more um simplified forms that

1:20:39

they could use. Uh what we were hearing was that in the current application and

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in the current reports, there's kind of some filler content that's being put in because of the questions maybe being too

1:20:51

complex for the for the type of project that they had. Um, along with that, some

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desire for standardized tools and processes, not necessarily a recommendation for a specific tool, but

1:21:05

more of a desire to have the same one from year to year. Um, and also

1:21:14

a desire for more communication and um, such as regular check-ins. One thing that we heard from multiple different

1:21:21

recipients was um a desire for maybe getting on teams and doing sort of a regular check-in or

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brief standup meeting, not just to hear from MSL staff, but to also hear from their peers that are working on grants

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at the same time. Um there could be some benefit for staff there, too, so that the same question isn't being answered

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multiple times. And then regarding invoicing and

1:21:46

reimbursement, again a desire for maybe some templates for that as well. Um

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there were some kind of delays that happened when there was communication

1:21:58

between finance office, the grant um recipient and back to the MSL. And so

1:22:05

having just either a template or a checklist of the required information would really simplify things for the

1:22:10

applicants. And those were the main takeaways that I

1:22:16

had, but there are several more that we summarized throughout. We worked our way through the entire grants life cycle.

1:22:24

And um I I want to open it up for Matt and Erin to to mention some of their

1:22:29

takeaways as well. Well, first of all, I created a very beautifully made map

1:22:36

in the past few seconds while she was speaking. Um, and funny thing about Google Maps is they only let you have so

1:22:43

many destinations. Clearly, they don't come to Montana often. Um, so we had two trips and the first trip we went up

1:22:50

north to Hab and then to um Bla County.

1:22:56

Blaine County. Yes. It's been too long. And then we also

1:23:01

went to um we had a sidebar trip to to the a tribal education center and we

1:23:06

actually got reported doing something for educating uh tribal children on the

1:23:13

um the profession of GIS. And so uh Garrett

1:23:18

had found that Garrett Wel, one of my staff but had found that opportunity for us and it just happened to align

1:23:23

beautifully. So we we we made it happen and Troy and Garrett and Rebecca and I went up to that. Um and that was uh

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right when school was letting out. And then um the other trip it was,200 miles.

1:23:38

Um we went from Livingston. Um and this was awesome because this is

1:23:43

just um this is just like a day in the life of a person managing GIS. Um Erica

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Hoffman is the IT coordinator amongst many other

1:23:57

um job titles that she has for Park County.

1:24:02

And we had gotten there and she's like our phone systems went down and I was like, "Oh, so glad I don't have to deal

1:24:07

with that." And it was kind of a big deal. She's like, "I'm not sure if I'm going to be able to meet with you." But we were able to meet with her analysts

1:24:12

and then she was able to come in and just it's it's just that reminder which kind of drives home another point that

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I'll make later when we talk about Ezri. But um uh it was just really awesome to

1:24:25

see Erica. I hadn't seen her in a while. Sometimes she doesn't get to come to the meetings even though she does have a big

1:24:30

influence in GIS um when it comes to Park County. And then um we took a trip

1:24:38

to Red Lodge, saw Tom Kohley, uh Billings. I'm sorry we couldn't fit

1:24:43

everybody in Allen. We were in Billings though, and we saw um the city of Billings and um and uh Yellowstone

1:24:50

County because we were only there briefly. Then we the whole time we were avoiding storms, which was pretty interesting. There was these major

1:24:57

storms that were coming through. It was nice to check in because not only were we doing grant trips, we were trying to do some coordination and outreach along

1:25:03

the way. Um, I had the I I forgot to upload a photo, but we do have photos of

1:25:09

us in front of the RTN station. I have a photo of the RTN station, not the one with all all the

1:25:15

Maybe maybe I'll add photos later. Um, and so and got to hang out with Moren

1:25:21

and she uh took us out to the RTN station and then we had a good conversation and then and uh went to

1:25:28

dinner. So that was really nice. And which one was that? the RTN station in

1:25:33

Mile City. What's it called? Um, that's a I have a question. Mile City MTMC.

1:25:39

Yeah, RTN. Yeah, we could have called it Bob or something, but yeah, that would be good.

1:25:45

Um, it was awesome to go to Circle. I hadn't been there in a while and Nancy

1:25:50

kindly reminded me of that and so it was a reminder that I need to get out more to the the hinterlands and and say hi to

1:25:57

folks. Um, but it was awesome to be there. Um, it was very green. That was the other a huge impression. We had

1:26:04

really great conversations with Nancy. I was there the second week Nancy started her job

1:26:10

in Mcome County. And so, um, it was good to and we kind of got a tour of town.

1:26:16

Uh, didn't take long, but I was going to say saw

1:26:22

what's her name um, oh shoot, old council member from saw her husband.

1:26:28

Didn't see her. from

1:26:33

we'll call her Nancy, but it's not Nancy. Um, but anyway, and then we were able to head to Sydney because that was

1:26:39

like a point for us um along the way to get eventually our way up to Plentywood.

1:26:45

Um, and we were able to have dinner with Joe and kind of talk to him about things and check in with him. That was awesome.

1:26:50

Um, one thing we learned is just you just really can't get a lot of I tried to show as many outreach visits as I

1:26:56

could in and it's really only two a day unless everyone's in the same town. So,

1:27:01

um, so it was awesome to be able to check in with you, Joe, and and come to that side of the state. Um, Plentywood,

1:27:08

uh, we saw Ruth and she might be one of my new favorite people, um, to make that connection there. She has really good

1:27:15

working relationships with Michael and Bob. She had a NextGen 911 grant. Um,

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and she paid us a visit recently back to Helena. So, I thought that was great is building those relationships. The um,

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and then we went to the tribes and they brought a whole room full and I thought that was wonderful. While he was there,

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of course, he helped kind of gather the masses and the tribal I thought the

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tribal feedback was interesting and good and they were just like, you know, I I think that they actually have a pretty

1:27:43

good structure for handling grants. They were just like, we don't have any feedback. we want more money, which is

1:27:48

always like I mean they did have feedback that's not true but and we were able to touch on elevation and some of their um other data sets that we work on

1:27:55

with them and future potential um coordination activities. They have a

1:28:01

brand new technician. Um we talked a little bit about just some of the tribal um coordination issues and uh

1:28:09

restrictions and some of the the funding federal funding that's going away impacts them or might be going away.

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They're still kind of figuring that out. And then we uh went to a little town called Seiko

1:28:22

and Matt did not believe me that it was known for their bacon. That messenger. Do you? Okay.

1:28:27

Matt did not believe me. It was known for their bacon, but Moren knew. Some other people did not. I believe.

1:28:32

Yeah. So, we went to this tiny little town, a tiny little map dot, got up. I spent like $90 on bacon. It's like a

1:28:40

known around town here. Yes. and um and then ended the next day or ended that day in great in uh

1:28:46

Lewistown because we needed to get close as Great Falls as we could. And it was a really great so Great Falls was the only

1:28:52

city uh grant recipient that we were able to meet with. We did meet with the city of Billings. Um and I think one

1:28:59

thing, you know, we heard a lot of common themes. I don't think anything was too surprising for us. I mean, I've been a part of this program for a long,

1:29:05

long time. Even before I became coordinator, I was a grantee. That's how they used to do things way back in the

1:29:11

day for MSDI. Um, but it we did happen to meet the G um the city manager in

1:29:17

city of Great Falls, which I thought was nice. Um, and we also, you know, talked

1:29:22

about um Erin and I potentially going and uh presenting at League of Cities

1:29:28

together, but he decided to go to Japan this month, so or next month, so he's not going to be around. Um

1:29:36

but um it was nice kind of hearing similar similarities between their

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budgeting. I think yes uh we talked a lot in in depth about their budget processes and budget

1:29:47

cycles. Cities although I take that back. Erica does represent the city as well, city of Livingston.

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And so we did get um some perspective. city's a little different, but pretty

1:30:00

much falls in line with the way county's budget and, you know, timing and how they'd like to see things. And so,

1:30:06

overall, I thought it was a it was a fun I had the best time. Um, it was awesome to get out and talk

1:30:13

to people and I think it really meant a lot that we came to visit. Um,

1:30:19

that was a reoccurring theme, the gratitude of us showing up and how we heard that no other state agency does

1:30:25

this and that was that was gratifying for sure.

1:30:30

It was an honor to be able to do it. Great. Did we do good? Yeah, you

there's a quote from Marine that makes it really important. Yeah, we did get a lot of good tidbits

and I loved how um Rebecca was very structured and she like read this bit

every time. We are going to ask you if if we can use your comments and I just thought you you had everything so well

organized and it was really easy for us to do because we were you did such a

great job. So, I really appreciate that. Well, thank you. And I have gratitude as well for all the applicants that you

know or previous recipients that took time out of their very busy schedules with us.

And you know, it just impressed upon me the importance of outreach and getting out into the communities where where the

magic's actually happening. Yeah. And I know it goes a long ways with the commissioners as well. Yes. That we show

up Yeah. at their offices, but then we also show up to some of these events like the conferences and support. But I I think

that they it means well it means a lot. So

it was awesome. I want to do it again. So we unfortunately timing did not allow I I don't think we should disregard

1:31:43

doing it but there the western side of the state there's and I could not get

1:31:49

them in two. It was like hard to get them all in two days because we'd have to leave on like a Sunday. But it's Flathead, Missoula, and Beaverhead.

1:31:55

Those are the other three that well now that our report is extended maybe we can fit them in because I I think we should

1:32:02

continue to do this and that way it's a way for us to go throughout the state um but it won't be as compact. So,

1:32:13

um, Sean, I wanted to ask you if you had any thoughts or comments you wanted to

1:32:19

share with the the council at this point.

1:32:25

Nothing that hasn't been already covered, I think. Um, you know,

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I will say that the the the the polish that needs to happen on the report is is

1:32:39

really pretty minimal. Um, I think I think the the critical piece is that we

1:32:47

got these comprehensive reports about these interviews that that Rebecca and

1:32:52

Aaron and Matt had been doing over the course of the last few months to make sure that they were fully integrated

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into the report and that the recommendations actually reflected the feedback that we got from those from

1:33:04

those interviewees. um and that it didn't, you know, there was no opportunity for it to to feel

1:33:11

like it was purely recommendations of MSL staff that this was truly informed

1:33:16

by uh some deep conversations with with previous grantees. So, um like Jenny

1:33:24

said, the the the delay is there. there's still a little bit of work done, but but our intention is still very much

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to get this report to you at the earliest possible time. Um, we know that

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there's action that needs to be taken about the the the next grant cycle at the November meeting and we want to make

1:33:43

sure that we get that to you, this report to you with plenty of time to review those recommendations, review the

1:33:49

work that we did, um, so that you can make those decisions in an informed way. So, I think the plan from here is to um

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finish up the report, get that final polish on it, and then get it to you early to midocctober. So, you've got

1:34:05

several weeks to to review those materials in full and again be able to

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make a fully informed decision about the future of the grant program.

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But if I'm also here to to answer any questions that you might have about the state of the program or you know the

1:34:25

nature of the recommendations that are coming. I know this kind of feels like a tease as I'm even as it's coming out of

1:34:30

my mouth. Um very positive te but this is a place you know I've been living in this document for for several

1:34:36

weeks now. So I'm happy to to answer any questions that you have.

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while Victoria pulls up a picture at text. I I also this this will be in the final

1:34:49

report as well, but I think just acknowledging that we do want ongoing

1:34:54

feedback as well. And I think giving uh recipients in the future opportunity to

1:34:59

provide that feedback was important.

1:35:06

Maybe print the picture too. Um she ties

1:35:13

Oh, I can send it in the chat. Yeah, like Sean said, we do intend to get the the report out to the council.

1:35:21

We'll share it for public comment as well at least 30 days prior to your

1:35:26

November meeting on November 13th. I would like uh a handful of volunteers

1:35:32

from the council to maybe sit down and meet with us and and review the report

1:35:38

and provide maybe any more constructive feedback for us before it's before it's

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fully finalized and and ready for public review. Are there any volunteers from

1:35:49

the council that would be willing to to sit down and meet with us? Are you thinking of trying to come up with an

1:35:55

SOP at the end of this of this is how we're going to go forward like with the the teams meetings and andor the visits

1:36:03

andor the standardization? I is that is that what you're looking for at the end of that? Um I don't we haven't gotten that that

1:36:10

far in our thinking but that that's interesting. Certainly some of the things that we're thinking about are

1:36:16

standardizing the application process, the reporting process. Um, we want to be

1:36:22

really concrete in some of the reporting back to us and the council that can

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really identify how the grant program is advancing our spatial data

1:36:34

infrastructure goals and our coordination goals. Um, uh, you know,

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looking for feedback on the overall administration of the program and that kind of thing. But your your point about

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kind of standard operating procedures for the administration is is something I think we could take into consideration.

1:36:54

Yeah. Because some things I heard especially like the the meetings I think a bimonthly minimum teams meeting with

1:37:02

everybody to to go over how's it going. I mean having received many grants in

1:37:07

the past all I would ever get was a call from Stew when you gonna get this done you know that basically the extent. So,

1:37:14

but having a a you know group meeting even if people are multitasking during that time would be

1:37:21

really helpful. That's kind of part of the that'll be part of the communication and outreach piece of it and there's a timeline set

1:37:27

up of what we're proposing and that so that is somewhat covered but yeah

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and then theoretically you would just go back into that group that volunteers maybe it's a different group would just

1:37:40

roll right into the grant review. Yeah, except committee and scoring and all that for next year.

1:37:47

I really like the two-year program because so many of them hardly ever get done in a year.

1:37:53

If you had two years, if you could extend that funding for two years, that would be I mean that would be ideal. It

1:37:59

wouldn't be put such a panic on on those recipients to to meet the deadline. Yeah. And it I know it gets spoken about

1:38:07

but it is a when they send um it is a huge administrative burden on

1:38:14

our side too. I mean the the amount of work that goes up on our side is significant. So

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we think it'll reduce some of our workload as well.

1:38:26

And I would just add that with regard to an SOP type document, um, I can only

1:38:33

really speak on the the the administrative side and and primarily on the the application management side of

1:38:39

it. Um, it's a huge burden on on on us to manage

1:38:45

those programs or those grants, but it's also a huge burden on the grantees. That's one of the big things that came

1:38:51

out of this. big opportunities to streamline the procedure. Um, and so making sure that

1:38:58

we are documenting those changes and and creating a pathway that if they need

1:39:04

further changes that we know specifically where they're changing them, um, and where we're not changing

1:39:09

procedure. I'm a huge fan of procedural documents. Um, mainly for my own sanity,

1:39:16

but I think that that would just yield dividends for the rest of the staff at

1:39:21

MSL and particularly particularly for the grantees as well. So,

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I'd be I'd be I'm very interested in that. Um

1:39:35

yeah, delays was one of the areas that we dug into during the interview and you know

1:39:42

they come from kind of a variety of expected and unexpected. We're always going to have weather in Montana. Um but

1:39:51

then you know a lot of cases where there was a death of a key person or found a

1:39:57

member of a key person involved with grant those sort of un anticipated but in both cases it seemed like the

1:40:04

interviewees felt that the two-year would really help with the resilience of the program and their ability to to

1:40:11

adapt to those kind of setbacks. Is it possible if we went to a two-year

1:40:17

cycle, we could have more funding available for that period?

1:40:24

I don't want to I don't want to immediately say yes, but I also want to just be really clear, you know, we're not talking about taking what we have

1:40:31

typically awarded and just stretching that over two years. I think there would

1:40:36

we would definitely want to have more than what we have typically awarded every year available for that two-year

1:40:43

period. So, you know, in $500,000 that we're awarding for two

1:40:49

years rather than 250 each year. Sure. No, that that that

1:40:55

was applicants knowing that they had that much fun.

1:41:01

Yeah. Yeah. The timing would be huge. Yeah.

1:41:06

That was a big part of what came out of our most recent conversation. Um is, you

1:41:12

know, we're moving to a two-year grant cycle. Uh it's a big change, but and we

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really it's a communication project, but we really want to make it clear and be

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unequivocal to the grantees that that that change is not intended in any way to to reflect a reduction in support. Um

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it's truly just a matter of logistics that these projects are typically they're most often two-year projects. Um

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and the fact that you know it's a lot of that the total dollar amount is governed by those recording fees and the revenue

1:41:47

that's generated um makes the process slightly more complicated. But I think

1:41:53

the in I can tell you that our intention is to to be very clear and unequivocal that that there is no reduction in

1:42:00

support incoming as a result of this project or as a result of the review

1:42:06

beyond just the grantees you to you know local government as our partners state government as our partners tri the

1:42:13

tribal uh bodies everyone that was involved in the original passing of the MLIA it's no intention to reduce it.

1:42:20

Yeah. And the more that you as council members can do to help us make that clear to people if you're hearing that

1:42:25

question raised, we would appreciate it. Sorry, I left off universities. You guys are included. Victoria, will pull a picture of Aaron

1:42:32

with the bacon? I want to see the bacon.

1:42:39

I literally brought home the bacon.

1:42:47

Say this again.

1:42:53

It's not gone. It's going to last me a while.

1:43:00

Not when it comes to products from swine. I grew up on a hog farm.

1:43:09

Again, I just want to ask if there was a couple of volunteers, folks, who would be willing to give us an internal check

1:43:16

of this document before we share it more widely. I I would

1:43:22

Ellen and Valentine great and of course more are welcome too but I'll make note

1:43:27

of those too. And we thought we'd reach out potentially to some other folks who've served historically on this grant

1:43:34

subcommittee. Maybe Dan Staley has a little bit of time for example. I'd like to reach out to Brian too and

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see if he would be interested. I won't say voluntel but I'll volunt.

1:43:47

You can always throw me in the list as well.

1:43:56

I would give a local perspective as well. Thanks.

1:44:04

Any other questions?

1:44:10

Carl's concerns about where we're headed with this internal review

1:44:16

and potential changes to the grant program.

1:44:24

Great. Matt, my apologies for leaving you off of the list of travelers from this

1:44:29

summer. I'm around always. I should have remembered that. I just want to thank

1:44:36

Sean for all of his leadership on the internal review. He's been doing a great job of shephering that project for us.

1:44:52

All right, let's move on to some updates on the JS

1:44:58

coordination strategic plan. Um, you have in your

1:45:04

meeting materials, uh, a memo with some links to some pre-recorded updates from some of our

1:45:11

NSDI team leads about the workg groupoup meetings and their efforts to continue

1:45:16

to advance our work around um, identifying and and documenting the

1:45:24

spatial data value of some of our MSDI themes. Super big thanks to Troy and

1:45:30

Michael and Megan Burn and others who contributed to those videos. Eric, you

1:45:35

provided some great feedback about those working group meetings. Um, so and I

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know others have been attending those working group meetings as well. Um

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wanted to just raise an opportunity for any feedback from the council about

1:45:52

about those working group meetings about the progress that you're seeing as we continue to focus on spatial data data

1:46:01

value use of these matrices. I hope you can kind of see where we're

1:46:07

starting to move with this effort from staff.

1:46:16

I appreciate the structure. It really helps uh follow and

1:46:23

absorb what's happening.

1:46:32

The structure of a lightning talks. Well, that and I think the structure of following the that we we did through the

1:46:40

plan. Okay. So, a little bit of both. Yeah. Okay. you know, but that that inherent structure of that we have

1:46:45

something some expectations to follow. Yeah. Um and then the ability to to use these

1:46:52

lightning talks to kind of like see where it's hitting those marks is is

1:46:57

really helps me um just track and and follow what's happening.

1:47:02

Yeah. And if you recall, we decided to do the lightning talks I think in May. Um well,

1:47:10

for the May meeting because if we had a full-on presentation every time, it's

1:47:15

like it kind of bogged down the meetings. Yeah. And so um and then I think this to us

1:47:21

this could, you know, thought this was an opportunity. So this will be your second round of lightning talks pre-recorded. Um, so if you think it's

1:47:29

going well or you need more information, um, we're working on the definition of a lightning talk because I think Michael

1:47:35

gets a little long in the addressing one and I was like, "Do you want to redo it?" He's like, "No." And I was like,

1:47:41

"Are you sure?" He's like, "Yeah." And I was like, "Okay, fine. We can deal with this." But, uh, trying to keep them brief so that you can, you know, get

1:47:48

through them quickly. And, you know, they were pretty digestible. Yeah. Being succinct.

1:47:58

any other things you think we might improve in our communication? You know,

1:48:03

I I want to make note that I think sharing these lightning talks with the the groups that we previously talked

1:48:10

about. Again, it creates another opportunity for more regular communication with stakeholders, more

1:48:16

opportunities for engagement and feedback. So, I think as we as we think about sort of the communication

1:48:23

component of our strategic plan, making sure that we're taking advantage of those opportunities is important.

1:48:29

Are those sent out through the major lister? Because I don't know if I've seen any of

1:48:34

these uh are what sent out the lightning talks. Yeah. No, the lightning talks were made

1:48:40

specifically for the council and so well yeah I guess they're sent to the lister through the council materials

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and then after this meeting we could make specific deliberate g delivery

1:48:52

announcements or list um make sure to the list yeah make sure they're posted online

1:48:58

but they are sent out as an email you think not not agenda items are sent out yeah

as part of the the meeting packet but not like we haven't done a a spec

special email about the lightning talks. I think that's what you're after. Yeah, because I I don't think I'll see

Yeah. And I think we should make an effort to do that. That would probably be

I thought they were interesting. Oh, sorry. No, go ahead. I thought they were interesting because I like that the the

dialogue is followed on the right of the, you know, the video being presented

and um that helps you follow along. Sometimes when you're like lost in the weeds about what they're talking about,

you can look over and see the dialogue and kind of brings you back into focus. but um that they're following the Excel

spreadsheet that was laid out, you know, for was it timely, where is it relevant,

that kind of thing. And and breaking those down into those categories that they're discussing. I thought that was

really good. The date of interest seems Yeah. I think um some of the theme leads had

some reservations um because it it looks like a huge task to do. But I think we

had through our um business planning process creating that first business or

creating that business plan for improving spatial data value. We had we

had spent a lot of time vetting that and we had if you recall we had practiced or we the two examples were

elevation and addressing and so um once you can get through that I think it makes it a lot easier and you

know it might be a little obscure for that person who's not been involved with the process but I think once you dive

into it you can start to understand why why this is important why we're doing what we're doing and eventually

this will tie into the geosp all these plans multiple times the geospatial information plan so we can further build

out what the cost really is for an MSCI um fully functioning.

I just like to make a comment on the working groups. The uh I can't quite

remember the date, but I know the listening to all the different GIS

specialists from the different counties and how everyone's really communicating and collaborating. It was just like,

1:51:24

wow, this is good stuff. I'm learning a lot

1:51:31

everybody collaborate and just have excellent discussions.

1:51:36

So I think they're working great. Great. Thanks Joe. I appreciate that. It's good to have that newer perspective as well.

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Like I said, sometimes we get in our echo chambers. So it's it's good to have that perspective.

1:51:55

Be sure to relay that to staff. Sometimes it's a heavy lift to run these meetings. Yeah, absolutely.

1:52:02

And get people involved. Yeah, definitely. Definitely. I hate awkward silences.

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And I will give a greater breakdown in my report about where we're at in status of the general strategic planning

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process. Um there's no other discussion on the

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spatial data value. I wanted to turn things over to Matt for an update on GIS

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web governance.

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that well

okay we'll just so um we'll start with the the big talk

what governance is we talk about this word quite a bit but I think it's always worth defining what It does and we'll

get into to it from a geospatial perspective but governance essentially is a framework of processes and

authorities that guide control an organization or society to achieve

objectives and to ensure accountability, decision- making and performance. And really the key tenants of of uh

governance are transparency, accountability, fairness and inclusiveness. Without all these pieces, governance

doesn't really work. So let's consider that framework. But before we get to there,

let's let's talk a bit about oops, let's talk a little bit about the

concept of big G governance versus little G governance. Aaron really wanted me to get this in here and I think it's it's a great discussion. We know big G

governance is that um high level authority laws, policies, um statewide

mandates and sets vision principles and account accountability. But the little G governance that's the operational rules

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that's the practices the agency workflows the permissions the metadata the sharing controls it's how policies

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uh get applied day-to-day both are needed and big G provides the direction

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but little G provides it uh makes it practical so thinking about what I'll be

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discussing today we'll be talking a bit about both big G and little G probably a lot more little G but

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So without uh governance uh geospatial governance organizations face data chaos

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and duplicate this duplicated content of data data sets missing best practices

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and this is where uh geospatial governance becomes critical. U without clear rules you end up with multiple

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groups managing the same data set like we'll use addresses as an example. Uh,

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and from a local government perspective, the planning department has an address data set. 91 has an address data set,

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the query reporter may have an address data set. Who's got the right one? Governance helps us solve that problem.

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And the idea is to keep use governance to keep these uh keep this duplicated data, outdated versions of data still

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floating around or provisional data from being used and treated as final. And my

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favorite is also you know inner geospatial platforms personal data becoming live public. Um I never had any

1:55:26

experience with this working in local government of someone's ski map making it to our public portal as hunting map

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um available for everyone to see under our mast head. Um these are things we governance can help us avoid and clean

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up. So really governance set sets expectations which data sets are

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authoritative who manages it and what documentation is required that way organizations avoid data chaos and the

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public sees trusted uh authoritative content and that's our goal.

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So let's consider this from geospatial governance uh application. So it applies

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the rules directly to our GIS platforms and data. For example, in RGis online,

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who has the authority to publish? It's a big uh it's a big ask. Who who can do that? And we want to make sure the data

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in the portal is authoritative, current, and discoverable. When we do make it public, how do we ensure it represents

um our organization appropriately? Governance can help with that. So, the

key though that governance isn't about restricting people, though it can be viewed in that lens. Really, it's about

creating clarity, consistency, and how we manage our share of geospatial resources.

And really what it boils down to is at the MSL, GE, governance ensures data is

consistent, accountable, and trusted. And it's our mandate under state law.

So, GIS is is growing across every sector. Um, and we serve and without

governance, we risk this data chaos. That's something we're trying to avoid. So governance is helping us solve that

problem. And the Montana spatial geospatial information act gives the MSL

responsibility to lead geospatial governance across the state.

How do you do that to avoid data chaos? Write policy. So at the MSL, we're

finalizing our geospatial governance policy that puts these principles into practice.

A little history, we uh leveraged the EZRI advantage program uh would bas basically was an intensive workshop with

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EZRI experts that gave us kind of a kickstart on what our governance ambitions were um and how to uh start

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structuring our documents to give us some best practices in place uh to start

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writing our own policy. It wasn't a perfect exercise, but it gave us a t taste of what we needed.

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Once this document is finalized, and actually it's going to be a series of documents, our commitment is to share it broadly with the GIS community um

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agencies, counties, local governments, and tribal partners and help educate them on how to implement their own

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governance with their with their organizations. Um you know, in this way, governance

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doesn't just live on paper. it becomes um a shared set of practical uh shared practices across Montana. That's our

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ambition. So let's talk about the first steps. Um

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we are beginning uh applying a hosted agency governance policy uh that will

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give us a more or less a pilot framework for managing RGis online users content

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and sharing. So something you may not know or maybe you do know this the the the

MSL RGS GIS online organization hosts roughly not roughly 10 agencies. We have

roughly 100 users and at this point we have 5700 public items. It's a lot of

stuff and a lot of things to manage. So as a result we are going to be

applying a hybrid uh model where the MSL will be managing security licensing and

some uh scripting I'll talk about in a moment but really we're going to put the

onus on content and user management uh back on the agencies so that they can manage their own people and content with

governance policies that they've agreed to adopt. Each agency that we host will adopt a

RGIS online manager. This may or may not be the GIS manager, but typically um

there'll be a person that's designated to work with their users to and they will be the conduit of applying training

and monitoring their usage and and folks that live in the portal.

And then the biggest thing is that public sharing is going to be uh seriously vetted. uh currently it isn't

by our hosted agencies. This will change as we move along and the the agency RGI

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GIS align manager will play a much bigger role in deciding what their agency teams to share publicly.

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To do this, agencies are going to need some tools.

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And some of the abil some of the tools are going to be available to them will be guidance of dashboards,

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uh, training and checklists that will be provided to them so they can they can start adopting these governance policies

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on their own and and see what what it is they should be doing to fall to be in compliance. Um, and the biggest thing

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about this is how do you find uh compliance issues? Well, a lot of that will be automated and we're going to be

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doing that through scripting and other mechanis mechanisms where our agencies

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will be able to look at a dashboard or a report that's furnished to them about issues they might be having. And these

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things will happen um, you know, maybe nightly or whatever cadence we decide, but something where they're able to see

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immediately where their problems are and how to resolve them.

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The other element will be collaboration and this includes our service now geo support tickets which we will be using

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as our primary conduit of communication with our agencies as well as quarterly reviews checking in with them seeing how

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things are going establishing some working groups with those uh agencies and and really the crux of this is

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trying to keep this fair and manageable. We don't want want to just release it and say you have to live by our rules. We we definitely want to see what's

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working for them and what's working for us.

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Under the Montana Geospatial Information Act, the MSL governs state framework and geospatial data and

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under that we that act we must coordinate with the state CIO and CDO

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for enterprise data alignment. One thing we will be doing is scaling up

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our governance from this hosted agency model back to a larger scaling to

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statewide governance, geospatial governance. And really we're doing this through a variety of means. One thing we

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just came back from the misj conference is is interfacing with other orgs like misj to figure out how other states are

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doing this. We're we're not the only ones and there are uh some states have done it better than others but we can

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certainly learn from what they've done and how they've implemented their geospatial governance and then

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fundamentally uh this council and mega can provide some collaborative environment to help disseminate our

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policies and and standards to the broader community.

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So really where we're going just kind of connect these pieces like we're using

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our host agency governance as a starting place. It's a test bed. We're going to

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apply our governance policies there but our intent is to scale it up for statewide uh governance for the MSL and

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beyond. Um we're going to take those lessons we're learning from the ARG GIS online platform. uh what we're doing

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with user roles, what we're doing with licensing, content lifestyle, uh life life cycle, sharing workflows. Um and

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then we're going to take those lessons and scale them to a bigger uh to a broader statewide governance policy. Um

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and this will include some of the low, you know, some of the things we can do immediately like, you know, metadata

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standards and determining what's authoritative and what can be public.

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So our implementation approach at as we as I view it as we view it at the MSL

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and Aaron can can expand on this if she wants but is really to establish draft

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working groups at least at at the staff level and then have a peerreview process where we're able to look at review these

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documents go through them and and ultimately after this review process we hope to have a a council endorsement and

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that's something that um will obviously need you to participate in and then then

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finally will be adopted. But you know we really do feel that there's going to be some uh the prioritization of how we

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implement this thing. we can really um set forth the uh governance of our

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metadata standards, what's authoritative data and our public sharing uh data policies and these are things we can do

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very quickly um which I think will be quick wins and you know really the

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thought of this of implementing governance and Eric can speak to this and we talk about this often it's like it's like eating in health and this is a

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giant process you're trying to do so much all at once it can be very daunting but I think taking the incremental

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approach and one bite at a time will serve us well and prove uh that we can

2:05:03

be successful in this endeavor even though it's a it's a pretty large um pretty large split.

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How are we going to measure success here? Well, we at least with our hosted agencies, we're going to be conducting these quarterly reviews and hopefully

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that'll be a good metric of success. And we do view that a lot of the policy we want to set will take some time to to

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put forward. It may be over two years but there are some early wins possible like improving metadata compliance um

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you know public sharing standards all those sorts of things but what will the indicators be well I view the indicators

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will be um authoritative content views once those start to go up we'll understand that people are indeed

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finding that data and connecting with it um clearly a reduction of duplicated

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items maybe fewer publicly shared items that don't need to be um

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the collaboration compon component where we're all going to be working together and having this back and forth to decide what is working, what is not. But but

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fundamentally it'll be trust. It'll be when folks look at our data, look at it and go that we know what we're getting

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is what we expected and uh the trustworthiness of of our of our data is there and and apps and and maps.

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So this is where we need help from council. Um, we definitely need uh support with the adoption and promotion

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of upcoming governance policies. Uh, they haven't been established yet, but

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eventually to engage in possible working groups um to refine our policies and make them workable. That's something

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that we definitely use the council's help with. Um, also to help us build buyin across all counties, tribes, and

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local governments. This is where your outreach will be critical to help us pull in the greater community and show

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that we have these resources for them. And um finally, just you know, really to promote our statewide efforts. Uh let

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all ships rise from our effort. And I think that's the primary uh the thing

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you can help very most with with what we're doing here.

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So, one thing I want to jump into quickly is what's a what's what's a good

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reason to be applying this governance? And I think that you probably have heard that we're jumping from our uh internal

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datal list product to maybe an RGS hub or a port public data uh portal hub. And

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at the end of the day, this is where geospatial governance policy implementation will be critical. um hubs

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require a direct connection to RGS online platforms, RG GIS enterprise platforms and the data that you feed

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that hub is only as good as what's in those platforms. Um just recently we were at NISJIC um and there's a hub

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session and it was I felt so behind in some ways on where we're at with governance until I heard some stories

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from say Kansas where they deployed their hub without a link of governance

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on on the back end of their system and boy they had a mess to clean up after they went live and it's something that

you you hear those stories and you go indeed we we don't want to be the agency that's deploying our open data hub

some good governance checks and checks in place to make sure that we're serving the the content we intend to. So

that system at the end of the day really u is a great reason to have our

governance in place and I think they're going to be working in tandem. This is you know a hub site is basically a website in many ways but at the end of

the day really what it is it's a content manager. So pulling in that data, using it and governance will really drive what

the end users can see once that goes live. So in closing, governance is a journey.

Um this is not a one-time effort, right? It's it's an ongoing thing and it's the

never- ending battle. It feels like cleaning up data, being a data garbage man is is something that you're you're

you're trying to clean up, make things work the way the way they're supposed to. But we know that this is going going

to be an ongoing process. Um and it's going to be a living document living

documents when they get implemented. Um we're starting with ARGS online hosted governance. We're we're dealing with

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that first, but we will have a bigger uh lift when we're applying these principles to the MSL systems and

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beyond. So um I'm happy to answer any questions you might have and appreciate

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your time. I just want to add to that just he referenced state agencies but anyone who's hosting an AOL really needs

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to have a governance in place and so it's not just it's not just what we're doing and I know a lot of other agencies

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have been kind of waiting for us to publish our document which was a little bit of a beast to begin with um through

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the process that we went through and we can happily talk about that process um with Ezri but it's it might not be as

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intense if you only have a handful of users But we have, you know, 10 state agencies

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that we're currently responsible for. So, we have to lay out a thicker governance structure.

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Yeah. Like Erin said, you know, this this could be a model. It could be a best practice for for other groups,

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which is why we think it's important for council input and ultimately council.

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Questions for Matt? You're going to need the ultimate gatekeeper

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for this. Otherwise, you're going to be paying through the nose for we have a massive site already built for

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BLM. Uh and metadata. We have a standard metadata that must be followed for all

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data that's published. And I think that's good. You'd have to have the same for yours, but you need

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that gatekeeper. Otherwise, someone's going to throw a whole bunch of stuff out there and your AG.

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So yeah, we're currently establishing roles and Sean is working through a um anou development with us. So we're

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establishing the roles that then we can use tools and scripts to automate when things do not align and then inform

2:11:05

those folks that they are not in alignment and there are certain roles that they want to play in our sandbox.

2:11:12

Yeah. Right. And and getting back to your metadata, that's a the intention is

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to establish a group and and some automation through scripting to look

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through the the you know the item metadata as well as the actual you know

background metadata s through it make sure it's matching our standards and if it doesn't it doesn't

get to be public. I think the other thing that you probably experience this especially at

the local government level but um smaller agencies that don't have dedicated staff and they might just have

a user here and there. I don't think it's really been communicated up through the ranks what is being published and

basically representing their agencies. And so we're calling attention to that through thisou and I think that's

probably one of the most important reasons to have anou besides the rules of engagement to show why this is

important so that the higherups do see it and do sign it and they are

understanding what's going on and they can participate.

Matt, you mentioned metadata, metadata work group. What other kinds of work groups to envision?

Um, well, I think once we get down to

getting the policy in a place where it's uh needs review and be not just metadata

2:12:40

review, are you talking about groups within what this council can do or review?

2:12:45

You mentioned working groups. Yeah, I really do think that having this council help us on once we have um some stable

2:12:53

documents that are not so much in draft and we have it's more draft now than we'd like, but once we get to that

2:12:58

position to have you review it and to get your input of what you think of of

2:13:03

some of what we've applied for in in our metadata or in our governance documents. So, there'll be there will be several.

2:13:10

You know, we like I discussed we're we're creating documentation for our host of agencies. We will be creating

2:13:16

docu you know governance for our own sandbox for our own staff and our our

2:13:22

data but to have your input on that would be valuable. Um your your experience would you know it's you look

2:13:28

at something long enough and you get your own tunnel vision of what what should be there and to see that your

2:13:34

perspective as percussionist would be wonderful. So um

2:13:39

and it would follow the policy uh workflow that we've already passed.

2:13:45

So um which was kind of a I think the elephant slide is a summary of that.

2:13:51

It was Yeah. And so you know I don't think we have a standing governance working group. We could

2:13:57

it could be something we decide to do. Um but I think we it can be a spin-off

2:14:02

call to action when needed. Yeah. Are you going to publish some stuff to the hub through your state

2:14:08

portal or not all AUL? You you mean to our

2:14:13

enterprise portal? Yeah. Can you I'm sorry. Can you re ask the question? Well, instead of pushing everything to

2:14:20

HQL, are you going to have do you have a state portal? Like the hub will be posted. It will be

2:14:26

through from our state portal, but there's different ways to Well, hub has to has to use a at least

2:14:33

to point to the the pointer that points to the state portal, right? So, I mean, hub is a hub basically just

2:14:42

points to AOL, right? Well, you can do it on enterprise as well, but our technology currently sits

2:14:47

on hub currently. Um, I think that's what you're saying. Well,

2:14:52

I'm saying even if you have it on your state portal, there's got to be a connection through AUL to to get it to

2:14:58

the to the outside world for public publishing. Um, so our state portal is AOL.

2:15:07

I think that's what you're asking. I think he's talking about enterprise. Are you talking about enterprise data

2:15:13

versus Well, maybe you don't have a state portal versus a hosted feature service

2:15:19

hosted portal. You could host your own. Yeah. No, no, clearly understand that we

2:15:24

are not using that currently. It is our our front-facing door.

2:15:29

Okay. Storefront is A2L. Okay. It's hosted through AOL. But there are

2:15:35

you know you can there are ways to share from other portals and whatnot. So there's just it's just another mechanism

2:15:42

through the technology. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So, are you referencing that they're they're pushing everything up and it's

2:15:49

becoming a hosted feature layer in RJS online versus versus

2:15:55

a REST service an RJS server rest service that references a SQL server on

2:16:02

site on site. Yes. Okay. That was recommended by Ezri that we move to that model.

2:16:07

Yeah. Feature layer. Everything's pushed as posted feature layers. The way we're

2:16:13

publishing through the hub is through RTS online. So, okay. So, everything So, so essentially

2:16:19

a copy of your enterprise data is pushed to RTS online. Yeah. Okay. Just caution, EZRI is really cranking

2:16:26

down on those AOL credits and they they've hit us with millions of

2:16:32

dollars in new charges. So, we have we have AOL out the door.

2:16:39

It's not just it's not just AOL. I can have long conversations about that, but um that's why we moved to the M2

2:16:46

storage, the the premium data store and I will talk a little bit about the the

2:16:51

Ezri contract in my coordinator's report. But um well that's why you need gatekeeper

2:16:56

because I mean if you don't then somebody could throw thousands documents on APA.

2:17:02

Yeah. in precisely a possible way, right? So yeah, we won't even know it too late.

2:17:08

The reason for us moving everything was that recommendation because it's scalable because our our architecture

2:17:14

currently can't handle anything that might I mean number one we're not we're not hosting thousands of documents in our

2:17:21

own enterprise because we have the very extreme control but um you know if

2:17:27

things were to go viral I'm not sure our current architecture could hit Actually we know it can't. No, I couldn't

2:17:33

because we we did experience that and we had to make adjustments two tax openings

2:17:40

ago, two tax rebates ago. So that you know that was pretty significant and we decided because of

2:17:47

the scalability of AL. It's actually it's a duplication. We are hosting everything in EGL, but it also exists in

2:17:54

managed services. And so we're going through a whole architecture

2:17:59

resign to try to get to a centralized way, but it's still is recommended to

2:18:04

post it to AOL because of the um the factor of it going viral. So

2:18:12

and the scalability from that perspective like we may be using distributed collaborations to go

2:18:17

from our enterprise to to JSON. I think like but as Aaron just enumerated we're

2:18:23

figuring out what we're going to be doing in our new architecture once we get there. Um yeah I don't have either. We're

figuring it out as we go along too. And it's usually cost driven is the

Yeah. I'd be interesting interested to know if you can if you go the distributed collaboration route or that

something else because we went through this this summer and we're basically

told scrap everything distributed collaboration. So this will be back. Yes. And we and I

I completely moved it away. I moved everything off of Who informed you of that? It would be mine.

Was it Ezra or was it your separate coach? Okay. Yep. And I know I think there's there's even a limitation with how many you can do

and I was like well that doesn't work for box. It's it breaks constantly and

you can't fix it and there's downstream I can I yeah side conversation if you

want to hear a little bit about workings of distributed collaboration I'd be happy to share. No, that's good to know

because especially people who are listening to the meeting or maybe might listen in the future because there there

will be times where we have to spin off tech groups to talk about this but some of the reasons why we are kind of a

2:19:34

little behind in our strategic goal of like launching the new web is probably

2:19:41

because we found significant technical issues that are preventing us

2:19:48

all from saying yes to publishing. And one of them has to do with RJS online

2:19:54

changing your data. That's significant. But we're in talks.

2:20:00

We're working through some major bugs and um hopefully we can figure it out. We

2:20:06

don't think it happens in enterprise portal. Actually did. We discovered it doesn't. We compared it but like missing

2:20:13

vertices. So it like dumps down your data or just decides to change it.

2:20:18

Enhances it for web. enhancing it. We love control, Eric. We don't want

2:20:24

people touching our data. Just don't have Godzilla polygons. Well, we do that. We already like I

2:20:31

think it's Montana. How can you not? I don't experience that at that level because I'm much smaller scale in that.

2:20:38

But well, I just have to compliment Megan Burns for even looking. Who would have thought? And that's the way we're we have decided

2:20:45

to serve our data out using love because it's such an awesome and effective tool. in theory.

2:20:51

Well, and just to just to flesh this out further, we discovered there is a data

2:20:56

alteration coming from a hosted feature layer feature class published to RGS online as as a hosted feature layer.

2:21:04

Then there's another alteration coming from downloading that the hosted feature layer as a file geo database to another

2:21:11

hosted feature class. three different counts of vertices very large scale data right but it's like what's going on this

2:21:18

data and I think that we care a great deal about tapping that data at least to write it into metadata what's what's

2:21:23

occurring so be there

2:21:29

we're working through it there's always something

2:21:35

any other questions about the web governance piece or the greater the big G level G

2:21:41

nice presentation Yeah, I did the whole big G little G thing with regarding the new um GI club

2:21:51

and with the different agencies like a pilot program started out as a pilot

2:21:58

or governance. Yeah, we'll be so much public they're in they're R2S aligned

2:22:04

organization. It's not a pilot. It's we're going full into it.

2:22:09

Yeah. Well, we're currently hosting them now. We're going to be applying the rules of the

2:22:14

plate of the play. We've been hosting them for years. And so so like say users can upload data to

2:22:20

that website and the data that they Oh, that's a little separate. So that's the

2:22:25

Okay. That's the um so we currently host RJS online. It's it's a SAS product service

2:22:32

as a software as a service. And so um we host that for 10 agencies. And so some

2:22:38

of the web governance he was speaking about is actually the rules of engagement for using that SAS product.

2:22:45

In addition to that um a bigger G would be you're going to you're going to um

2:22:52

share data through the um the MSL's data list now hosted through hub. There will

2:22:59

be rules of engagement for doing that and that we will ask the council to have

2:23:04

a working group on and and solidify that policy. What kind of needed?

2:23:10

Yeah, that would be part of it. Yes. Yes. All cuts. Yes. Yeah. All cuts.

2:23:15

It could be it could be it could be a map document. I think that's part that's something we'll have to try to

2:23:21

understand because you don't necessarily you do not have to um

2:23:27

we don't have to host it. It just needs to be shared. So if it's out there so Moren she doesn't have to do anything

2:23:34

special other than sh make sure it aligns with the policies and best practices and then share it with um with

2:23:40

us. And so the technology allows it. It's actually kind of nice.

2:23:46

Um, but before the way we used to do it was someone would have to physically

2:23:52

upload something to our data list and that is a lot of work and we never got

2:23:57

the tool to work well. So we kind of had a dumb down version of metadata. Um, and this one will allow us to like have the

2:24:03

full version of metadata. Um, and the dumb down version was just for the the browser. And so moving forward, it's a

2:24:11

simple share. Everyone's using the same platform and technology. doesn't matter if it's on A2L or a hosted portal

enterprise. So, um that's where we would involve the council.

So, is this so you've got your 10 state agencies, but you just use the example

of Moren. Is this the intent to be the point that like this city of Missoula

has public facing data that we would like to push through the state's data

like our our city parks or you know whatever that we would be able to do and

push and and share through some kind of a collaboration. That's where the collaboration might

work well. Yeah. Yeah. or it's just a group. You're a part of groups work and that's that's the collaboration

piece that actually works versus the collaboration between pushing and moving

all that data from the server up. There's there's a difference there. I think that makes more sense as state agencies um it's not easy to

find all the information that's out there and available and it should be right. It's like free what's that fair data um

findable? I can't remember what the the acronym fair stands for. Um I'll pull it

up. It's like fair data principles. One of them is like this is fine for and so um

2:25:35

uh so the big lift in state government is to make sure

2:25:40

that's that's step one, making sure our hub is out there and available and then it's accessible to all those agencies we

2:25:46

currently host. then it's bringing on the other agencies on board because they have a you know separate way of doing

2:25:53

things and so it's that standardization across the board because it shouldn't be difficult for a citizen to come in or a

2:25:59

government worker to find our data and it is and so and that's in standards with

2:26:04

state policy and the governor's executive what we've always wanted to um to do

2:26:11

and so um and then we would start inviting Yes. Exactly. That makes that

2:26:17

service your fair acronym is findable, accessible, interoperable, and reuseable.

2:26:23

Yeah. Thank you. Yeah. Which is all someone used that I

2:26:28

was like do that for the most part. Yeah. So I I think

2:26:34

that's that's a new term that's come outside of GIS because I we've always concentrated on interoperable data in

2:26:41

our profession. So that is the that is the pie in the sky that's we're doing really

2:26:47

well when we reach that and it's going to be hard because it's a lot of people and agencies but I think through our

2:26:53

processes that we've built we can get there it if we have the executive buyin at the state and then also you know we

2:27:01

have a tool it's like if you build it they will come. Yeah. And if you if you guys want to really hurt your heads and think back

2:27:08

about that metadata port oral that we first tested out oh my god 2006 or seven

2:27:16

like one of the first things I did it was never good you know it was never it never worked and never did harvesting

2:27:22

but that was the intent that was what we tried to get to and I think the tools are there now

2:27:29

that's the main reason I don't push stuff on hub is I got to build a metadata for a day and a half

2:27:34

for each data set. But it's it's a great carrot because what it'll do for the local governments

2:27:41

and the agencies is stop the phone from ringing. Um, can you send me your data for such and such?

2:27:47

True. You can just put on your website, it's available on the safe hub. Here you go.

2:27:53

So serve and so it's a great carrot for those people. I mean, I, you know, I put

2:27:59

my key things that people want on there, but I could put hundreds more,

2:28:04

but our metadata is atrocious federal. So, make it simple,

2:28:11

simple as possible. That sounds like a a measure of success, Alan, that reducing the calls for for

2:28:17

data. I appreciate Matt calling attention to the the measures of success that we're

2:28:23

thinking about as we implement this. this effort because it's significant, but we do think it will have significant

2:28:31

benefits and that's certainly one of them. It is and it works. I we've got a health

2:28:37

for the city of Missoula and the number of calls the reduction in the calls and data sets that I have to send out sign.

2:28:44

Yeah, there's very few that I have to actually package data up for. Yeah, we I

2:28:51

think I don't know if we get it would be good to classify Matt to take a look at the data. I think most of our data

2:28:58

requests well no we still but they're kind of

2:29:03

obscure but they're also most of the calls are tech support. they need

2:29:09

support on using tools like that because a lot of people use the gadas I mean you can all assume how many people use gadas

2:29:17

on a daily basis and so a lot of our I don't know it would be let's let's crunch those numbers for

2:29:23

future meeting and I'll add to the what you're saying one thing that the folks at uh had an

2:29:29

issue with or the metric reporting metrics coming out of hub like do you want to get down to the nitty-gritty

2:29:35

about the maybe certain geographies are being hold or formats and whatnot. You

2:29:40

can't get that. And I think as we heard that we want that that granularity and reporting to have a better understanding

2:29:47

of how our data is being used because it gets a little black boxy in that platform. don't know exactly what's

2:30:03

any other questions or feedback for Matt and Aaron on this separate

2:30:13

more to come. Survive a garment stock. Thank you.

2:30:18

A real farm burner. And you know, D and I used to argue all the time about data stewards and librarians, but I'd never

2:30:25

heard JS garbage keeper. So anybody Oh, yeah. We heard some really great ones

2:30:31

from Erin Richmond from Ezra. Eb dumpster fires hot dumpster. I can't

2:30:37

remember. Well, H2L is just like another file folder system. And you know, you

2:30:43

know, go look at your platforms back in your your home explorers and you know

2:30:48

it's a mess and you're just like what is this? And you have to have governance and uh I mean and clean that up

2:30:56

regularly and we're just I think it's our profession and our personality types that are like we need to clean this up

2:31:02

more. Matt, thank you. That was that was very

2:31:08

important. Um, I just wanted to spend a few minutes before we break for lunch just getting your feedback about the

2:31:14

council meetings themselves and talk a little bit about our our summer council

2:31:21

meeting. Um, we're we're really working hard now that we have a newly structured

2:31:27

council with more representation from a smaller group to make sure that these meetings are

2:31:34

more engaging. um making sure that the content of the agendas is relevant to you and the

2:31:40

groups that you represent. Um we want you to know how important your feedback

2:31:46

is to all of us, how seriously we take it and and so we want to make sure that

2:31:52

we are allowing for that kind of discussion to happen in these meetings.

2:31:57

I really appreciate all of your engagement this morning. Uh, and again, I'm just um wanting to make sure that as

2:32:04

we're planning meetings, as we're planning for the dates, we're getting them on people's calendars, we're

2:32:10

getting materials out to you in a timely manner, and and we're taking the

2:32:15

necessary steps to to try to facilitate meetings that ultimately are are worth

2:32:21

your time and help us, our staff, get the kind of feedback that we hope can

2:32:27

advance our work. Um, so I'm interested in your thoughts about kind of what's working well and what we can continue to

2:32:34

try to improve upon.

2:32:43

I know that July meeting is hard for me. It's like budget season for us and I

2:32:50

mean there's a whole bunch of um projects that we have that fall right in that time

2:32:57

frame. Avoid July. July is hard.

2:33:11

Better. What a month. What month would be better? August would be actually be better, but

2:33:17

it's so close to, you know, the September meeting. It's

2:33:23

May. Yeah, that would be better. In November, we'll be talking about 2026

2:33:30

meeting dates. And and you know, one of the things that we've been thinking about is we we've

2:33:37

typically had a winter meeting kind of January and February, but if we're changing up the grant program a little

2:33:43

bit, that might be a relatively light agenda if we have a meeting at all. So I

2:33:48

think we can take into account if we have fewer meetings or just you know some some short business meetings to

2:33:55

take care of business that's needed kind of when when can we have those longer more intense meetings as well

2:34:02

times when you're all available you although January meetings aren't good during this session are not good yet.

2:34:09

No, I think they are to prep the council in case activities need to be done

2:34:14

like early January like we did that this past year getting folks ready. That was

2:34:19

hard for you. Yeah, I understand. December then.

2:34:25

December before Christmas. December. Yeah. Yeah, it's hard because there's always

2:34:30

something. Yeah. Like jump to it. The other thing we we've been talking about um regarding

2:34:37

that let's let's just call it kind of a summer meeting uh is

2:34:42

um you know kind of what is the goal for those meetings. Some of them are not actually business meetings per se, but

2:34:49

it's more a chance for us to kind of do a deep dive into are we

2:34:56

uh how are we doing how we're make how are we doing making progress on our plan, spending, you know, a couple of

2:35:03

hours looking at some of our our reporting, reflecting the way the

2:35:08

revised statutes and rules are structured. If we want to make updates to the plan, we would do that at a

2:35:15

September meeting and and take those updates to the commission at their October meeting. Um, but then also

2:35:22

that's a time for us to think about uh, you know, what kind of professional

development might we want to offer to this council that we might want to participate in together that's a little

bit different from our typical business meetings. So, you know, just brainstorming the staff, we've thought

about would there be value in doing some professional development around

storytelling, how to do lightning talks and elevator pitches and storytelling with maps. That

that that's certainly something that would be of interest to our staff and and perhaps the council, especially as

we're focused on telling the story of the work of state state GIS coordination. Um, another topic that's

of interest to me is um, futurists trainings and and doing some work around

foresight and future planning. Um, you know, advocacy is is always a need. So,

it'd be great to have this council come together and and share in the experience

of going through that kind of professional development together. That's something that we would like to do in kind of a summer time frame

meeting if folks have time to do that. I think that futurist and strategic planning could go well end as well too.

2:36:41

We did a geo women in NIST a few years ago um training was like a virtual

2:36:48

roundt so is nationwide and um Deerra

2:36:53

oh I can't remember her last name it's a heightened name. she's the head of the GIS portion of the census. Um, and so

2:37:01

she she had done it about creating an elevator pitch and I thought it was really well done and um and and I I

2:37:08

always just think things like that when you only have a small amount of time you're representing the council or your

2:37:13

own programs that could be extremely helpful. We thought about just regular council training too from uh local government

2:37:21

center gradual AI use training. Oh yeah. Yeah, definitely.

2:37:31

Yeah. And and again, if you have ideas for professional development that you think would be of benefit to the council,

2:37:38

we're open to ideas. Maybe it's not a summer meeting. Maybe

2:37:44

it's a winter time meeting. Yeah. that actually everybody's bumped up inside.

2:37:49

Yeah, [Music]

2:37:55

let's spend some time before the November meeting ends. Yeah. like reooking at our business

2:38:01

calendar and calendar calendaring out what our needs are and maybe it is a

2:38:07

I think Jenny the other thing that you and I have spoken about and it might be a better way to connect with some of our

2:38:13

communities and it's really hard and we've we've gone we've done it both ways where we we we pulled the council

2:38:20

meeting from Native uh so our annual GIS conference but

2:38:26

perhaps we put it back I I don't know we've we've talked about that and that would change up the calendar as well and

2:38:32

so that would be April of next year. So that's something else to kind of consider.

2:38:38

It's very hard I think to get the grants done at that time. It's a month before

2:38:43

they're next year it'll be a month month before statutoily we're required not

2:38:48

stat rulewise we're required to have the decision made. But um I think that's something else to consider for our

2:38:55

November meeting. Start thinking about that.

2:39:01

other feedback about just the the meetings in general. Are there things you would like to see on the agenda more

2:39:08

consistently? Um, anything like that?

2:39:13

I would like a bucket of beer. That's skating.

2:39:24

I don't know. No, I mean if you put it in here like starting around lunchtime, I think do you think you'll get a lot more input?

2:39:33

Yeah, I get a lot of input. Oh, let me tell you what I think about

2:39:40

that whole

2:39:45

trading right in your mind.

2:39:52

Yeah. you know, like they have at rubbers, you know,

2:39:58

fancy restaurants like that here.

2:40:06

I personally like the September that works. That's a good time for us.

2:40:14

Yeah, it's right after Not for me. You got school kids. You have school kids.

2:40:19

Well, I don't know. I have school kids, too. It's I guess if you have to prep the meeting, I can see if but it happens

2:40:26

to land right after everybody's gone back to school for me. So my kids are, you know, the sporting events, but we're

2:40:32

not on vacation. Well, we got NISJIC, too. But next year, NISJIC is the first week of November and

2:40:38

then all the travel and so, but usually those organizations that we travel to. Well, I' I've decided to make

2:40:45

a better effort to share the love of outreach and coordination among staff.

2:40:52

And so it was great because Mako was in Great Falls this week and because it was so close most of us didn't have to get a

2:40:58

hotel room and we could all so Troy and Michael and I decided to take a day. It's also, you know, hockey season

2:41:05

starts Adam. Yep. And so it's so anyway um you know it's just part of

2:41:13

all that but I like I think the content is always awesome.

2:41:18

Yeah, that's good to know that you guys favor the September meeting.

2:41:25

What other meetings do you have? Would be good too. A winter time meeting. Yeah,

2:41:30

but this maybe lighter on business and more focused on council discussion and

2:41:35

early March or something. Yeah, I' I've examined past meetings.

2:41:43

I've gone back to the beginning and examined meetings. Interestingly enough,

2:41:48

the council didn't take action on the grants. The subcommittee did because the

2:41:54

council never met. So, it's kind of interesting like the way things used to be done. Um, it was always the subcommittee that took the action.

2:42:01

Um, but I I think I'm open to hearing everything obviously and

2:42:07

bring your calendars, all your dates. Even thankfully the school district puts them pretty far out advance.

2:42:14

That's a big deal. Yeah, from a budget setting

2:42:20

process and workflow, you know, our our central services is starting to put

2:42:25

together our agency fiscal year budget. We start asking our leads for their budget priorities

2:42:32

shortly after the start of the year and then we start compiling those and

2:42:37

prioritizing as an agency. So having the council provide input on council budget

2:42:43

priorities, you know, kind of in a in a Novemberish time frame is helpful for

2:42:49

that that workflow. And we would now that we the

2:42:56

recordations are kind of on an upswing outside of the increase that will take place next week. Start that. Um, I do

2:43:04

want to continue to prioritize getting everybody to be able to be here in person. And um, interestingly enough,

2:43:11

some other state councils, they don't get reimbursed for travel. So I said, well, that's why you don't interact with

2:43:17

your state council. They at least pay people to get there. And so, um, but I I think it's to me, I

2:43:25

know there are times when it's really hard to meet in person, like with weather and whatnot, but I think it's

2:43:30

the discussions are so much better when we're when we're in person.

2:43:44

Any word from

2:43:58

Any

2:44:08

[Music] other discussion about the meetings

2:44:14

in recess for lunch? We could offer Chipotle assistance with finding their way here.

2:44:23

Somebody might figure that. I know some people are really Yeah.

2:44:29

We shall see the map that she had

2:44:34

Google has been my house. We have national conversations about

2:44:40

that. [Music]

2:44:50

All right, for those of you online, we are going to recess until approximately 12:30.

2:45:00

All right, for those of you that are online, thanks for hanging with us. We had a little bit of a snafu with our

2:45:07

lunch delivery here at the meeting. So, we had some folks rescue us and and

2:45:13

we're going to have a little bit of a a working lunch here at the uh conference room, but we wanted to out of respect

2:45:20

for everybody's time, try to keep the meeting, moving forward. Um we are now at the point of our standing reports and

2:45:28

in the council materials is a link to our financial dashboard from the state library um where the fourth quarter of

2:45:36

FY25 the first quarter of FY26 will end here

2:45:41

on September 30th. So this is an end of the year snapshot of how things ended

2:45:48

the fourth quarter for the state library and we're on the um MGA tab.

2:45:56

By now I think everybody's very well aware that we had a significant drop off in revenue in FY24 that that caused us

2:46:04

to make some pretty serious decisions about how we spent some funds in FY25.

2:46:10

Uh as you can see from the chart in our financial dashboard, we are seeing some

2:46:16

good rebounds to the revenue. This of course is through June. Um but since

2:46:22

June, we've continued to see increasing collections and so we're starting to feel more and more confident in the the

2:46:29

status of the revenue coming in. And then of course this doesn't take into

2:46:36

account yet the increase in the fee that will come into play to support this

2:46:42

effort effective October 1. As a reminder to everyone, the legislature

2:46:47

passed House Bill 192. Um, and again we want to say thank you to the clerks and recorders association for their support

2:46:54

of also increasing the portion of the recordation fee that goes to support our GIS work as well as the the county GIS

2:47:02

functions. Beginning October one, the recordation fee will increase um to

2:47:09

$2.25 a page for the state library and a dollar per page for county GIS. So

2:47:15

again, the the chart that you're seeing in our financial dashboard is through June. Uh and um so we we do expect to

2:47:24

see a continuing increase in that account balance. Some things I did want to draw to the council's attention if

2:47:31

you're looking at the dashboard. Um again, because of the drop off in funding, we made the decision to

2:47:38

significantly underspend our legislative appropriation. Our legislative

2:47:43

appropriation um for the last fiscal year was or was

2:47:49

about 2.6 million that included about 500,000 in one time only appropriation

2:47:55

that was earmarked towards the real time network the Montana State Reference Network. Um we did significantly

2:48:03

underspend that appropriation. Of course we didn't have the grant program and so

2:48:08

forth. um looking about 2/3 3/4 of the way down the the

2:48:15

chart. You can see that hollow authority there that reflects the amount that we

2:48:21

purposefully left unspent to to be able to balance what we spent with our

2:48:26

authority. And then of course a number of other items there that were significantly underspent in terms of our

2:48:34

our overall operations. The one area you see that was overspent just by, you

2:48:40

know, significant percentage but dollar amounts relatively small was the in the info products line that was some work to

2:48:47

close out the contract we had on the revised cadastral application from last year. Um just some tasks that needed to

2:48:54

be cleaned up. So, we feel like we managed the budget given the concerns

2:49:00

about the revenue very very well and we're pleased with the the prospects of

2:49:07

those revenues starting to increase. Um, we will share our first quarter

2:49:13

financial report with the council at your November meeting. Um, but just a little bit of additional information,

2:49:21

the legislature did maintain about 2.2 2 million of appropriation rather than

2:49:28

geospatial information account. Um we were a little bit worried that the legislature might reduce our authority

2:49:34

to spend those dollars based on the declining revenue, but they chose to keep

2:49:40

relatively level authority minus the one time only appropriation for the real-time network. So we were grateful

2:49:47

for that. We did budget only to spend about 1.3 million of that in this fiscal

2:49:55

year. Again, in FY26, we did not have a a grant program, for example, leaving

2:50:01

about $900,000 unbudgeted. That's again in interest of being very very

2:50:07

conservative with our spending so that we don't have to make significant mid-year cuts as we had to last year. um

2:50:15

and and then watching the revenue coming in um to give us a better sense of what we feel comfortable budgeting for FY27

2:50:23

and and again that photography will open to your meeting in November.

2:50:28

Um Alan, you had asked about our our federal funding update

2:50:34

and as I said things are looking a lot more optimistic than they were in the spring. uh on the library side of the

2:50:42

house. Last spring, we were very concerned that we were about to lose that funding alto together. That did not

2:50:48

happen. And we do have continuing appropriation at the the current level of funding that

2:50:56

we've received. And uh in terms of the the federal FY26 budgeting process, both

2:51:04

the Senate and House appropriations have recommended level funding going forward.

2:51:09

So assuming they actually pass an FY26 budget, we expect level funding.

2:51:17

Obviously, if there's just another continuing resolution, um, which is

2:51:22

pretty likely, uh, we we expect that that level funding to continue. What is that funding about?

2:51:29

Um, we received 1.4 million in in federal funds for our library services.

2:51:35

Okay. And then um we also have a number of

2:51:42

contracts and agreements with federal agencies more to support the natural

2:51:47

resource information system. Our heritage program and the water information system. So you know Troy and

2:51:54

all of his work on hypographies is receives a significant amount of funding about 30% from those federal

2:52:01

agreements particularly with the NRCS um USGS forest service there's some from

2:52:08

the BLM there's some from um power so

2:52:16

we have um current funding now for FY26

2:52:22

six and um there's been some de delays

2:52:27

in negotiating those contracts. Um but we are, for example, negotiating a

2:52:32

five-year agreement with the NRCS and feel confident that we're actually going to see a slight increase in the amount

2:52:38

that NRCS gives us each year over the next five years. Uh I think the one area

2:52:45

where we're still watching is with those USDA offices particularly the forest

2:52:52

service you know we work really closely with our partners uh and it's for that

2:52:58

reason that we have relationships that result in the agreements that we have every year and if the USDA consolidates

2:53:05

those offices and we lose those partners in the region one forest service office

2:53:11

for example it creates it's that much more work for us and build those relationships, provide training, do

2:53:17

coordination work at that larger regional level. Um, which is we think

2:53:23

necessary, critical to be able to s sustain that funding going forward.

2:53:28

So, we we have we have contracts and agreements in place for now. Um, we we

2:53:33

are worried about the amount of of work and the risk to that funding in future fiscal years.

2:53:43

Yeah. No, they they've cut our contacts down to

2:53:48

I mean they haven't cut all the contract, but they only extend them for

2:53:54

like a month or two. Okay. Maybe three months and then revisit. Yeah,

2:53:59

that's so much work. That is so much work. Yeah. I mean, just the administrative side of

2:54:05

doing that. Well, the only contractors we have on with those contracts. Don't know if they have a long, right?

2:54:13

But things are looking better than they were in the spring without a doubt. Yeah, it is better

2:54:18

and things have settled down a little. Yeah. You know, we're so we're feeling

2:54:24

justly optimistic. Um, just so everybody's aware in the council, the education interim budget committees, all

2:54:30

the budget committees are closely monitoring federal funds that are coming up from the state. And so we'll be doing

2:54:36

quarterly reporting to our inter budget committee about the the risk that we're seeing to our federal funds. And we have

2:54:42

information available from our homepage about the the current status of our federal funds and the risks that we're

2:54:48

seeing.

2:54:54

Other questions about financially financial health,

2:55:08

right? Don't mess with chips. You say crunch crunch.

2:55:15

Every time I reach for a chip, I show up on the screen.

2:55:22

You get your chips now. swallow it.

2:55:28

That's cat right there. That's At least it's not sunship.

2:55:36

A lot of back. Are you ready?

2:55:43

No. It's just gonna continue to fall on my

2:55:49

hands. Food malfunction. All right.

2:55:57

[Music] gonna start with

2:56:02

an update on collections. Okay.

2:56:22

I'm gonna take back ownership just so I can drive.

2:56:32

Come on. All right.

2:56:40

Make sure All right. Great. So, um, we, you may have noticed, um,

2:56:50

you're going to see some of this stuff kind of twice in my report later. Um, but we did do an update to the

2:56:57

dashboard. And so, I don't need to go I don't think I'll go into it too much, but we can talk about that during my

2:57:02

report. Matt, I'll lean on you because

2:57:07

you had actually done the work. Um, so I just want to focus on where we ended up

2:57:14

last. So I like to So if you don't know this dashboard, it's really awesome and

2:57:19

it's interactive. And so um, what I did here was I clicked on this uh, little

2:57:27

grammar guy in the upper right corner of the chart to expand it. So you can really dive into the chart, but this is

2:57:34

what we were watching um, kind of throughout the past year. And I'm going to turn off 20 20 21 22 23 cuz that

2:57:42

because it was just kind of crazy. Um that was when everybody was refinancing our house and then they were doing it

2:57:49

multiple times. So the reportations really jumped up during the pandemic as a result of the lowered interest rates

2:57:54

and no one spending money on silly stuff like going to the store and buying something because you couldn't.

2:58:01

Uh anyway, so um if we if we take a look at um so FY25

2:58:10

is that green color um more of a closer to a teal rather than like the

2:58:16

olive lime green up top. Um 29. So, we're still falling below

2:58:22

the patterns we used to see in in 2019, but you can see that we're we're except

2:58:28

for one month, we're well above 2024 where we saw some of the most

2:58:33

significant declines in recordations. And so, we're Jenny and I have talked about it. I want to do a deeper dive to

2:58:39

try to understand why. So, these are pages recorded. This had nothing to do, this is not the funding piece. Um

2:58:46

because you you really can't compare because we've changed the um the amount

2:58:51

uh twice in the past uh four or five years. Yeah. And so really what we have

2:58:57

to compare is collections. And I want to work with the clerks and reporters because they're very

2:59:03

um they're very savvy and this is kind of their realm of things since they're recording the documents. But we know it

2:59:09

has a lot to do with like low housing stock um you know human human patterns

2:59:15

uh because of a perceived I'm going to say a perceived high interest rate. Um because I always fall back on the

2:59:21

knowledge that my mom and dad like interest rate was like 18% on their first home.

2:59:26

And so it's a perceived high interest rate, higher than normal, but you know, we're seeing activity um again in the

2:59:34

housing market in Helena. And there's some really cool housing reports I've seen from some local banks um or

2:59:40

regional banks, excuse me, that I I've kind of fallen back on on it's like the human behavior side of purchasing homes

2:59:47

and whatnot. And so I'm going to dive into that. The other thing that we do know was the family transfer the family

2:59:54

transfer deed act um had changed the way things are filed and it reduced um the

3:00:00

number of pages. That's pretty much all I can say. I don't have enough information, but um the clerks and

3:00:06

recorders had kind of let us know that that that probably caused a little bit of a reduction and over time I think we

3:00:14

have to be highly vigilant during the session because if anything changes on the way pages are recorded, it will

3:00:21

directly impact our um our funding our funding model. And I know the clerks and

3:00:27

reporters and I think sheriff's in the corner. Who else?

3:00:32

um those those those groups will also be um very vigilant of of what could

3:00:37

happen. And so even though things are very digital these days, the page numbers are relatively still the same

3:00:43

when you're um filing mortgage or refi. And so someone had asked earlier, I

3:00:49

think it was you, Alan, is it is it just um land records? It's not. Um, you could

3:00:55

actually go and file a document that says I love bubblegum and you want it

3:01:01

you want it to be reported and you want it to be a public document. You can do that occasionally. I do hear about some

3:01:07

really funny ones. Um, which is just always kind of interesting to understand

3:01:12

um how people use our our government systems. But um just know that it's any

3:01:18

document that is um recorded with the with the county.

3:01:24

And so, um, uh, Matt has been great about me bugging him and like, "Hey, we

3:01:29

got to update that. I need to see." Um, and he's working on automating the process. So, we get files from the

3:01:36

Department of Revenue, um, on what's being, um, reported by locals. So, it's

3:01:42

reported through a Department of Revenue system and then we access that system and pull the information out of it to to

3:01:49

create our dashboards and charts. And um so August looks like oh my gosh

3:01:55

it's down. Should we all panic? No, because it's typically about two months behind. So August really I mean we'll

3:02:03

see we'll see. I've never seen reductions. I'm sure they happen but we used to I used to do this all by hand in

3:02:09

spreadsheets back in the day. Um and you would see um things always increase. So there'll

be slight corrections throughout the year. Um usually not massive. So, um,

what we'll see is probably in September, uh, or when are you going to run the

tool again? October runs weekly over next. Okay. So, when that tool runs, what we

might see, at least if not in September, in October, maybe the second or third

week. It really depends on how it's reported and and I don't understand the behavior of of reporting at the local

level yet, but um, some counties, I think, report a little earlier than others. And then there's, like I said,

there's always those corrections over time. Um, so I think it's looking good. And if

you want to see, let's do monthly pages.

Nope. Annual pages recorded. So, um, this is, uh, a snapshot of history. And,

um, you can see the weirdness that happened in, um, FY 2020, 21, and 22. Um

maybe 2020 is not as weird as you know some of the other years. It's it's higher. Um but it really you know those

refies started towards the end of fiscal year. So we all went home um the what

3:03:30

March 2020. So but really it's the FY 2021 where it's like a drastic increase

3:03:37

in pages. Is the fiscal year again ending June 30th that's for everyone?

3:03:44

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And um and so uh I think you can

3:03:51

see um it's interesting that FY206 looks like that. I I don't know why. Um I

3:03:57

think it might have been maybe when they started. Yeah, I don't know that the law took effect on July 1. I I need to go

3:04:03

back and look at the language, but the bill the law probably took effect at a different point in time. Right. But you can see the dip down in

3:04:11

um in the fees. So, we had the housing bubble in ' 08 and it started to

3:04:18

decrease, but really it's because of like Jenny was saying earlier, all that um land um oil transactions that were

3:04:25

going on that kept it high um and not drastically low. So,

3:04:32

um I think it's all good and um it's hopeful and then we will so October 1st

3:04:39

happens next week and we'll start to see that recordation change and I'm sure by

3:04:44

December, not November, you'll start to see the behavior and the and the well,

3:04:49

not the behavior, you'll start to see the costs increase. And so it's all automated and set up and ready to go so

3:04:55

that when the feasts roll in starting in October, it will automatically um start

3:05:01

doing the calculations. Hit the collections info tab so that because that one tells gives all the

3:05:07

breakdown of where so you're looking at that. Thank you for helping me prove this.

3:05:15

Yeah. So any questions? Um, I guess here here's another fun

3:05:21

thing. Oh, just Montana just doesn't fit sometimes in our screens.

3:05:27

Um, but the way we've broken it down is we can click on a county. So, click on

3:05:34

Lincoln County. Oh, there we go. And, um, actually, let me

3:05:42

take a step back. I'm going to clear the county on the right. This is when you

3:05:48

want to look and dive into county collections. Um, so

3:05:54

the custer and then you'll start seeing it broken

3:06:00

out here. So you can make that wide. Take a look at it and start to see what

3:06:07

your collections look like. And then you can move this little guy up, this widget, and dive down into how it's

3:06:15

collected by month if that's helpful for your budgeting. Yes. Yeah. So, out of the dark blue counties, who

3:06:22

is in the lead? Who's in the lead? Who's winning? Oh, probably the usual suspects.

3:06:29

Um,

3:06:39

I send this back to Flathead. Yeah, I heard that Flathead was the and

3:06:45

area in particular was the fastest growing city. Uh actually Broadwater County

3:06:52

has is the fastest growing population.

3:06:58

It's Yellowstone. It's a bed bedroom community of all of Gallton County. Um because the

3:07:03

broadwater commissioners are facing a lot of issues down in south part of the county. Wonderful.

3:07:08

Yeah. Okay. So, sevenyear total for Gton County is 366.

3:07:15

Sevenyear total for 366,000 for Yellowstone is it's I bet it's more.

3:07:23

Yeah. Yeah. And then Flathead

3:07:34

So Yellowstone Yellowstone. It's just more people.

3:07:40

Yeah. Probably more maybe more wealth than Gallatin, but more people.

3:07:48

So we hope you enjoy continuing to use this tool and then I'll talk about some

3:07:54

of the changes we made in my report. Questions for Aaron? I like this tool.

3:08:00

I love this tool. I send it to our cliff recorder and fiscal officer all the time

3:08:05

and say, "Oh, just FYI, just remember." So, as a matter of fact, I got to have a

3:08:12

message, have a note to remind them that their fees change in October.

3:08:17

We talked about sending something out. Seriously, let them know so that they're

3:08:25

make sure they update all their software, everything. Oh, okay. I think they're ready. They're kind of

3:08:30

I'm sure they're ready. Just just kind of reminder as always. Yeah. Well, when you're

3:08:50

It's real drag not having multiple um screens here. All

3:08:57

right, let me do this.

3:09:05

All right. So, some of the things I'm going to speak to you about today is the strategic plan update, NISTIC updates,

3:09:12

um the dashboard updates that we I just start started a preview with you, uh

3:09:17

events and activities, coordination that we have done, and then um our working

3:09:23

group activities and some MSDI updates. Um, so I want you to all memorize the

3:09:33

the the legend because it will not fit on the other page. So blue is not

3:09:38

started, green fully meets expectations, yellow is partially, and red is not meeting expectations. Are you ready?

3:09:46

Okay, great. All right, so here we are in our strategic planning update and I

3:09:52

apologize if you cannot read that. Um we because of our funding cuts we did not

3:09:59

um create a business plan for goal one though that is uh on hold not started.

3:10:05

But the one thing I will say is I was a part of a uh strategic planning um panel

3:10:11

at the conference and was it Indiana or

3:10:18

Massachusetts that said anything more than three is ridiculous. any any more than three to four goals.

3:10:24

One of them said it and I was like, well, I learned uh that and I can definitely say that it was that I think

five goals is ambitious and so clearly this is we even have the funding for the

final business plan and they're not in order. Um just for those of you that weren't around during this process,

they're not in they're not ordered by importance. We basically we chose um we

reordered them and I don't have that slide here of of level of importance but it was basically to improve communications first and then I think

the second one was develop policies the third was improve spatial data value the fourth was create and strengthen

partnerships and the fifth was the internal work to improve their nation within the library. So um so in regards

to improved communication with geospatial stakeholders, we are doing awesome I think. Um and we've had some

major tech setbacks that have kind of left us trying to figure out what's best

to do next and and not make knee-jerk reactions. And um we implemented service

now and we um we have well documented procedures on

how to handle all of our tech support calls. We restructured staff um

responsibilities on how to um structure and answer um tech support calls. and

we're trying to be as smart as possible in the best way possible to limit the

amount of time we're on the phone because it was identified that we spent too much time on the phone and it wasn't just me because you know I'm a talker

but um I think what it shows is that we could obviously first of all improve our

website and communication but then we're also very trusted in our expertise so

you know people are constantly calling and then I think we have also just identified that there is a gap of folks

folks that aren't ready to use technology and those people will always call. So, um we we try to get rid of

phones, but we haven't really quite gotten there yet. And a lot of people are doing that. And so, we want to be

able to reach every citizen. And so, we still get a lot of phone calls and and that's okay. And uh we it could be a

pretty big burden on staff. So the way we used to do it was all staff members had a week and then they had a backup

and it worked for a long time. We did that. We did did that starting with Stu back in the day when I worked for Sue

3:12:54

and I was admin boundaries person and that's kind of how we did it was one person took a week some was their backup. But as an analyst or someone who

3:13:02

has to really dive into something those could be real destructive phone calls for the day. And so we knew that and we

3:13:08

wanted to figure out a better way to do it. And we have people who really enjoy doing this type of call too. They like the distraction. They like interacting

3:13:15

with the public. And so um the way we structured it was we created a tiered support system. And we um over the past

3:13:23

five years were able to hire different levels of support and implement the um

3:13:29

the staffing um profiles for GIS in the state of Montana. So we have a tech we

3:13:35

have a um tech is the lowest level of um expertise. So that job position and then

3:13:41

we have a specialist. Wow. Uh an analyst and a

3:13:48

manager. And so the way we've restructured things was we have um kind

3:13:54

of like a triage and that's the user services team which Matt and I are on

3:13:59

and and we've got three other folks. And we have these two texts that kind of serve as that entry point to be able to

3:14:06

kind of look at a look at a case, pass it off um to a um to a person um like

3:14:14

let's say it's an in-depth cadastral call. Well, that's got to go to Michael or that's got to go to Jeff. And if

3:14:20

they're not there, it's Megan or Matt or I or Bob because all of us have so much um understanding of cadastral. And so

3:14:27

through this system, we've been able to really reduce the amount of time that the um uh higher level staff have to

3:14:34

spend on just answering the phone and answering tickets and answering emails.

3:14:40

I mean, we also have to answer emails obviously. Um but it also provides like a standardized um response from us and

3:14:48

standardized weight times. And so I think it's just really hopefully um improved people's interactions with us.

3:14:54

The other major piece of that is creating a website that's searchable. And right now we have a lot of information that we put out. Um, and

3:15:02

we're kind of waiting on releasing the hub and the new web content kind of somewhat based on some of the big tech

3:15:08

issues we found with the software and and some of our workflows. And it also kind of overlaps with our

3:15:17

architecture woes, just call it that because we're split into two different um we have our architecture spread over

3:15:23

multiple platforms and unfortunately um we weren't our commission didn't approve

3:15:30

of us um the funding fell out last year and then the commission didn't approve

3:15:35

of us like seeking a different pathway um with and asking

3:15:40

for more funds. um from just I guess it in general. Um but there are other

3:15:46

things we're working on and we're trying to do the best we can uh to to to make it work. And Kevin's aware of uh Kevin

3:15:53

Gilbertson, our state CIO, is aware of some of our architecture issues. And so now we're currently working with Rock

3:15:58

Technologies um who is already contracting with the Department of DQ um to do clouded

3:16:05

services and um the uh who was next? The Department of

3:16:12

Transportation and then uh Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. We were supposed to be third in that line

3:16:17

in autolo 4, but our contract had to be stopped because well the funding um and

so we're working to see where we could potentially integrate systems. Um oh

yeah, we didn't talk about the IT integration. So the governor um sent out an executive order to state agencies um

right at the end of June that there would be an IT integration, an HR integration, and a procurement

integration. And um they hired a firm. They wrote an RFP over July and hired a

firm in the past couple weeks called Slalom that is going to do a deeper dive

and how we can better integrate systems. And um one of the first orders of

business was all state agency CIOS now directly report to the state CIO to kind

of help again I think streamline some of those IT goals that that we have as a

state. Um people want to know like what does this mean? We're not sure. We're

we're working through it. Um, and so Kevin and I had worked with Rock when we

were at the UC to basically um, come up with a plan to review architectures of I

think eight agencies, us being one of them. We're in the middle of doing another architecture review of what it

3:17:35

could look like if we were to move to a hosted services environment um,

3:17:40

centralized like we had before. We spent a few years working through that with Ezri and some other folks. And this

3:17:46

would be more or less kind of cost specking. Um, and we'll work through some other

3:17:53

agencies to see if there's um maybe an alignment um with the agencies that are currently hosted to see if we couldn't

3:17:59

save on procurement or contracts. I mean, it's got three agencies hosted

3:18:04

somewhere. There's always ways to save money. Um, so we're working on that and

3:18:10

um I'm I'm hopeful that this will potentially move to something um that the maybe it can offer um the rest of

3:18:18

the state agencies and it would be very efficient for us to move to an integrated environment and

3:18:24

maybe help deal with some of these tech issues that we're facing.

3:18:29

Um so that's that's where we're at with um improved communication. I'm I think

3:18:36

I'm really proud of everything that we've done there. Um Matt and Megan Matt

3:18:41

Trebish and Megan Burns have put a lot of time. They they took the lead. We kind of split that into well split it

3:18:46

into four, but they took the lead on um on basically implementing Service Now,

3:18:53

which was that and that that side of things. And then Megan is um taking the

3:18:58

lead on the implementation of a new web presence for us.

3:19:04

So all good things and um and then obviously the develop policies and best

3:19:10

practices. Um we are um working through

3:19:15

a lot right now um with the geospatial data value that will eventually I want

3:19:20

some of those um I want the addressing theme to be um

3:19:27

plan to be written prior to us going after a um a statewide policy on using

3:19:34

addressing data. But we are starting to work through and identify um everything

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that's needed and really like addressing is probably the one that's um been demanded uh of us um especially the

3:19:47

statewide workflows. So I think we're we're in good progress there and we've

3:19:53

had a lot completed. Um so we have our method for working through the system

3:19:59

and um now we just I want addressing to be the first one that we test.

3:20:05

And then it's also in line with what's going on nationally with the national address data set and um and what they're

3:20:11

trying to do to standardize addresses nationally um with NISJIC and the National

3:20:18

Geospatial Cooperative um create and strengthen partnerships. We have gone through um three of those

3:20:25

objectives and I I would say we are still creating and strengthening partnerships. we just haven't applied

3:20:31

the model. And some of the um new activities that we have, I don't know if I've listed them, but I'll go over

3:20:37

those. Um we do have some new um new groups we're going to reach out to and

3:20:43

it'll be interesting to test to see if it's available or not. Um well, I think it'll be valuable, but if it's meeting

3:20:50

our needs. Um and so we've got three new events in the next couple months that

3:20:55

we're going to attend and test out. Um

3:21:01

and finally, I think you're all pretty I think a lot of you are pretty well um

3:21:08

integrated into the improving geospatial data value by going through the working group. So

3:21:15

if you want to know how you can participate, I would attend a working group meeting. I think a lot of you have um give feedback on the reports. um

3:21:22

those matrices are going to be used to write the reports and those reports will eventually feed into how we're going to

3:21:27

develop budgets and priorities for the geospatial information plan in the future. So

3:21:34

all good things. Any questions?

3:21:41

What are the events that you're planning? Oh, I'm I'm gonna I'm kind of like doing a dramatic pause.

3:21:48

Why? Well, because I think I have listed another slide.

3:21:53

One powerful voice over to she's trying. But I only have one screen, so I'm very

3:21:59

limited. I feel like it's Oh my gosh. 1980. I only have one screen. You almost had like a I love it when a

3:22:05

plan comes together. Yeah. Right. Okay. So, National Coordination with

3:22:11

NISJICK and that is the National States Geographic Information Council for those of you that need the alphabet soup

3:22:20

defined. Sorry, we're professional. We need to get involved, but times do wrong. Right. Exactly.

3:22:26

Um, our state membership was renewed and we include all we included all the council members. So you we just need to

3:22:33

um have Victoria work with Emily from NISTJ to get you all registered and back

3:22:39

in there. Some of you are already in there. We just have to say you're active now. Although Lee, I bet you're already active because you were already in

3:22:45

there. Okay. I was wondering they've got a a webinar coming up like next week.

3:22:50

Oh yeah. Okay. Um, I was like, "Oh, I wonder if I've got an idea." The other thing I thought would be

3:22:55

interesting that I would like to demand of this chick is that they give us a presentation.

3:23:00

You know, I thought that would be nice. Um, and so I might ask Emily, who is the

3:23:07

tech tech chair person for the organization, or John Jordan, who is the CEO, to um to

3:23:14

give us a spiel. And then um there are a lot of opportunities for you

3:23:21

to get involved as a council member. And so the NIST is made up of states and

3:23:26

then state councils and so um it's my so GIS coordinators, GIOS my and then um

3:23:34

deputies and councils and chairs and so on and so forth. And that's what it's

3:23:39

for really. it's a states organization, but you know, invite local government as well. And um and

3:23:46

so, but this is where there's no other groups that do what we do. And so, if

3:23:51

you want to know like, well, how could we be a better council or what how what things we could do as a council, you

3:23:56

know, how are other councils behaving um in in the states? How are they set up?

3:24:02

This is this is this is the organization to go to. And um and so

3:24:10

there are there are advocacy committees there are um well we have geo women so

3:24:16

um it's for women and um well and their advocates of course so everybody can

3:24:21

come but it's basically to support um women in leadership across the nation

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and that is open to everyone that's one of our bigger groups so that working group is actually open to everyone I do

3:24:33

invite I try to get it out to may get puny and or just select few that I know

3:24:38

will be interested in attending when we've got things going on. I'll try to ping people and be like, "Hey, did you know this is coming up?" Every month

3:24:45

there's a standup and it's just kind of people getting together and talking about whatever. Um AI comes up a lot and

3:24:51

our virtual roundt um oh gosh I think it's in November or

3:24:56

December. it's November is on AI and it's a woman out of um India and so I'll

3:25:04

send that to the council um when I don't think I don't think the sign up is out there yet so when it is I'll remember to

3:25:10

send it to everyone um um some of the other things you could get involved in um there is a council of

3:25:17

council's working group that's kind of uh on the back burner right now and I think it's just because of certain people rolling out of their jobs um but

3:25:25

they it would be nice uh to get people involved um with that. Um geospatial

3:25:30

preparedness, it's like kind of disaster emergency response. Alex uh geo enabled elections addressing Michael Fashway

3:25:39

leads the nextgen 911 group. I co-chair the geo women group, western states caucus. It's probably another one they

3:25:46

put me on. I think they just put me on geo enabled elections. So, there's room for everyone and it would be nice to

3:25:52

kind of find everyone a spot and or where you're interested or just have you attend a meeting. I think it'd be great.

3:25:59

Um, because I can't attend them all. There's too many. Um, so we had two council members attend

3:26:06

the conference this past week in Nashville and that's Eric Spangberg and Moren Calender.

3:26:11

And I would love your perspective to the council on the conference. All stuff we

3:26:17

would talk about in a public meeting.

3:26:23

I got nothing to say. Not like it was wild and crazy.

3:26:29

It It was very informative. It was nice to see the states together and comparing

3:26:35

how they worked in their areas with the whole group of people that were there.

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And it it's a very intense schedule. work. And it was it was fun getting to

3:26:49

see how all these other areas come together and they combine ideas and give

3:26:56

information and it's like sensory overload on some of it and it's really

3:27:02

great to be able to go and see all of that and how it works.

3:27:08

Um I it was for me it was all that and and more.

3:27:14

My big takeaway and I had this I had I can't remember have a page here noted

3:27:20

but my takeaway is from this is that I am surprised

3:27:28

at the at some states levels of data. Yeah. I mean the state of Montana's had a

3:27:34

parcel has had a cadastral a statewide parcel data set for what going on 20 plus years now?

3:27:40

20 plus. And there's some states that are only just now, it's a handful. Yeah.

3:27:47

Putting theirs together. The same thing with statewide addressing data sets. Statewide statewide anything

3:27:53

data sets you know and so that so my takeaway is just like I'm not you know quite surprised. I mean, some of them

3:28:00

making those I just it was one of those comments I or one of my assumptions, you know, that school districts, precincts,

3:28:06

you know, those base element features that you just I just assume everyone

3:28:13

has, not everyone has. So it's it's an

3:28:18

interesting it's an interesting state of development I guess or interesting state

3:28:24

of you know so that idea of a national or a federal or national data set just seems like that's a lofty goal but wow

3:28:33

you know type of thing and on the parcel one I do realize that you know we have

3:28:38

an advantage that state of Montana is centrally assessed yes you know you think about these other

3:28:45

like the the one state that got theirs all together or almost together. They had 92 counties,

3:28:52

92 assessors. Yeah. You know, so I mean, when I worked in

3:28:57

the state of Wisconsin, I worked for a city assessor and then shared that parcel data for the county and their

3:29:04

county assessor type of thing. So, you know, that idea of getting 92 counties

3:29:09

to cooperate, you know, you know, bad enough trying to get just the three six

3:29:15

major counties in this state to cooperate and send you data. So, you know, type of thing. So,

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it's interesting because we have had we're so mature in that layer

3:29:26

that all the people that could actually give guidance on how to come together are retired. They're long gone. Yeah. So

3:29:32

we can just talk about how we maintain but we could never give them feedback on how to make it how it

3:29:38

how did we do it right you know so other than what's been documented

3:29:44

um the nextG I know we have so many the the nextg 911 you know at a statewide

3:29:51

level uh we I saw we saw a great great demonstration of how a statewide nextg

3:29:57

911 would all come together the North Carolina example uh in their storm response how calls

3:30:05

were bounced from one PAP to another, you know, it was already and since it

3:30:11

was all established, they it was statewide, they were able to cover, you know, I mean, and the call call

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increases and things like that. So, that was um that was interesting to see. Um,

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notably about that one was about something about federal funding probably not coming down the line

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for next year. Um, I made a note about that one. So, uh,

3:30:36

yeah, some pretty cool stuff and some pretty interesting stuff. Uh, you know, going at it. Yeah, I I approached it

3:30:44

from first from my my you know that hat of being a council member and just

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listening for at the state level, but honestly as a local government rep I

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came away with a lot of ideas and and some actually some pretty great connections. So ma matter of fact, two

3:31:02

connections that I need to let them know they're missing out on careerfare days right

3:31:07

now. one in at Tech and next week at MSU for their engineering students. So, so

3:31:13

I'm gonna let them know to make sure they send reps for the spring career days. So,

3:31:19

cool. So, but uh but yeah, it is you you start at

3:31:24

7:30 in the morning, you go through quite honestly till 7 o'clock at night, you know, particularly with that speed

3:31:31

networking setup that they had with it. Yep. So, I don't think you've done speed

3:31:36

networking. Oh, have you? Okay. So, it was uh yeah, I mean it's it's but

3:31:42

it's you know there there's some meetings that Yeah, I don't need to sit through the business meetings but you

3:31:48

know but those those individual state presentations were actually really interesting to see how

3:31:54

and to reinforce wow we really do have a lot going on here with this state already. So, so

3:32:03

I I do thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to allow me to

3:32:09

speaking of parcels, is there any any presentation or mention of this company called Regrid?

3:32:15

Oh, I invited them personally to come to the event and they did because I gave

3:32:21

them an earful at the UC. Okay. That's a nationwide partial data

3:32:27

center. They're they're located up in Detroit and um there's other

3:32:34

firms that are popping up and Ezra uses them and so we've we voiced our concerns

3:32:40

about the limited updates. They're just harvesting your data.

3:32:46

Absolutely. And I think that that needs to be made clear and I think we we I spoke to them about that at the UC. It's

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like it's fine. for you that to have, but please site it because other

3:32:57

people down the road might just be like kind of like Google Maps. Well, why why don't we just use Google? It's like where do you think Google gets the

3:33:03

information from? So, um yeah, but yeah, Regrid came. It was awesome. Okay, I invited them personally at the UC. I

3:33:10

think I said I think you should be a part of this event. You need to hear from people. Um and so yeah, but we're

3:33:16

also trying to do the exact same thing with um with the parcel. Actually, Nich

3:33:22

built one. Nich has built um a nationwide parcel data layer to prove

3:33:28

that we could and there were other companies that had done it too. So it's part of the continued conversation about

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Yeah. parcel management. Yeah. And address management. Yeah. also as well statewide the

3:33:43

harvesting of statewide data out to oh yeah federal level and then eventually

3:33:48

national address data set those addressing folks they've been pretty supportive of what we what we've

3:33:53

done um Matt you attended so do you have any feedback well I think of things a lot from the

3:34:00

trench level kind of where I am in the weeds of it um I have to say like for me

3:34:06

one of the I did kind of hit upon it during my presentation was, you know, the the the hub session and how all the

3:34:13

states are struggling in public and governance and what they're doing that I thought was at first I thought, oh,

3:34:18

state of Montana so behind, not quite. Um, we're doing really well compared to a lot of other states. Uh,

3:34:25

I think uh like Eric, I I really appreciated the nextG um the you know,

3:34:32

presentation and and what the storms over there, you know, brought the Carolinas and and how they managed that.

3:34:38

I thought that was an interesting situation. But uh I mean fundamentally it's like from from our positions like

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working with you know state of Indiana they're dealing with every issues like we are and they're

3:34:53

doing some really great things as far as governance and and managing their you know their front end and how their

3:34:59

systems you know how their platforms work together. that level of collaboration with all those people that are doing things from a state sense. Um,

3:35:07

outside of all the presentations and whatnot, that's really the real gold chances to talk with people that are doing the same things you're doing, but

3:35:14

you know, a state level and how how another state's doing it. It's there's not another conference like that. And

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it's that perspective is amazing.

3:35:30

Sorry, my my brain is actually buzzed over from that week. There's so much. I have a notebook that's jammed like it's full

3:35:36

and I have to go back through it and re reread some of what I wrote down to condense some of those thoughts. There

3:35:43

were some fairly amazing presentations we saw that I mean the list presentation is great as always right on on the new

3:35:50

data that's going to be coming out and and everything we're going to have to do to manage that. how they try to help us,

3:35:55

you know, shepherd us through that process. Um, you know, all those things

3:36:00

important. Yeah. Yeah. Security of data, you know, that that that last one towards the tail end

3:36:07

of the week. Yeah. Securing your data

3:36:12

and but it was it was about securing your data from the emergency operations center standpoint.

3:36:18

Yeah. local viewpoint, you know, because you know, you have your you you roll out

3:36:24

a major emergency, a disaster, and your EOC has you've created all these maps

3:36:31

that show where our responders are, where our roadblocks are, where we put up portable radio, you know, VHS

3:36:37

antennas, where we've done this, you know, and that's great for the emergency. And from everyone in this

3:36:44

room, we look at that as a valuable piece of information. But then the guy says, "Well, flip the coin." And you

3:36:50

think about that individual or that group of individuals that would want to do harm to you. What would the value of

3:36:56

that data be for them? And you're like, "Oh, great. Concepts around this called

3:37:02

I mean there's a lot of things. There's federal one, two, and three, level one, two, and three, etc. um you know high

3:37:08

medium low security but they all have about the same definition and essentially bed rank

3:37:13

three data the most secure type of data is at that qualifies by the way it is data

3:37:20

that could cause imminent harm that was released I think that's what they I think that's exactly what you said so so emergency

3:37:26

response plans um you know witness protection all sorts of undercover

3:37:32

agents all sorts of things like that that qualify that level three that's

3:37:37

uh you know for example the federal requirement to level three data is ARM security at the data center biometric

3:37:43

access there's a lot of really really strict requirements

3:37:50

this conference kind of like the energy conference where you got different tracks and you have to pick No they do things differently we are all

3:37:56

in the room the whole time together more valuable you're locked in one room

3:38:02

and if you leave your luck get back in coming away missing like I I had to go to this session but I missed that one.

3:38:07

Yeah. No. Okay. No. And you're sitting there with the like the high level execs from firms.

3:38:14

So like um Sandborn the president of Sanborn, John Cppel

3:38:19

um you know the the Alex Coleman the president of or the CEO of um Rock. And

3:38:26

so you have so you have the high power thinkers, the high level execs that are developing the sensors or are working to

3:38:34

develop the the new sensors for capturing imagery and whatnot like LAR and so they're all there and

3:38:40

it's like they're a participant with you, not like they're got a booth that you go talk they're sitting next to you.

3:38:47

There's no booth. There's interact. It's different. Okay. It's really great. They don't have a vendor booth there. No, that's what the speed now.

3:38:54

Yeah. I know that is highly frowned upon and that new view they're launching

3:39:00

their launching their own satellite that's going to be able to do QL one or QL2

3:39:06

LAR collection satellite satellite. Wow. Yeah.

3:39:11

But it and then they all have business relationships with each other and you start to learn that and then that's interesting because then you just the

3:39:18

more you understand how they work with each other I think it's easier for procurement purposes. Well, and tagging

3:39:24

on that relationships thing is I noticed that, you know, you talk to everybody

3:39:29

and the minute you say, you know, of course they ask where you from, you know, you say Montana. Do you know Aaron?

3:39:37

Like everybody knows Aaron, very good reputation.

3:39:43

Yes. And Montana's well respected in that weren't one of the founding members of music

3:39:50

back. She's way too young for that. Thank you. That's right. I don't get

3:39:55

called too young often, but I will take it. Is the November conference that we're having at Boseman going to be just like

3:40:01

the one? Yes, it will be. Yeah. And so, um, uh, yeah. So, good good segue. Um,

3:40:08

one more. Oh, yeah. No, go for it. Two things. Um, Arizona, their council,

3:40:13

35 members. Oh, yeah. All governor appointed. How much?

3:40:18

Wow. Uh, yeah. North Carolina just increased to 36, I think. Oh, wow. Or 40ome. And we you were we're the only

3:40:25

ones that have down downsized down. And then for anyone Well, the education

3:40:30

side of thing, the GISCI is creating a GISP.

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It's called their pre-emerging GISP credential and it's set up

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specifically for students who just graduated so that they can have prof uh professional credential and then it also

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gives them that professional credential and time to get their experience so that

3:40:56

they could eventually take the full GISP exam. So was that during a presentation must have

3:41:01

been sidebar. Yes. So it's and so it's at the end of their academic career but before their

3:41:06

professional career takes off. So it's called the emerging GIS program needed not yet.

3:41:13

Oh no. But yeah so it's a career launch early recognition and abil and the way to

3:41:20

build credibility. How many years do you need? Do you know three? Two at least I think to do your GISP full

3:41:25

GSP. You probably need at least three or four years of experience you know to get those experience points right to get

3:41:31

that. But the E is one year or you don't it's uh I think you have it for three years. Okay cool. I didn't write that down, but

3:41:38

it's for it's for people who are about ready to graduate. Oh, so you don't need experience.

3:41:44

Yeah, it's for gradu it's for students essentially. It's it's um pre-emerging. So for students

3:41:52

who just graduated so that they could have a professional credential tagged onto their their their signature and

3:41:59

awesome that college degree is not enough. Yes, that's all. It's

3:42:05

But, you know, it's about a professional career and it shows that you're keeping up with the the ethics and the Yep.

3:42:12

everything along those lines. Yes. Exactly. So, all right. All right. Cool. Um, so, um, I have to

3:42:18

work through the budget to see if I I would like for someone to come into midyear, um, in DC because it's really

3:42:24

awesome to be able to go with our, um, with a council member to the delegation to meet with our delegations and, um,

3:42:32

is that 206? Uh, yeah, sorry. Yep. Six. I can't make the magic happen again. One screen.

3:42:39

That's six. Thank you. Um, and not only do we meet with our delegations, but

3:42:45

like that's where we'll try to meet with Nico and other working group meetings. Um, and it won't be on a break because

3:42:50

it's not around hamster. So, we should probably have really good attendance this go around.

3:42:56

And then the council me or the um I guess we're council members for the NIK council. the reps from the states that

3:43:02

um a lot of rep like we're lucky here that we're able to meet with our constituencies but a lot of them from

3:43:09

other states are not allowed it's like don't step anywhere close to them but they can go as a private citizen and so

3:43:15

last year Wyoming came with us as a private citizen to just kind of learn and then she also went to Texas and so

3:43:21

like that's another and it's a really good learning opportunity to have to go see a senator or congressman and talk to

3:43:27

them or their staffers and then just to be on the Capital campus and were you

3:43:32

with us when we rode the train? We got the underground train. It was so awesome. Um and so uh and then just have that

3:43:40

experience in general. And um and at NextGen

3:43:45

um so there's a big NextG meeting that we happen to talk to the right people. That's the other thing that happens at

3:43:51

NISJIC. You just happen to mention something that nobody thought of. This is like oh we're going to be in DC at

3:43:56

that time and it's like a big nextgen meeting. And so, um, we're going to try to get NSJI and NextGen together somehow

3:44:03

for our coordination, um, during, uh, during that week. And I'm going to run the numbers because, you know, flights

3:44:10

from Helena are just downright expensive to see if we can, um, in our current

3:44:15

budget if we can afford to send another council member. I'm not sure. I'll try to get that done by November so we can

3:44:21

get the travel put in place. But the really exciting news is, um, I worked very hard. We'll say that I'll I'll take

3:44:29

many years. Yeah, it started back in 2014 when Sue was around and it was my first

3:44:35

DIC conference to get NIC to come to Montana because it is a very expensive place to come to and the flight options

3:44:43

are limited. So few years ago we we had it settled and it's going to be in Boseman downtown the first week of

3:44:48

November. Um and I am working through well we just finished the plan. I'm on I

3:44:54

spent I joined the conference planning committee to get my point across and um

3:45:00

and so we'll we'll be starting the Washington um uh planning that

3:45:06

conference but we'll probably be starting planning the November conference here shortly and um we'll

3:45:11

talk about internally what we can do for costs next year but we it would be

3:45:16

awesome um regardless of what the council can afford um to send everyone

3:45:22

to have you join us And so it is the it is elections week which really stinks because I'm trying to get the secretary

3:45:28

of state to come and I know it's not the best time for locals if you are participating in elections but it'll be

3:45:34

a really fantastic event. Um so hopefully just keep it on your calendar. I'll put it on your calendars. Um so

3:45:43

um and then I I I try to make sure you guys all got this. Um some of these uh I

3:45:49

think these were open to all as well. There are events that they do open and this was some of the heaviest hit um

3:45:55

webinars that we've ever seen with NIST. It's like 400 plus people. Um I think

3:46:00

they have like five or six hundred people registered and um I would say that go back and um and watch these if

3:46:07

you haven't yet. There are some states that are doing some really fantastic things when it comes to map accessibility and um some of them are

3:46:15

Minnesota um Colorado and I cannot remember who did the last one. instead of Colorado, Arizona. Anyway, um it's

3:46:24

out there and they're well attended and I think everyone who does GIS or is responsible for putting out maps

3:46:32

um would would benefit from these. And then um this is what the old dashboard

looked like and you saw the new one. So basically we just kind of rearranged things and we expanded it to um instead

of a six year a sevenyear because gosh you know 2020 was just so funky I don't

want to just sh like fall back on the 2020 so we kept it at 2019 we're moving

forward um we rearranged this uh lefth hand panel to be on the bottom just to

have more real estate for some of these other charts and um updated the

information to have the new numbers and um had a couple folks look at it to test it for us. If you ever find anything

that looks out of place or you want um to provide input, please let us know. Here's what the new one looks like. So,

this is what you just saw. Um we did remove one tab. What was it? It was a

duplication. Oh, it just kind of showed things on a different angle. Yeah, it is the historical rewardations,

annual reportations, and we decided just to keep the historical tab and remove the the filtered

six year now, seven year. Yeah. So, so um you will see where is the um when

you click on the collections info is the last date update is that in that still

the when you time stamp the update. Uh the it's in the collections info tab.

It should be in the top right hand corner. It's Oh, okay. Thank you. Sorry. It's right It's right above uh the It's

sitting. So, that was the last time. So, now you don't have to kind of scroll down for it. So, it's kind of up front. Um and um

so it runs weekly. Yeah. And I want to thank Matt for all his hard work on that and getting that

updated. And so I would say when you want to take a look at it to see how things are going in October, wait till

December, maybe the new year and you'll start to see those numbers. So we've been busy

over the past couple months. We've done a lot. Um, we had some 911 visits to the

counties, went to the UC, had a really good conversation with um, the higher level executives with some of my

counterparts on communication and how licensing was rolled out and how states

were not satisfied with how things were done and they listened and they want to

3:48:51

do better at communications. So, um, I met with the head of state local sales and the head of global sales. So, we'll

3:48:58

see. They gave us their personal emails. I might use them. Um,

3:49:05

we did our past grantees outreach interviews and we talked about those. Um, sorry, I've got a lot of um acronyms

3:49:13

in here. Macker clerks and recorders did that in August. Um, those are our our

3:49:18

partners um with um with the geo elections project. And just a a

3:49:25

reminder, those are the ones that um put forth the changes into the collection bill to give us the increase and then um

3:49:32

the inflationary adjustments. Um we did 3DHP discussions. Whoops. We did um a

3:49:39

learning session for developers trying to get access to those groups of people that do development for state

3:49:45

government. And everybody that joined us was basically a GIS person. So I'm like,

3:49:50

we didn't reach the people we needed to. But I think they still got something from it and we're going to try to

3:49:55

continue to do that. Um and um Goutton watershed council and partners with for

3:50:01

3DH application discussions that's been very fruitful. Talk about that in a minute. Nisjic um Nenina Aco which was

3:50:10

uh last week Bob Cochran attended that and then the Maple conference this week and then I shoved these in there.

3:50:17

And then upcoming we've got the Marl's seminar which um Michael and Evan will attend tomorrow and then the annual

3:50:23

association of planners which is in Helena and um we will be uh providing a

3:50:29

workshop uh for using authoritative data and addressing tools for smarter

3:50:35

planning. So Matt and Michael are working on that one. Um and um the

3:50:41

American Water Resources Association AWAS in Great Falls. Um, and we're going

3:50:47

to be having a booth to remote LAR and 3DHP league is in October in Billings. Matt

3:50:53

and I will be going to that. And I've already forgotten my presentation conversation probably about why

3:51:00

geospatial coordination matters. I really like our conver our I think our

3:51:06

presentation last year was really wellreceived on why everyone needs to be coordinating and this is like kind of

3:51:13

expanding that discussion and I think we're on Thursday uh if anyone's going and so

3:51:21

we've been invited this is the new one to the joint engineers conference they

3:51:26

invited us last year but it was too uh it was too last minute and so they said

3:51:31

hey you remember us and they actually if you ever get invited to go it is really

3:51:37

uh kind of well organized and um if it was not in Helena I would have gotten

3:51:43

everything paid for because they invited me to present would you say it was well engineered

3:51:50

just like I would assume people really carefully well that's true yeah and they would

3:51:56

hire staff that would be the same as well um and so we're going they asked us for a presentation on elevation and so

3:52:03

we're going to give them the LAR and elevation present. I think it's like a two-hour presentation and so Troy and I

3:52:09

are going to do that and then we said well since we're there it's in Helena we're going to have a booth and so um

3:52:16

we'll be doing that November 5th, 6th and 7th. Oh, and the other two that didn't make it because we're still

3:52:22

specking it out. But, um, we're gonna kind of lean into some of our staff's strengths that they,

3:52:29

I guess, had before joining the library, which is, um, Garrett Michael was, um,

3:52:35

raised on a a sheep farm and he still helps out with the family farm. And there's a wool growers convention in,

3:52:42

um, in Billings in December. And then there's the stock growers and um we're going to

3:52:49

see what that might be like and where it could lead into new partnerships. And so um and then that of course being a ranch

3:52:57

I want I want to I'm a farmer. So yeah. Well, you speak all the same.

3:53:05

You've had animals. There will be forever about farmers versus ranchers.

3:53:11

So, we are going to be um uh we're going to I think the budget's going to work out, so we'll be attending those in in

3:53:19

in buildings as well. So, here is the um list of the recent working group meetings. We're um because this is kind

3:53:25

of like our conference season, we're kind of slowing down a little, but we'll be um I think imagery, that's a tough

3:53:31

one. There's a lot going on with imagery. Um I think we're just going to continue the conversation right now because it is such an expansive

3:53:40

theme and um it impacts us all and really it's more of like just coming up

3:53:46

with a good way to find funding for that in the future because the desire is there is now we just have to find the

3:53:52

desire and the funds together. Um, so for those of you that want to know about imagery, um, it was prioritized for us

3:54:00

to get, um, 30 cm, which is the first, I do believe the first time, um, we've ever been prioritized for 30 cm, um,

3:54:07

which is pretty great, but it also duh triples our storage. And so, um,

3:54:16

it's a welcome, I guess, problem to deal with. So that we now have one foot reser

3:54:22

resolution. It's one foot, right? Yeah. And um and so we always kind of have

3:54:27

issues with um how uh our data gets collected because of our early snows and

3:54:32

then our our fire season. And so as far as September 5th, that is what they've

3:54:38

collected. And this is pretty standard throughout um the past few years of imagery collects. Um I don't know. I

3:54:45

haven't really paid attention to what's going on in the mountains, but it looks pretty clear. So I'm I'm assuming they're trying to um collect the rest.

3:54:51

And it was it's being collected by hexagon. They're the major contractor in this. Are they putting out a preliminary

3:54:58

service for that yet? I don't think so. No, I think they're still collecting. Yeah. So, and then

3:55:05

this is really exciting um in regards to the broad agency announcement for uh

3:55:10

3DHP. So, that's the hydro um so that's the new version of water uh database for

3:55:16

the state and the nation. Um so we had f

3:55:22

the first step was to collect elevation for the whole state. We have that now I believe almost the entire state and um

3:55:29

then they build the water model off of the elevation model. Right? It makes sense. Um but it all has to be done

3:55:35

through a very specific process and um and that process is costly and the 3DHP

3:55:41

is almost as almost as as um costly as collecting elevation data for the state.

3:55:47

So 30 plus million dollars and um and we were able to take advantage of the USGS

3:55:54

um BAA for the 3D 3D depth 3D elevation program and we're hoping that um we can

rely on some of our federal partners to kind of step up including the USGS to help fund it. So the bottom right corner

is Gallatin um watershed that is um been kind of like a homegrown process.

They're really interested in collecting that information And there's been people that have been meeting regularly. They found some

funding including the city, county, and the conservation group, I believe. Um

and uh and so they are uh they put a BAA um in a grant in for 3DHP. And then um

this other one on the left was based on a Blaine County um submitt. uh it was

based on a grant that was cancelled and but the USGS had told them just to apply. So if um yeah so I was surprised

because because they told me that last week uh one of the contractors they said, "Oh, you had two submitts." I was

like, "No, we didn't. We just had one." They're like, "No, Blaine County." I was like, "What?" So I was really excited to hear that that had happened and that

Shane Fox and his group in Blaine County had went ahead and and submitted it. and sometimes we're just kind of at the

mercy of seeing what they'll allow in a grant program. So that's really exciting and they'll be some of the first um uh

3:57:17

states to do that. So that is that's my that's my update for coordination and I

3:57:22

know it's a lot questions for Aaron

3:57:29

Eric. Thanks for your input on the news conferences.

3:57:35

It is a pretty fantastic conference to all attend. I'm super excited that we'll have it here next year and Erin work

3:57:42

very very hard. Just because it's here doesn't mean we get to go free. No, I I might be able to work some

3:57:50

because I think it's a really important opportunity for folks to be exposed to. Yeah,

3:57:56

there is just a day registration. We don't want to go through the whole thing like you know and a lot of people can't.

3:58:02

So yeah. And is it the 35th anniversary? Yes, it will be. Yeah, that's right.

3:58:09

The 25th we have t-shirts and challenge coins. So, you never know what you'll get.

3:58:14

That was in Oh my gosh, it'll be my 10th this year. Well, 11th, but yeah, that's coordinated.

3:58:19

It was all I suspect. No. No, I'm working on maybe some rodeo stuff perhaps or I

3:58:26

archery. We could do a a mechanical bowl. I'm not I'm not

3:58:32

Well, that was done in Nashville. Yeah, they did. Well, not not not a

3:58:40

thing. I did not. Eric and I joined off hours on our own

3:58:45

personal time. We did the National Geospatial Golf Collaborative Golf um

3:58:52

outing, but this one they cannot have I looked into a fishing just could be too hard to do a fishing competition. You

3:58:59

really have to love fishing. I don't think I've ever heard anyone describe fishing as too hard.

3:59:04

I know. But it's November. Like, well, you know, people come from Florida.

3:59:10

Touch when you need an ice grill. Yeah, I know. I know. Thanks for joining us, Adam. I got done earlier.

3:59:16

Fire. Yeah. Um, yeah, but I'm pretty excited. Great.

3:59:23

Come up with something. I already have ideas on who I want to ask to present and um I was working with some tribal

3:59:29

folks. They're talking about maybe doing a blanket ceremony which would be really cool. I'm trying to invite a lot of trying to invite a lot of tribes um

3:59:36

since we're kind of centrally located. So a lot of tribes out in in the northwest.

3:59:47

Eric, is Jackson on?

3:59:56

Make it on. You are. Guess that's just me, huh?

4:00:05

Okay. Uh, I will try to do my best. Um

4:00:13

they had their retreat a while back, couple about a month ago now I think and

4:00:18

uh they did some planning on that side of things. Uh we've got a number of new new elected members. So that's that was

4:00:25

a big thing about bringing them in, getting them uh getting all that moved and transferred over the secretary, the

4:00:32

treasurer, all that kind of fun stuff to to get new get those sides of things set up. Um big news the conference may give

4:00:40

conference will will be up in Whitefish uh this coming spring so in April. Um

4:00:47

I guess it's a grouse mountain is is where the event will be. Um they did do

4:00:53

some re re uh some some moving around of funds. So for there should be a little bit more

4:01:00

coming available for scholarships when scholarship announcements come out for uh for students and along those lines of

4:01:07

things. And there's also a little bit uh the make it meetup side of things with

4:01:13

their budgets. So there there's still that you still have a cap but there's you know they still I think they're

4:01:20

trying to get it so that more folks can do these meetups from what I understand.

4:01:26

And so uh uh still got some plans going on for GIS day. I don't know if there's

4:01:33

if they're where they're at with that that side of things. So um

4:01:39

yeah, if I can get more details next time. I just assumed one of them would be on today.

4:01:45

There I go make mistakes. I should have left at one when I was planning to.

4:01:51

I probably abandoned students at Carol today. So

4:01:56

But uh but yeah, I mean they're they're uh they're doing well. I mean they're

4:02:03

they're doing well. They've had a lot more trying to get a lot more discussions about how to get well like

4:02:10

like here get more involvement, get people more involved, the scholarship sides of things with getting students

4:02:18

uh funding and whatnot, things like that. So, so but the overall I think the

4:02:24

mega organization is doing well fiscally and and you know along those side that side of

4:02:30

things. So, so that's good questions for Eric

4:02:36

question. Um we are so the RGC's and um regional

4:02:45

geospatial coordinators for the BIA um we're attempting to have like a tribal track

4:02:51

And but um one of the ways that we had discussed and um that you know sometimes

4:02:56

it's difficult because of budgets um to get folks to attend but offering a

4:03:02

tribal price or something where it could cover lunch or something like that. And so I just

4:03:09

wanted to bring that up to see if we could figure out a way to um build that into the cost of the conference and then

4:03:17

maybe even put it as a prospectus item for someone

4:03:22

to sponsor it. So it's not a huge burden to

4:03:28

make but um you know trying to ask for something but also provide a solution at

4:03:34

the same time for like conference for the GI.

4:03:45

So kind of that having you know similar to the student Yeah. discount. Yeah.

4:03:52

something we can work through it. But they thought that that might get more folks um attending and we could draw in

4:03:59

tribes from um northern Iowa, Iowa, Idaho and um maybe Wyoming

4:04:09

and um Washington, Eastern Washington.

4:04:17

Other questions for Eric?

4:04:28

Thanks. Thanks, Eric. We appreciate it. Lean Marine, did you have an update you wanted to share?

4:04:34

I think so. Perfect. Um, so from the local

4:04:41

government perspective, mostly city perspective. Most of the folks that I that I had conversations with were city.

4:04:47

Um some of the just just wanted to start

4:04:53

these conversations and these updates thinking about what are the issues that

4:04:59

local government GIS uh staff are facing. Um and then just kind of work

4:05:06

our way into over time. Are there specific asks stability for the council or anything? But really right now just

4:05:11

trying to surface some of the issues that folks are facing. So with that kind of a a context in mind um some of the

4:05:20

primary issues that came up to me to bring today were are things about uh

4:05:26

city county data alignment. Um uh you know we've got that we've got the donut

4:05:33

and the donut hole and um you know even you think about it with the the state

4:05:38

you've got the donut and the donut hole and then the donut hole you know um to

4:05:44

still the knives out movie. Um

4:05:50

so those issues with the addresses, roads, parcels, etc. and those alignments at those at those boundaries.

4:05:57

Um it's a real prevalent issue and it often leads to every entity kind of managing separate data sets. Um that's

4:06:05

huge for Missoula and apparently for a lot of other places. And so, um,

4:06:11

thinking about how support for local government in that

4:06:17

realm, um, you know, obviously there's the the idea of the grant funds, um,

4:06:23

that could support levels, uh, efforts to achieve that alignment, um, but other

4:06:28

types of support that would be helpful or necessary to help build effective

4:06:33

data management and those workflows over time. So that really comes back to parallel what we were talking about

4:06:39

earlier today um with that like addressing standard and some of that, but really how do we build those? How do

4:06:47

we help local governments um with those

4:06:53

workflow diagrams like that process diagramming and how do you work out what the current process is and how do you

4:06:58

can you do some change management to get to the point of using a standard addressing model and stuff like that.

4:07:05

And so, um, there's there's different levels of

4:07:11

things happening, um, in terms of coordination at different places, but

4:07:16

regardless of your ability to coordinate between a city and a county, it's an issue everywhere. Um, yeah. So that's

4:07:23

that's one of the the more prevalent issues that that I've heard and firstly

4:07:30

myself as well want to start um seeing if there's some ways that we can work into. Um can I can I

4:07:39

yeah make sure I heard you correct. Um so I just want to repeat back where I think some the two major ones were. Um

4:07:46

so support and data data standard and policy implementation

4:07:52

technical support. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. And then um support and data

4:07:58

alignment workflows. Yes. Okay. Yeah. And then that one you know that that concept of I don't know we can we

4:08:06

can we I don't want to dig into it too much right now but is it the tech side or is it also the coordination piece?

4:08:11

That's it's both. Yeah. Yeah. And then I just want to throw this back

4:08:18

at you. Um there's talk about centrally managing

4:08:23

parcels, checking in, checking out now that the technology might be there for that. Do you think that people would be open

4:08:29

to that? Like a centralized database that they edit out of

4:08:34

that we try to do with parcels. Yeah. Um

4:08:39

yeah, that that could be really interest. I mean, because that that leads to like what I'm going to be

4:08:44

trying to do with Missoula County, right? Exactly. In that where we'll be I'll be hopefully getting to the point where we'll

4:08:50

co-author the county's parallel data set. Yeah. So, yeah, we're working towards that on

4:08:55

a broader scale would be really beneficial. Yeah. Um now how people are open to it. I think the the big thing is and I see

4:09:03

this in my own staff too is retaining that um where there is skill and ability

4:09:09

retaining the authority and that um responsibility for it.

4:09:14

It's like when I bring up to my staff whether we um say okay well the county's

4:09:20

got this improved parcel layer. Can we rely on the county to do this now? Absolutely not. you know, and so it's

4:09:27

like how do we work with um every level to be able to to provide that skill

4:09:35

for access. Um

4:09:43

the continuing into you know there's some some data needs that got brought up

4:09:48

uh easements and rightways and again kind of not having rent many available

4:09:54

means that this is not considered. Um and you know those are kind of important

4:09:59

data sets to have but definitely lower on the priority list. um terms of

4:10:05

funding. Um

4:10:10

the sorry these are not in the best order, but I'm just going to read them at this point. Um I I heard a lot about

4:10:17

staffing issues. Um and you know, this isn't necessarily something that the the library or the the council can do a lot

4:10:24

with, but just a common theme within local governments is not enough staff and high turnover. Um, some cities have

4:10:31

issues with turnover and getting qualified candidates and some have issues with just not enough positions

4:10:37

and there's that's the funding piece and the growth not having enough staff to handle the workload. Um, some have both.

4:10:44

So, that's always a how do how do you leverage additional resources and stuff?

4:10:50

Um, question. I think that is something we can do as the council in our office because that's a presentation I've been

4:10:56

wanting to deliver for to make for a while. Yeah. Just like just the educational component.

4:11:02

There's Yeah. And there's a staffing issues everywhere. Yeah. Yeah. That's that's a big one is

4:11:07

how to, you know, every time uh as development grows and the engineering staff grows,

4:11:14

they don't realize that we have to grow, GIS has to grow as well to handle their work, you know, the the second part of

4:11:19

the workbook, right? So there's this disconnect. So um

4:11:25

and then just around a couple of specific data sets um I heard a lot

4:11:30

there's a lot of conversation around addressing um which again parallels that conversation that we were having um

4:11:37

earlier today and but it gets down into the nitty-gritty in terms of like addressing ADUs.

4:11:43

Um yeah, and you know the there are a lot of people

4:11:49

adopting similar processes, but they're different and there's a lot of concerns

4:11:54

across the board on how to appropriately address the stuff for emergency services and all of these all of these different

4:12:00

angles and everybody's doing it just a little bit differently. Um and so there's a lot of conversation around

4:12:06

that which is great that there's conversation rather than doing it all in a vacuum. But that was one of the things

4:12:12

that came up. Um, legislatively, the Montana Land Use

4:12:19

Planning Act, um, that was came in 2023. There's a considerable amount of work

4:12:26

for cities that meet the population threat threshold in order to comply. And this is something that people are going

4:12:32

out to consultants for. um because again that staffing capacity they don't have

4:12:38

the capacity to be able to meet the demand of that um act

4:12:44

uh and again there's a lot of reliance on the MSL data for these because a lot most of cities don't maintain um a lot

4:12:51

of the required data sets or those related data sets such as the hazards sensitive lands and different things

4:12:56

like that so there's definitely a tie in there to the work that the NSL is doing

4:13:02

so is that Um, I did at Mako I grabbed a

4:13:07

copy of their land use legislation handout. Is that does that have to do and I started all the ones that I

4:13:13

thought were relevant to us with the manufactured housing or the requirements

4:13:19

for zoning more the requirements for zoning. Okay. Yeah. And the requirements for

4:13:26

because it's all the zoning law. It's all the zoning law and then there's there's the piece that's that land use that you have to have the growth policy.

4:13:35

It's the land use planning and the growth policy. So the overarching but then that zoning because the zoning stuff came in last year. Yeah.

4:13:43

But it's layered. It's layered together. So I'll make you guys a copy of that really. Yes.

4:13:48

Um are in here. Okay. Yeah. And because that's a big thing with the zoning and everything. So

4:13:54

there's again there's layers. um all these things and and what I'm hearing is

4:13:59

a lot of Missoula included there's not the capacity to meet the requirements

4:14:04

that those acts are putting into place in terms of the mapping and the resources that are required.

4:14:10

Yeah, I just want to make a note on that point. I forwarded the council a meeting

4:14:15

invitation or like a save a date basically for the natural heritage program partners meeting which will be on November 6th and the national

4:14:22

heritage program has been working with the League of Sounds pretty extensively to make sure that um people are making

4:14:30

use of the land use layer that uh the heritage program maintains and is aware of some of the things I know that will

4:14:36

be one of the things that we talked about at that meeting. Yeah, it was it was noted that they rely on on the MSL

4:14:44

and the heritage program data a lot for a lot of those related layers because there's not they're not things that we

4:14:50

have the ability or the the staffing to maintain at that local level. Absolutely.

4:14:55

Um the other the other thing uh is just

4:15:01

always assistance and continued work with the do tables and training and how to always how to leverage that data. and

4:15:07

Eric responded to to my inquiry about that with some specific like here go

4:15:13

here and so just working on getting that information out a little bit more but always there's always

4:15:18

trouble with that stuff even using those resources so that's yeah

4:15:25

anyhow that's there's there's a lot there and that's just really kind of scratching the surface um so I want to

4:15:31

find a way to try and maybe Maria and I can work on this moving forward wanting to try and kind of how do distill all of

this to present as a concise update but there's a start what do you think the best way to

deliver the um that's a tough one I don't know

our own tech our our own all day workshop I I don't at the m conference you've had been

someone from department of revenue has done a sequel is it is it is it too much overlap with

the conference too much overlap at the conference is because again there's so many tracks and different things

happening. Can you get to that one? Yeah. Um and are the right people who want to

learn that actually at the conference? So how you know if there's a way to I just sent the links from the cadastral

the FTP site. you go to the FTP site when you go to download they have the a the Orion table the the the metadata not

metadata but it's a lot it's a lot Orion table showing how the links built

between everything and and and all that the only reason I I I dug into them is because all those years

ago I dug into them because I built relational ties between our AS400 and SQL tables

4:16:49

way back when and then now we use it. Um, I do it to I I

4:16:55

investigated it in order to come up with the comparable match to what Department of Revenue told our budget folks the

4:17:03

impervious services were. And so I tried to figure out how did they do that from their appraisal data. And so you go in,

4:17:10

you have to you have to find all the property tables and then link them

4:17:16

together and then pull all the square footage from, you know, here's this out

4:17:22

building how big it is. Here's this asphalt, here's the concrete used, and

4:17:28

to pull out all that impervious surface. And did it align with that?

4:17:34

it there were it was very close to to what our our revenue folks had

4:17:39

and it was so so I that's just a report I I have set up that I just go in and

4:17:44

update it and rerun the spatial the the spatial the table and the spatial views

4:17:50

each each each year when they ask about it. I guess the question to pose back to you

4:17:56

and the community would be then um it doesn't feel like it would just be how

4:18:02

to use the tables. It sounds like there might also be a gap with how to use SQL.

4:18:07

There's probably a gap how to use the SQL, but I think there's also a little bit of a gap of what questions can and

4:18:12

should we be asking of it. Okay. Because I think there's there's a lot of information there. It didn't even occur

4:18:17

to me to get to pull that, you know. Oh, but then the work it would take me to replicate like what you just what you

4:18:24

did it would I how do you find all of that? It's just

4:18:29

overwhelming. Well, and again, it goes back to that capacity piece, right? Yeah. Because their tables are the way

4:18:34

their table the way the name the tables are named are not inuitive. And there is a spreadsheet and I don't know if I

4:18:41

provided that. There is a spreadsheet I got from someone at some point in time that has

4:18:46

the tabs at the bottom are are plain English. Oh yeah, we we might put that

4:18:52

that might be that might be one of the tables that's all things like that you know you kind of you know additional tools like that.

4:18:57

Well, you also look sorry no I was gonna say their attributes are all acronyms

4:19:03

and it's acronyms the appraisers understand and they go out and do the field collection and so you have you

4:19:08

know your structures in one point then you have your other building yard improvements and another point. So you

4:19:14

have to like marry those two together, but they're completely different. And what IDs do you need to have to be

4:19:20

able to track through all the things? They're different. You have to pull these two things in order to get the ID to go to that one. And there's there's

4:19:27

so much complexity there. Like is there it's a table view, right?

4:19:34

I have all sorts of system I mean database table views that then eventually all join and work together

4:19:40

with a master table. There's also a major duplication of data that people are purchasing that is all available in

4:19:47

like we know that at the state I couldn't imagine it local. Yeah. It's just like if we can tease that out

4:19:53

and pull that out maybe that's something that we could even if we show elimination duplication and spending.

4:19:58

Yeah. Yeah. So there there's a whole conversation around that that is definitely worth some time at some

4:20:04

point. For sure. Marin you had um Yeah. So going from the technical to

4:20:12

the communication side, um, one of the biggest things for me was when I had a

4:20:18

conversation with Aaron in August about our geospatial plan and how do we get

4:20:24

feedback on that and how do we communicate that to people we represent?

4:20:30

Well, Joe had a really good idea about, you know, providing them a written report of these meetings, which, you

4:20:36

know, I report back to the people that are kind of more the not the head of

4:20:42

MAL, but you know, in that line of the MAL leadership, and it's just a verbal

4:20:48

report, but you know, I was telling him giving them a written report actually

4:20:53

kind of maybe puts that more in front of them and they can pass that on a little easier. Um, trying to get that feedback

4:21:00

from various groups on our geospatial plan was a big tell on how I've failed

4:21:08

at that communication and how I need to work on that communication back to our counter courts that we're supposed to be

4:21:14

representing and and it'll open up that line of communication more. Um, I work

4:21:19

with our local Department of Revenue Office and I have very good communication through that whole region with all of them, but you know, maybe

4:21:27

work more to where they're like, "Hey, do you want to present at one of our trainings,

4:21:33

you know, kind of thing and come in and and work with them with that because they have regional trainings often in

4:21:39

our area because Mile City is kind of a regional hub. maybe going in and working with them, you know, and saying, "Hey,

4:21:45

this is what, you know, we're working on and what we would like feedback from you

4:21:50

on." Um maybe having that as an idea. Um also

4:21:56

building that communication within our um offices within the county and the

4:22:02

city. Um how do we do the 911 addressing? Well, like I represent three

4:22:07

counties. So, um working to make sure that we're all working with the same

4:22:14

type of addressing data sets. And so, um that communication has improved since

4:22:21

this position that I'm in now has been added to the county. Um, so

4:22:29

just building on that and maybe taking that out further.

4:22:34

I think sometimes you might underestimate your input and how the rest of the community would

4:22:41

would um even Mystic would benefit from hearing

4:22:46

how you work across three counties and how successful you are. I think I'd keep that in mind especially for future like

4:22:53

council meetings or not council meetings negative. Okay. I think it's it's good to hear about

4:22:58

it's not it's not easy to across county. Yes.

4:23:09

Joe Joe provided us the written reports. That's fantastic. And you know why I did?

4:23:14

Because you have to then I can just say I submitted

4:23:22

Oh, you are a smart man.

4:23:28

Any questions for Joe? As submitted, Jenny. I just submitted.

4:23:35

Are you playing golf on Saturday? Unfortunately, not.

4:23:44

Saturday. Just in brief, you know, um not If you all knew this or not, but

4:23:51

few years back our administrator's secretary Kim D.

4:23:57

been a bit of a struggle the last few years, but we're we're getting getting

4:24:03

our organization coming back together and you know family looking better. So

4:24:10

that was difficult. Yeah. I guess my question back to you is we are going to be there

4:24:16

in February. Well, Michael will be there tomorrow, but for your annual conference like um last year, um Dan reached out

4:24:24

and asked us to do a workshop. So, we did last year. Yeah. Just let us know if what you want

4:24:31

from us. We'll be there to present on usual topics, but if there's anything that the

4:24:37

board wants, please let us know. Be happy to volunteer. [Laughter]

4:24:46

No, not for

4:24:52

Valentine. I apologize. I realize we left you off of the list of council. Oh my gosh. So sorry. Your

4:24:58

Congratulations. The 30 seconds update.

4:25:03

Oh, definitely. Let's see. So, geography is no more

4:25:09

really at university. I think there's still three people that work there, but they're all in the college of forestry now. Uh, so there's no one major in

4:25:17

geography, but the certificates going relatively strong. There's 67 students in it right now. So that's cool from all

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majors all across campus. It's not just forestry people who know how to culture forestry. It's been kind of the whole

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certificate's been kind of I don't know on the back burner for a bit because we didn't have any staff since Kevin Mcman

4:25:36

was the main instructor and the lead for the program since he left two years ago, two years ago. We finally hired somebody

4:25:43

this semester. So now we have a new GIS lead in the faculty again. So that's kind of good. His name is Jonathan

4:25:49

Bachelor actually from University of Washington.

4:25:54

I think I remember seeing the list of people that were

4:26:00

there was a Brian Collins, but it's not the Brian Collins that we know. Correct. There was a short list who Yeah.

4:26:06

Yeah. Yeah. They were doing presentations. Yeah. I was like, "Oh, I know Brian was like so I texted Brian out." And he's like,

4:26:13

"No." I was like, "Okay." What was Jonathan's last name? Bachelor

4:26:19

A.

4:26:26

questions. No questions. I I do apologize, but that was my bad on the agenda. But um some of

4:26:33

the topics that we're hearing about nationally, this falls in line with um both federal and and at higher education

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is um it has been identified as a um national security risk that we aren't

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turning off enough students for geospatial activities. And so, um, this

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was delivered at the Colorado Springs Conference and it did come up this past week and then I cannot remember with

4:27:00

which conversation. So, that means usually that happens there's a funding mechanism. So, I'll

4:27:08

try to learn more and keep my ear open, but I just wanted to make sure that everyone's aware that um it could be an

4:27:14

opportunity for our schools in the state of Montana, even even maybe K to 12 to

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prep for higher ed, but um that is it is

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going to be a significant portion of our national security as it already is in the future. And so, especially with

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geodetic science, which I think Brian Shaw on the call, but anyway, just kind of keep that in mind.

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Thanks, Valentine. I don't think Brian Marcos. Nope. Okay, Alan. Last but

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definitely not least. Oh, least in some worlds. Not ours.

4:27:52

No. Um, as you know, the federal people lost a lot of really good talent in a

4:27:57

very short amount of time recently. uh which gave u no opportunity to

4:28:03

transition that knowledge to other people. So we're we uh we've really

4:28:09

taken a few steps back. Um like I said myself, I I manage the GIS program for

4:28:15

three states. I'm also the state data administrator for three states. I also

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manage the public room for three states. I manage the foyer program, the records

4:28:26

program, the privacy program. Um, it's it's getting to be too much. I I two

4:28:32

weeks ago I said, "I've got to get out of this. I got to get back to my GIS because it's hurting and we're not

4:28:37

managing our data well and everything. It's just there's just nobody to pull from." So, uh, I did at least reach out

4:28:44

and I've got a good collection list of of other federal folks that I I

contacted before this meeting. I sent out the materials, made sure they had the links, uh, invited feedback. uh

everybody who was still around got back to me and um and at least I've got that.

So I I want to be able to represent the whole federal program, but we're we're very good at building what what I call

silos of excellence uh between each each program which

within each agency. Now there's some crossover because we are in charge of the surveying and the cadastro part for

all agencies that the BIA uh the forest service and the BLM and the park service

and things like that. So we we do a lot of surveying with as few surveyors as we

have which is two uh and so I mean compared to 16 that we had years ago. So

we were doing surveys and projects all over the place. Uh but that that brings me up to another point I'll bring up in

a minute here. But uh so we are at least talking among ourselves or I will I will

make sure and have an effort to have a concise federal voice if I can at at this council. Um one of the things I

4:29:58

think since our meeting last year that I that I want to tout is a really good success is that we did manage to bring

4:30:05

on an individual that's specific in parcel fabric work. Uh we thought for sure we were going to lose this person

4:30:11

because they were on probation, but we managed to get him through and he's he's permanent now. And Andy Hug,

4:30:18

he works a lot with Jeff Headstrom. So where have we come since then as far as

4:30:24

the catastrophes? Well, we are ingrained in the parcel fabric. We are working one-on-one with the state of Montana. Um

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we we have the same parcel fabric between BLM and the state of Montana.

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So, as we bring in surveys, which Montana's only had one in the last year,

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we'll bring those surveys in, we'll check those in the parcel fabric for

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closure and control, and then those points will automatically go into the fabric, do the adjustments as needed,

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lease squares among all the all the uh adjoining line work and everything, and that becomes part of what we all share,

4:31:01

Montana, and and BLM. So, where do we where do we go from this? Uh well couple

4:31:07

big data sets that we we manage that I think are are used by a lot of uh state agencies are surface management agency

4:31:14

and subsurface mineral estate. Uh when you bring those in eventually you'll be

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able to actually it will actually line up with the parcel fabric uh which lines

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up with the state parcel data. Now it's kind of like a a a Russian doll. So

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you've got the the big one like like Lee was saying. Then you've got the state, then you've got the county, and then

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you've got the local. How how do all three of those participate in the same geo database? Don't know, but I think

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there's probably a way somehow the tech is there. Crack that. Yeah. Um, so as far as our participation,

4:31:52

state of Montana, we've come a long way in here. Thank goodness. I now this is

4:31:57

going to lead us to eventually the dream that we had uh with Michael to have a

4:32:04

nice statewide transportation because we are we've taken our and I've got a lot

4:32:11

of folks working on something called transportation management plans. So each

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field office has to do a transportation management plan with their road data and then they plan on it, you know, whether

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it's closed at certain times of the year, is it maintained or not and and things like that. But basically it takes

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and it maps the roads that that are there. Well, that now will line up with the um ownership data. So we will be

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able to eventually have a onetoone relationship when it leaves federal land and it goes to private land. um someday

4:32:45

having a a nice uh vertex tovertex connection between the federal and the

4:32:51

private lands as it goes through that. We have our own acronym for it's called GTLF ground transportation linear

4:32:58

feature. I don't know who came up with that idea, but that's basically roads, not trails. It's roads. Trails is a

4:33:04

zombie. Um, but we're we're going to eventually have that all snap to the

4:33:09

edge of those boundaries, which will then take off in Michael's world for the public private lands uh beyond beyond

4:33:16

federal lands. Um, so that that's been that's been a good good effort, too. I

4:33:23

mean, we've been working on that for years now trying to get that out. So, as soon as I get those transportation plans done by the various count various field

4:33:30

offices, we'll have one overall transportation layer, which will be really nice. match up.

4:33:36

Um we are working on new we work on a lot of big data standards because we

4:33:41

have to work with the whole country on state by state for new standards for

4:33:48

surface management, new standards for subsurface mineral estate uh which we're working on together. And so we have a

4:33:54

kind of a a Russian doll type thing too. We have what's called national compilation which compiles all the

4:34:01

different BLM agencies that are doing different things in different states all

4:34:06

operating though on the very same standard. So we haven't had that a lot of of our data sets but u but that's the

4:34:14

concept and so the the hardest thing of that which is kind of something the the

4:34:19

state could do if we all work off the same standard is that you know when it

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comes time to do the compilation they harvest from the individual enterprise databases move that up to FME and build

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that one composite. So those those are national data sets that a lot of people probably grab and pull as services from

4:34:39

from federal from federal data sets. Um BIA has federal data sets, we have

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federal data sets for service and things like that. Um, so we we operate on a a NSDI kind of

4:34:55

platform or blueprint where you guys are, you know, MSDI, Montana space, ours

4:35:01

is national space, you know, kind of same concept big doll.

4:35:06

Um, we uh we push a lot of stuff through our we have a big hub site. So if you can go

4:35:12

on a hub site, you look in for for national data, look at state data. Uh

4:35:18

we've got different theme categories, cadastro, minerals, lands, transportation

4:35:23

on things like that. It's a really nice looking data set to push stuff through. And I don't I think the forest service I

4:35:31

mean we've kind of been a leader in a sense the BLM forest service is kind of following suit with that. Uh BIA has

4:35:38

been kind of following suit with some of the same things we're doing. Uh there's been a lot of talk with combining a lot

4:35:43

of data sets into into one. We're we're up in the Azure cloud. All of our stuff is cloud computing. We've brought in

4:35:51

some other agencies under under what we've done with the BLM. There's talk about bringing forest service in perhaps

4:35:57

to just a lot of consolidation talk, database uh consolidation, eliminating

4:36:03

databases, eliminating contracts, eliminating segments of build. Um, I

4:36:08

just don't think we're there yet as far as a a final uh how's it how's it going to shake out. Um, you know, we didn't we

4:36:16

didn't lose anybody in in the riffs. Uh, we thought we would. I said, "Bring it on, please." So, we would know what the

4:36:22

baseline is. Okay, now we can go up from here. So, we still don't know what the baseline is for us wise to where we can

4:36:30

Okay, but this is what we got to work with now. It's only up. Uh we're still waiting for that to come and so are the

4:36:37

other agencies and and some of these people that I think I had as my contacts I didn't hear back from I think they're

4:36:44

probably gone retired. So yeah that's what we're doing.

4:36:50

Well federal government's loss was a big g was a big gain for what was it? I

4:36:56

think Gail said that the city of Bosezeman she said they had a GIS position open. They had over 90 applicants.

4:37:05

90 to1 75 of them qualified and 76 yeah 76 or 75 is what they they

4:37:12

qualified and they ended up getting one who was a former federal employee who

4:37:17

actually lived in Boseman. So it worked out well on that side of things that they didn't have to deal but 90

4:37:24

I I mean all I I cringe when I get asked to sit on a hiring committee where

4:37:30

there's more than 14 candidates. I can't imagine having to review 90 let alone 76

4:37:36

final sports. So I mean

4:37:44

two hours. Oh my gosh.

4:37:50

Good to see everybody. Thank you all for your updates. We want to make it a better part of the meeting. Really

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hopeful and important I think for us to hear from each other. Really appreciate that.

4:38:01

Right now I'm gonna do Joe packed up and submitted submitted

4:38:07

so we get it like a week ahead of time. Yeah, he set the bar high.

4:38:14

Well done. Um let's see. Couple of other business items. Just a reminder, the commission

4:38:19

meeting is October 8th. We'll get that agenda sent out to all of you. any any

4:38:24

of you who want to um join via Zoom, you're you're welcome to join that that

4:38:32

um discussion for the geospatial information plan. And then I like I said, I boarded you a safety date for

4:38:38

the natural um heritage program partners meeting on November 6. It's a great

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opportunity to hear from them what they're doing across the program,

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zoologology, botany, data management, um, land cover updates will be of

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particular interest at this meeting. So, if you have time, really encourage you to participate in that. We'll send the

4:39:02

agenda out when that goes out. Are there any other business or announcements?

4:39:12

Just a reminder, your next meeting is November 13th. We'll finalize the location. Um,

4:39:21

this worked well if we don't use Chipotle. So, look, look for more information

4:39:27

about that location of that meeting. There any public comments?

4:39:34

Any public comment online? Any

4:39:43

public comment

4:39:49

hearing? None. This meeting's adjourned. Thank you. Thank you.