

Draft

Executive Summary

Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)

June 7, 2007

Members or Designees

James D. Claflin (designee for US Department of Interior); **Lance Clampitt**, USGS National Geospatial Program; **Dave Davis**, Department of Transportation/MARLS; **Jim Hill**, Montana State Library; **Catherine Maynard**, US Department of Agriculture; **Art Pembroke**, Lewis and Clark County; **Lorin Peterson**, Tribal Government; **Rep. Jon Sesso**, Montana House of Representatives; **Evan Hammer** (designee for Department of Natural Resources & Conservation); **Chris Smith**, Fish, Wildlife and Parks; **Michael Sweet**, University of Montana – Missoula; **Robin Trenbeath (Chair)**, Department of Administration; **Ted Chase** (designee for Department of Revenue); **Ken Wall**, GeoData;

Guests

Stu Kirkpatrick, Department of Administration; **Janet Hess-Herbert**, Fish, Wildlife and Parks; **Scott VanHoff**, USGS; **Annett Cabrera**, Yellowstone County; **Shane Tuss**, Northwest Energy; **Gerry Daumiller**, Montana State Library; **Sibyl Govan**, Montana State Library; **Michael Fashoway**, DEQ; **Marlin Sander**, Montana Department of Transportation; **Doug Burreson**, Missoula County; **RJ Zimmer**, DJ&A, PC; **Lowell Whitney**, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; **Bryant Ralston**, ESRI; **Erin Geraghty**, Department of Administration

Welcome and Introductions – Robin Trenbeath

The meeting was called to order at 9:35. Introductions were made.

Executive Summary Approval – December 14, 2007**Action Item**

The December 14, 2006 Executive Summary was adopted as written.

MLIAC Reappointment Process – Robin Trenbeath

A hand out was provided on the MLIAC reappointment process. Robin noted current vacancies in the local government and private sector. As with all the groups, these appointments will need to go through the application/appointment process. Robin encouraged outreach to get a broad range of groups involved in the process.

MLIAC Responsibilities related to the 2007/2008 Land Information Plan – Lance Clampitt

ITSD, with advice of the Land Information Plan Subcommittee produced a 2007/2008 Land Information Plan that the Council adopted at the December 2006 meeting. Within the plan tasks were identified that need to be done by the Council or a Subcommittee of

the Council. Lance moved to have a Council team for each of the four plan goals to take on these tasks. Discussion followed with several process questions related to team make-up and the relationship to MSDI theme stewardship. Ultimately Lance retracted his motion on the condition that the GIO review alternatives and bring a recommendation to the Council at the next meeting.

2008/2009 Land Information Plan Subcommittee – Robin Trenbeath

The makeup of last years' Subcommittee was as follows: state agency representative – Jim Hill; local government – Art Pembroke; federal government – Lance Clampitt, tribal government - Lorin Peterson; private sector – Steve Shannon and MAGIP – Michael Sweet and Ken Wall. Much of the 2008/2009 plan will likely be a continuation of the 2007/2008 plan. Mike Sweet noted that he would let Ken Wall be the official MAGIP representative for the land plan. Art Pembroke deferred participation until there is a new local government representative. Lance Clampitt also deferred his participation to give someone else a chance to serve on the committee. Jim Hill suggested that the groups come back with recommendations for service after they have had a chance to caucus. The sectors should have recommendations to ITSD by the end of June.

Strategic Plan Close-out – Stu Kirkpatrick

The 2006 – 2010 Montana Geospatial Strategic Plan has been delivered to FGDC and the cap grant was closed out. FGDC was very pleased with the plan and that it came out under budget. Plan appendices weren't published but are available through the Department of Administration. Copies were made available to meeting attendees.

Legislative Update – Robin Trenbeath

The State data center was funded for about \$14.5 million with a primary site in Helena and a backup site in Eastern Montana. The center will primarily be for equipment since there is very little funding for office space. The location has to be within a ten mile radius of Helena. The network upgrade received about \$6.7 million with the restriction that the state cannot light dark fiber. The universities got over \$1 million for the northern tier network with the restriction that it must be used for research purposes only. The Super Computer got a general fund appropriation for a feasibility study for the location, research and modeling. The long range building plan received about \$259,000.00 to begin that effort and about \$7 million in spending authority to deal with grants that might be forthcoming. Representative Jon Sesso noted that this was a good session for IT and remains open to any movement forward for the Super Computer.

SB 317 – Conservation Easements

A handout was provided to the group on Senate Bill 317 - an act revising laws related to conservation easements. This bill makes a minor change in the Land Information Act that makes it ITSD's duty to maintain conservation easements in the cadastral database. About 90% of the existing easements have already been transferred to a cadastral database from the existing Heritage data with a completion date forecast for July 1st.

MAGIP Report – Doug Burreson

During the Building GIS Partnerships session in Eastern Montana several issues were discussed on how to better connect with Eastern Montana. There will be another technical session this fall and planning for the 2008 GIS conference in Missoula is moving full speed ahead. MAGIP is in the early stages of creating a local government special interest group. The MAGIP board would like to have Mike Sweet and Ken Wall continue serving on the Council. The next MAGIP board meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2007 in Helena. Doug reported on his message to the MAGIP Board during their June 6th meeting regarding funding MSDI, the importance of MAGIP and MLIAC working on this issue, and the need to consider a variety of options to fund MSDI themes

MLIAC Appointment to MAGIP Board

Currently Robin Trenbeath is the MLIAC representative on the MAGIP Board. There was discussion on whether this posed a conflict of interest based on Robin's new appointment as GIO, and whether workload issues would limit his ability to adequately represent the Council. It was decided to discuss at the next meeting during the appointment process.

Framework Subcommittee Report on Progress (Mike Sweet)

Mike Sweet led a discussion on the future of the Framework Subcommittee, it's relationship to theme stewards and leads, and the communication between theme stewards and leads and the Council. Also noted was the technical nature of this work verses the policy role of the Council, especially related to the issue of funding MSDI. The Subcommittee would like to retain the makeup of the Framework Subcommittee; however its role in bringing policy issues forward is not clear. Cathy Maynard recommended that theme stewards and leads have a meeting and report back to the committee at the September meeting.

GNIS (Mike Sweet & Lance Clampitt)

The Montana State Geographic Names Advisor was established in 1929 by designation of the Governor, and the position is housed in the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The position serves as the state's liaison to the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, which is the federal entity responsible for determining and tracking official federal names for geographic features. Lowell Whitney currently holds the position. Research is being conducted on potential legislation that would clarify the process for naming and renaming geographic features in Montana and to formalize the method for consistently updating and maintaining geographic name and potentially establish Geographic Names as an MSDI framework layer.

Administrative Boundaries/Government Units (Erin Geraghty)

Erin Geraghty gave an update on the status of issues associated with boundaries. There are currently few legal descriptions for city municipalities or school districts even though it appears to be statutorily mandated. Erin recommended establishing a partnership with the Census Bureau to engage in an outreach program to counties to focus on writing good legal descriptions. She also requested that the Council form a group to study potential

legislative changes to boundary law. Robin agreed to put together a group to take a look at this.

GCDB Accuracy Enhancement (Stu Kirkpatrick)

There are two GCDB enhancement projects in progress and one complete and sent to the BLM for adjustment in the Havre, Conrad and Choteau, Chester and Cutbank areas. The goal is to have every county seat complete within the next two years.

Height Modernization Update (Dave Davis)

Several months ago we had a height modernization forum. A smaller group was formed to work on a Montana Height Modernization Plan that included a federal funding request. Until recently funding was available through federal government budget add-ons, however now there is a more formal granting process with funds distributed by zones. Montana is grouped with the Dakota's, Wyoming, Iowa and Colorado. These states are not doing much, so Montana stands a good chance of getting funding if the plan is finalized over the summer.

MLIA Grant Process - First Year Lessons Learned – Ed Madej

Mike Sweet presented a handout from Ed Madej on some of the lessons learned by the MLIA Grant Subcommittee and how to build on these. Since this year was the first time that the Subcommittee worked through the GIS granting process under the Montana Land Information Act, much of the process was created from scratch. Overall, more things worked than did not work, but there is certainly room for improvement. As Grant Review Subcommittee Chair, Ed Madej gave the process a B+ for this first time around.

There was a good deal of Council discussion related to the results of the grant process, who was funded, and the ITSD decision to hold some funding back for potential funding of NAIP acquisition in future years. Some Council members felt that ITSD should have minimally gone back to the Grants Subcommittee for approval of that holdback. The Heritage Program presented its case on why they felt the Landcover/Land use grant application should have received more consideration.

Open Forum and Public Comment

Alex Philp, GCS Research commented on distribution of grant funds to entities other than state agencies, and how he would prefer that those entities, if subcontracting, should use state approved procurement practices..

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held September 6th with the location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned 3:21