

## **Executive Summary**

### **MONTANA LAND INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MLIAC)**

**June 5, 2008**

#### **Members or Designees**

Robin Trenbeath—DOA/ITSD; Mike Bousliman—DOT; Rudy Cicon—MARLS Representative; Connie Eissinger—McCone County Commissioner; Ed Madej—Tetra-Tech; Annette Cabrera—Yellowstone County; Laura Temple—USGS; Evan Hammer—DNRC; Catherine Maynard—DNRC; Eric Spangenberg—Lewis and Clark County IT Department; Alex Philp—GCS Research LLC; Chris Smith—Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Michael Sweet—University of Montana; Don Patterson—USDA Forest Service; Lorin Peterson—Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes IT Manager; Darlene Staffeldt—Montana State Library; Ken Wall—GeoData Services Inc. and Randy Wilke—Department of Revenue

#### **Guests**

Stephanie Caudill—DOA/ITSD, Erin Geraghty—DOA/ITSD, Kris Larson—CDM/MAGIP, R.J. Zimmer—DJ&A, Nathan Carter—DEQ, Chris Stump—DEQ, Michael Fashoway—DOA/ITSD, Stu Kirkpatrick—DOA/ITSD, Lydia Bailey—FWP, Gerry Daumiller—NRIS

- Noted that Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and some Council members needed to spend portions of their time at that meeting.

#### **Approval of March Executive Summary **\*\*Action Item\*****

- The executive summary from March was accepted as presented.

#### **MSDI Stewardship – Robin Trenbeath**

A handout was distributed entitled “Stewardship Roles and Responsibilities Overview”. It described a process whereby theme stewardship would be developed through compilation and vetting of theme profiles. Prior to assigning stewardship a theme's characteristics including definitions, status, funding requirements, roles and responsibilities, etc. would be documented. Some discussion was held regarding the review process of multiple applicants and the need to consider the options surrounding a qualified applicant who may be unable to meet all of the requirements. The Council indicated they would like to see a process that included an initial letter of intent to apply for stewardship status, followed by a formal application. By the September Council meeting, three themes will be chosen to test the process. The GIO, with advice from the Council, will evaluate the process and make adjustments accordingly. Trial themes for

consideration are Imagery, Soils, Transportation/Addressing, Geodetic Control and Cadastral.

### **Base Map Service Center (BMSC) EPP Status—Robin Trenbeath**

The State's Executive Planning Process (EPP) is a tool to assist in prioritizing new funding requests for the next biennium's budget. The BMSC is considered a new proposal because it would transition the BMSC from being primarily grant funded to being at least partially general-funded. Currently budgets are very tight but to date, the BMSC proposal has been included in the EPP process. Significant upcoming milestones will be the Governor's proposed budget, out in December and the Legislature's proposed budget out in early January. Alternate funding plans are being considered, all with the intent of moving BMSC funding away from MLIA dependence.

### **GIS Funding White Paper - Robin Trenbeath**

A handout was distributed entitled "GIS Funding Overview". It identified some potential funding sources including new/Re-distributed taxes and fees, funding from external sources, sale of GIS goods and services, and becoming more relevant to organizational business processes (thus accessing more existing funds). Discussion followed on several issues including relevancy of GIS, redistribution of MLIA funds, promoting spatial data as an investment in infrastructure and better tracking of existing expenditures.

### **MLIA FY 2009 Grant Recipient Summary - Robin Trenbeath:**

A handout was provided entitled "2009 MLIA GRANTS", summarizing the prioritization of this year's grants. Robin thanked both the Land Plan and Grant subcommittees for their work related to this year's granting process. According to the Grant Subcommittee's advice, the GIO will attempt to work with those applicants on the lower end to see if some assistance can be provided, as well as work with the higher ranking grantee's to insure budgets are appropriate and if any savings can be found. There was some discussion on the lack of grant applications promoting regional centers and how MLIA grants needed to be better able to assist smaller local governments. It was also noted that in some cases a more precise methodology, including a better description of the technology to be employed, would be helpful in scoring grants.

### **Break for lunch at 12:05; Re-Convene at 12:35**

### **Federation Implementation Projects**

#### **Montana Discovery Hub (Portal) - Gerry Daumiller**

The concept of a GIS portal is a web-enabled application at the State Library where data users and data publishers can be brought together. The site is now operational, but currently has very little information available. [www.gisportal.mt.gov](http://www.gisportal.mt.gov). Some outreach was provided in the form of a workshop for data providers at the Intermountain GIS convention. A recently hired programmer ( 6 weeks) has been successful in completing modifications that make the portal more germane to Montana. The site will be moderated and standards will be set to determine relevancy and accuracy of the data submitted.

There were some questions regarding pointing users to existing web services and the Library will look into that issue

### **ImageServer –Gerry Daumiller/Michael Fashoway**

There was a brief report on the BMSC/NRIS investigation into using ESRI ImageServer Software for future image processing and distribution. This product should be able to provide efficiencies for statewide imagery collections; however, some issues remain regarding the product's future and functionality.

### **MAGIP Issues - Kris Larson**

#### **President's report**

Kris reported that annual elections are in process and that the vote closes at midnight, June 5 (today). There are 3 outgoing board members - Ken Wall, Mike Sweet and Gerry Daumiller. The two candidates running for President are Erin Geraghty and Linda Vance. The three candidates running for general position are Tony Thatcher, Nathan Carter and Lee Macholz. Last week the board unanimously voted to renew Janet Cornish's contract to assist the Board in an executive leadership role and her contract will be amended in the future to include more outreach.

### **Intermountain GIS Conference Summary**

This year's conference was held in Missoula in early April. There were 215 attendees with 19 workshops. Over 200 comments on the conference were submitted and you can contact MAGIP president Kris Larson for a web address to view those comments. A handout "GIS Summit - 2008 Intermountain GIS Conference" was provided. Over 90 people stayed over to attend this event on Friday. The primary purpose of the event was to discuss the state of GIS in Montana and brainstorm actions that could lead to a more federated environment. At their next Board Meeting, MAGIP will be approving Bozeman as the location for 2010 Intermountain GIS Conference.

### **Metadata Standard for GIS Portal - Gerry Daumiller**

The State Library has produced a draft set of portal metadata standards, including a web link for the GIS Community to provide comments. The intent is to set a State IT standard that will give MSL some teeth in developing and setting rules for internal and external use when publishing data to the portal. For the portal to be successful, these rules need to be in place along with a mandate requiring agencies to submit metadata. The MGIC adopted the FGDC metadata standard in 2001 but never finalized them as a State Standard. The GIO will assist MSL in moving this standard forward.

### **New Business:**

#### **GNIS Presentation - Mike Sweet**

Mike Sweet presented a handout entitled "Update on Geographic Names Project". The last time that State geographic names were updated was in 1998 and USGS is pushing for State stewardship of geographic names. Mike asked the Council to please allow for a 20 minute presentation at the September meeting on this issue and to get Council feedback on next steps and how to facilitate it.

### **HB 49 Status - Erin Geraghty**

The 2007 Legislature created an interim legislative sub-committee on special districts, with the charge to study the State's existing special districts statutes and propose any necessary legislative modifications. Three meetings have been held and the BMSC (Erin and Robin) have provided a perspective on the need for a GIS provisions in any legislation. Draft legislation is progressing smoothly. The overriding goal is to put together encompassing legislation on special districts. Presently this is being viewed as a positive issue with few opponents. A fiscal impact study will be completed in the future.

### **Flathead Addressing Grant Status - Stu Kirkpatrick**

A revised statement of work (SOW) is being drafted by a working group consisting of Flathead County, Yellowstone County, Missoula County and the BMSC staff. When complete it will likely go out for bid through the State's MIS process. The work group will contact the GIO and the MLIAC Grant Subcommittee when the new SOW is completed.

### **ESRI ELA Status - Robin Trenbeath**

The State Enterprise License Agreement with ESRI has been signed and executed. The software has arrived and is being distributed, and agencies are ordering new software. Lydia Bailey is chairperson for the ELA user group.

### **NAIP Status - Don Patterson**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) amended their NAIP acquisition cycle to a 3 year plan. This puts Montana ahead one year, into the 2009 season. For now, the best strategy for the State of Montana is to take the minimum partnership contribution amount (\$176,000), add to that the estimated 4 band add-on (\$377,000) and target that amount for GIO commitment by Dec 31, 2008. If things change, or if all federal dollars are not available, more funding and more partnerships may be needed.

### **Governor's GIS Issues - Alex Philp**

This issue goes back to a previous meeting's agenda item on a Governor's GIS challenge. Alex believes the Governor is interested but wants to know how he can really use the data and tools to address statewide issues. A Governor's Challenge that would provide GIS analysis of a high-profile issue, could demonstrate the importance of GIS to the Governor and other State-level decision-makers. Any interested parties should contact Alex. The question posed was: Is the Governor interested in GIS?

### **Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) - Alex Philp**

DHS is looking to revitalize some of their strategic planning for the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) program. HIFLD is a program supported by National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) to provide datasets of various types to help look at homeland security problems. They are trying to address how the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), can work with the DHS to distribute datasets that are relevant for various elements of homeland security? DHS official Steve Alness (a former UM Graduate) will be contacting the GIO for a potential drill.

## **Department of Energy - Alex Philp**

- Idaho National Lab is a national security cyber test bed focusing on attacks by viruses and attacks on spatial data. The lab would like the opportunity to come back and brief the Council on cooperation between the lab and the State of Montana, specifically in the areas of power line transmission (routing and security) and the security of bio-fuels and other alternative energy sources.

## **Appointment of Land Plan and Grant Subcommittees**

- These members were to e-mail Robin within two weeks with their sector appointments
  - State: Evan
  - Private: Ed
  - MAGIP: Ken
  - Tribes: Lorin
  - Feds: Kathy
  - Locals: Connie
  - Legislature: Robin
  - MARLS: Rudy

## **Open Forum and Public Comment**

There was a question on where MLIA grant information was available on the web and they were referred to the GIS coordination page: <http://giscoordination.mt.gov/grant.asp>  
There were also a couple follow-up questions on MSDI theme stewardship. It was emphasized that current stewards will stay in place at this time but they will be re-evaluated in time using the new process. There was advice to consider bringing in technical support to assist in MSDI theme profile development.

## **Next Meeting Dates**

September 4th and December 4th are the next scheduled meeting dates. Robin will confirm the September date sometime in July.

## **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- GNIS Presentation
- MT/ID national labs
- Stewardship review update
- LAN information deadline Sept 15??
- Governor's challenge update
- Flathead update
- Possibly teleconference in DEC

## **Adjourn**