

Executive Summary
MONTANA LAND INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MLIAC)
June 4, 2009

Members or Designees

Robin Trenbeath—Department of Administration; Connie Eissinger – McCone County Commissioner; Mike Birtles – Bureau of Land Management; Lance Clampitt – USGS; Catherine Maynard – Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Art Pembroke – Lewis and Clark County IT Dept; Alex Philp – GCS Research LLC; Michael Sweet – University of Montana; Don Patterson – USDA Forest Service; Lorin Peterson – Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes IT Manager; Jon Sesso – House District 76; Darlene Staffeldt – Montana State Library; Ken Wall – GeoData Services Inc.

Guests

Stewart Kirkpatrick – DOA/ITSD/BMSC; Kevin Kauska – MDT; Gerry Daumiller – MSL; Jon Henderson – City of Bozeman; Stuart Challender – MSU; Michael Fashoway – DOA/ITSD/BMCS; Erin Geraghty – MAGIP President/DOA/ITSD/BMSC; Bryant Ralston – ESRI; RJ Zimmer – DJ&A and Stephanie Tecca – DOA/ITSD.

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

Motion to approve made by Art Pembroke, second by Connie Eissinger.

- Unanimously approved.

Update on Portal Metadata Standard – Robin Trenbeath

Portal Metadata standards have been drafted with only minor changes to the original provided by the State Library. These standards will impact state agencies and should be ready soon for final public review and comment.

MLIA Rule Subcommittee Status – Art Pembroke

The Subcommittee has chosen to table their work until the Funding Subcommittee completes their work.

MLIA Operating Procedures Review – Robin Trenbeath

The handout “Operating Procedures” was provided showing the requested changes to items 5 and 6. These changes include removing language that states the need to use “issue action” forms. Motion to approve the changes was made by Alex Philp, second by Don Patterson.

- Unanimously approved.

MLIA FY 2008/2009 Grant Report – Robin Trenbeath

Two handouts “2010 MLIA Final Grant Priorities” and “Project Leveraging Using MLIA Funding” were provided to Council. Discussion followed on a variety of topics related to this years grants including:

- NAIP funding as it relates to the Orthoimagery grant application
- County and Tribal participation in the process
- Documenting use of the Counties’ 25% MLIA funds
- Regional Centers
- Additional outreach and education potentially including a Tribal Workshop
- Grants and private sector involvement
- Fund accounting

The following action items came out of that discussion:

- A detailed cost accounting of the fund since inception including charts and graphs and an estimate of the 25% local government revenues;
- Connie Eissinger would work with MACO and others on local government accountability questions;
- The Council should invite a BIA representative to the meetings; and
- Clarification of the role of private sector businesses in grant applications.

Stewardship Review Process – Mike Sweet

The handout “MSDI Framework Data Layer Review” was provided showing the preliminary results of a review of the framework themes and the questionnaire they were given to help the Council establish a formal review process.

The committee found four major areas of concern.

- **Management and Support** – Includes developing institutional support, possible legislative action, more interactions with administration at the entity where the framework layer resides, identifying a peer review process, and statewide perspective.
- **Technical Review and Education** – Review framework data layers and establish minimal technical requirements such as standards, best practices, and data dictionaries. Provide educational opportunities for Framework Theme Stewards.
- **Marketing** – Identify a common consistent web presence, easy to locate information, communicate beyond the GIS professional arena, and recognize contributing parties.
- **Funding** - Identify long-term, stable funding sources. Unstable or unknown funding directly affects the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified staff, and impacts the ability of entities to build sustainable business procedures.

Discussion followed with several Council members noting that it is time for the Council to pay attention to the theme steward's responses and take action regarding policy issues identified here and in subsequent reviews. The Council requested the following actions: 1) **MAGIP was asked to do a technical review of the theme steward's responses.** 2) **Additionally a policy review was requested, with Connie Eissinger, Jon Sesso and Randy Wilke agreeing to read and discuss the questionnaire responses and identifying policy issues contained within by the September Council meeting.**

Theme Stewardship Support – Stu Kirkpatrick

The handout “MSDI Framework Assistance” was provided. This was intended for informational purposes and detailed how the Base Map Service Center and MSL/NRIS proposed to cooperatively assist Framework Stewards and Leads accomplish their missions.

GIS Funding Subcommittee Report - Robin Trenbeath

The handout “MLIAC Funding Subcommittee” was provided. The intent is to find stable sustainable, predictable long term funding, not necessarily new or old funding. The Subcommittee will proceed by conducting an extensive cost and benefit analysis of the Cadastral Theme including return on investment (ROI). This theme was chosen because there was more initial information on collection and maintenance costs as well documented use cases. The process may require some analysis by someone outside the GIS world to validate the economics. The process may require some investment of MLIA funds and the Council will be consulted if that is the case. Notes from the Subcommittee meetings will be posted on the Council website.

The Subcommittee is also supporting GIS involvement in a legislative approved ground water study (HB52) as an opportunity to prove relevancy and support potential future funding requests.

Lunch

Regarding Tribal Event - Robin Trenbeath

Following up on the morning's discussion regarding MLIA grants and tribal outreach, Robin attempted to clarify whether the Council is prepared to use MLIA funds to invest in the preparation and presentation of a Tribal learning event. Discussion followed, especially to the potential amount it could cost to hold a workshop and pay travel costs. **The Council did agree that a GIO follow-up with the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council was warranted.**

MAGIP Report - Erin Geraghty

President's Report:

- MAGIP elections were recently completed. New Board is as follows: Erin Geraghty, President; Kris Larson, Past President; Linda Vance, Vice President; Stephanie Anderson, Education Committee Chair and Nate Holm, Technical Chairperson.
- Other Board Members include Tony Thatcher, Stuart Challender, Lee Macholz, Diane Papineau and Mindy Cochran.

MLIAC Representative to MAGIP Board -

- One MAGIP board position is held open for an MLIAC member. This is a two year term that is currently empty.
 - A motion to approve Lance Clampitt was made by Mike Sweet, second by Ken Wall.
 - Unanimously approved.
- The MAGIP Annual meeting was held on May 21-22.
 - This year's Technical Session has been scheduled for October 21-22 in Kalispell.
 - MAGIP is getting a face lift over the next year. They will be doing an RFP for a new logo to create a more standardized look and feel as well as updating the website.
 - The Annual Intermountain GIS Conference will be held on April 19-23, 2010 in Bozeman.
- A MAGIP Board Member Retreat will be held in late July or August. This event is intended to set the stage for the coming year; create a work plan and set a budget.
- Bryant Ralston has suggested a MAGIP mentorship program to assist newer GIS professionals expand their knowledge base.

MAGIP Best Practices **Action Item**

The handout "GIS Best Practices in Montana" was provided. This is a verbiage update that was discussed at the last MLIAC meeting. Bullet #3 was updated to read "Montana State Plane NAD 83 HARN...". **Some discussion followed regarding a HARN date and Michael Fashoway agreed to follow up with Rudy Cicon.** A motion to approve was made by Art Pembroke, second by Cathy Maynard.

- Unanimously approved.

GISP Certification ** Action Item**

A handout "MAGIP Request for MLIAC Endorsement of the GIS Certification Program" was provided. MAGIP endorsed this in the beginning of April to help build professional development. Discussion followed and there was some Council confusion on what the program

really was. Council requested additional information and this item was tabled until the September meeting.

MLIA Council Membership Appointment Update - Robin Trenbeath

Of the 22 positions available there are presently 16 applications. Some present Council members indicated they intended to apply but hadn't completed the application yet.

Legislative Update – Erin Geraghty

The handout “Senate Bills 57 & 58 – 2009 Montana Legislature” was provided. HB 58 was passed by the Senate; it was also passed with amendments by the House of Representatives. When the amendments were passed in April they removed all GIS related verbiage. This is the bill that applies to all special districts. However, HB 57 also pass. There were amendments by the House of Representatives but they did not affect the GIS portion of the bill. It will go into effect on July 1. There are 17 districts types impacted by this bill.

Portal Progress - Gerry Daumiller

Transition to a new version of the portal software has posed some problems but is tentatively scheduled to move into production in a couple months. MSL/NRIS will happily help anyone who is interested in posting metadata.

BMSC Outreach - Stu Kirkpatrick

In regard to Cadastral, Database Administrator Keith Blount has been assisting Butte with their grant and it is almost finished. He has visited Kalispell working on the conversion of their data to a new GCDB base. We have done some work in Missoula County and have offered more assistance but haven't yet received that invitation. Keith will be spending a week in Yellowstone County converting them to a Geo Database and a GCDB base. On the addressing front, the staff visited Gallatin County. As for the Address and Structures project, they have recently visited Gallatin and Park Counties. Also in a joint Structure/Address and Cadastral trip, they visited Ravalli County last week. This was a very impressive trip. The Ravalli County vision for a multi-purpose Cadastral is ambitious. The intension over the next year is to develop data sharing MOU with 40 counties.

NHD Conference Report - Lance Clampitt

The USGS recently sponsored two meetings in which the Montana GIS group was involved. The first was the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) which was held from April 14-16 in Denver. Some highlights include that the NHD and the Watershed Boundaries Dataset (WDB) have recently merged. NHD is looking at improving their data so they can support statewide water rights and things like TMDL and fisheries work. There will be a Hydro Working group meeting at the MAGIP fall session on October 21-22.

USGS also sponsored a Central Region partnership meeting last week with fifteen states represented. USGS is releasing a Digital Topo, which will replace their hardcopy 24k graphic. Montana is slated for the Digital Topo production in 2011.

Governors' Challenge - Robin Trenbeath

A final version of a letter thanking the Governor for attending the September 2008 meeting, and updating him on some of the challenge efforts will be available for Council review soon.

Geographic Names – Mike Sweet

A small group has been working with the USGS on Geographic Names for Montana. There has been good dialog and collaboration. Montana is sited to be a national pilot site for a new protocol called WFSG that is intended to establish a service that will exchange names between a Montana database and a National database. In the framework review, this group submitted a report to have Geographic Names considered as a new layer. Efforts of Montana are fairly mature; we provide good support for the tribal names and other local names that would not be supported at the National level. An agenda slot for the September meeting was requested.

NAIP – Robin Trenbeath

This is a quote from the press release regarding NAIP funding: “On May 20, 2009 Farm Service Agency was instructed by Undersecretary of Agriculture Miller to allocate a total of 24 million in funding for the ‘09 NAIP acquisition, this is now combined a cost share funding from partners at Federal and State level resulting in an additional 15 states bring the total to 32 states for ‘09.”

- This has no effect on the State of Montana.
- The three year cycle will continue.

Accuracy Control Points – Stu Kirkpatrick

It appears that FSA has enough control points to quality control the 2009 NAIP.

Funding – Robin Trenbeath

The Montana NAIP partnership contribution of \$ 553,500 has almost been reached. Amounts collected above that will simply reduce the \$300,000 MLIA portion of the fund.

NAIP Buy-ups – Don Patterson

Forest Service requests for price quotes from FSA for higher resolution imagery "buy-ups" came in high and not cost effective.

Heritage Presentation

A PowerPoint Presentation titled “Everything you ever wanted to know about MSDI Landcover and Wetlands Mapping” was presented by Linda Vance. The presentation is available in its entirety at <ftp://nris.mt.gov/LANDCOVER/>. Linda outlined some fundamental differences in approach, scale, and methodologies regarding landcover and wetlands. The current map is available at http://mtnhp.org/ecology/wetlands/NWI_Status_map.asp.

Open Forum and Public Comment – N/A

Next meeting - September 3, 2009

Future Agenda Items

Report of the Funding Subcommittee
GISP Certification Endorsement
Geographic Names presentation (approx. 15 min)
MLIAC Budget Information
Legislative calendar
American Community Survey (possible presentation)
Information from the Stewardship Policy Group

The Council thanked Ken Wall and Mike Sweet for their support of the Council as MAGIP representatives and requested their presence whenever possible at future meetings.