

Executive Summary
MONTANA LAND INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MLIAC)
September 3, 2009

Members or Designees

Robin Trenbeath—Department of Administration; Rudy Cicon – MARLS Representative; Connie Eissinger – McCone County Commissioner; Ed Madej – Tetra-Tech; Mike Birtles – Bureau of Land Management; Annette Cabrera – Yellowstone County; Lance Clampitt – Department of the Interior; Catherine Maynard – Natural Resource Conservation Service; Art Pembroke – Lewis and Clark County IT Dept; Janet Hess-Herbert – Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Erin Geraghty – Base Map Service Center; Don Patterson – USDA Forest Service; Lorin Peterson – Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes IT Manager; Jennie Stapp for Darlene Staffeldt – Montana State Library; Kris Larson – CDM; Alan Peura – Department of Revenue; and Dan Chelini for Richard Opper – Department of Environmental Quality.

Guests

Stewart Kirkpatrick – DOA/ITSD/BMSC; Kyle Hilmer – DOA/ITSD; Gerry Daumiller – MSL; Lindsey Delin – NW Energy; Michael Sweet – University of Montana; Nat Carter – DEQ; Chris Stump – DEQ; Nathalie Smith – ESRI; Evan Hammer – MSL/NRIS; Diane Papineau – MSL/NRIS; Michael Fashoway – DOA/ITSD/BMCS; Bryant Ralston – ESRI; RJ Zimmer – DJ&A and Stephanie Tecca – DOA/ITSD.

Approval of June Executive Summary **Action Item**

Motion to approve made by Art Pembroke, second by Annette Cabrera - unanimously approved.

Update on Portal Metadata Standard – Robin Trenbeath

Portal Metadata standards have been drafted and approved by the CIO with only minor changes to the original. They will be available for public comment for two weeks and will be implemented soon after, assuming no changes are required.

MLIA Grant Status Report - Stu Kirkpatrick

The Salish Kootenai Wetlands grant will be closed by June 30, 2010 and invoices are being submitted. All other FY2008 grants are closed. Of the FY2009 grants, approximately half are closed. The DNRC Conservation District Project was to be put out for bid but was re-written to allow for an in-house process, we are still waiting for that to be signed. The remainder of FY09 grants should be closed by Jan or Feb 2010. All FY 2010 grants have a signed statement of work.

Tribal Education Grant Re-write – Robin Trenbeath/Lorin Peterson

Lorin has contacted all of the tribal representatives and most are interested in participating in the education process. Discussion will continue this fall to encourage additional tribal participation in the grant process, grant writing workshops, other educational opportunities, and possibly assistance in attending the Inter-Mountain GIS Conference.

2011 Land Plan Subcommittee – Robin Trenbeath

This year's Land Plan Subcommittee was appointed as follows:

- Art Pembroke – Local Government (Chair)
- Alan Peura – State Government
- Mike Birtles – Federal Government
- Alex Philp – Private Sector

- Professional GIS Group – Erin Geraghty
- Tribal – Lorin Peterson
- MARLS – Rudy Cicon

No legislative representative was appointed at this time. Additionally, part of this year’s Grant Subcommittee was also appointed at:

- Ed Madej – Private Sector
- Professional GIS Group – Kris Larson
- Local Government – Annette Cabrera
- Tribal – Lorin Peterson
- MARLS – Rudy Cicon

State, Federal and Legislative representation still await appointment.

Stewardship Review Process

MAGIP Technical Review of Stewards’ Report – Kris Larson

A handout titled “MSDI Framework Technical Review” was provided. This was intended to be a technical review of the Theme Steward’s responses to an earlier survey however very little technical information was captured in the original survey. The MAGIP review outlined general commonalities and came up with three areas for further investigation and clarification:

1. Framework Theme Dependencies.
2. Adoption and Use of Framework Themes/User Buy-In.
3. Coordination and Collection of Framework Theme Data.

Council Policy Review of Stewards’ Reports – Robin Trenbeath

A management review of the Theme Steward survey was originally requested in June but not completed. Alan Peura, Jon Sesso and Connie Eissinger were reassigned this task. The information will be reviewed and reported on at the December meeting.

Role of Private Sector in Grant Application – Robin Trenbeath

The original issue was how the grant process should address the issue of the private sector being involved in the submission of a MLIA grant application, when that grant may then go through a competitive bid process that may result in a substantive change in the deliverables. A secondary Council concern surfaced regarding members (or their agency) of the MLIA Grant Subcommittee being MLIA grant applicants.

Council Recommendation: The Grant Subcommittee should include a Code of Conduct/Ethics statement that requires full disclosure of involvement and/or conflict of interest in a specific grant, with that member recusing themselves from scoring that grant. Additionally the GIO should check into any legal ramifications of either issue with State Procurement.

Geographic Names Update – Michael Fashoway

A handout, “Geographic Names Update” was provided.

Last year the BMSC received a grant from USGS that contained three deliverables:

1. Update emergency response structures in the Montana structures and federal GNIS databases.
2. Add/update FWP fishing access sites, state parks and other lands identified by FWP in the GNIS database.

3. Work with GNIS to discover and apply a replication process and system that automates the replication of the GNIS to the state names database through Web Feature Services or other applicable technology.

Currently most of the work for #1 and #2 has been completed and is close to submittal to GNIS. We are close to finalizing a WFS-G schema. Once completed we will test the use of the GeoSynchronization service, based on the WFS-G schema, to replicate names data between the Montana names database and federal GNIS.

Council Recommendation: Continue to leverage the past work on the Montana Names Database by the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis and the BMSC. The GIO should investigate stewardship and MSDI theme status for Geographic names and report back at the December meeting.

GIS Funding Subcommittee Report – Robin Trenbeath/ Kyle Hilmer

Kyle prepared a PowerPoint presentation “Cadastral Valuation in Montana” that described his initial findings related to the return on investment of cadastral data.

Report Objectives

- Evaluation of the IT investment in the cadastral layer.
- Identification of business processes, users, and beneficiaries that depend on the cadastral layer.
- Identification of the linkages between the cadastral framework and the other 12 framework layers.
- Financial analysis that documents the current and ongoing costs and benefits of the cadastral layer.
- Establish potential framework for analyzing non-cadastral layers.

Long term uses

- Justification for long term stabilized funding for all framework layers.
- Marketing document that can be used with legislators, potential fee paying customers, the public, etc.
- Basic data for potentially establishing ITSD rates for BMSC services.

After reviewing the report the Council found the report to be in line with their expectations. This initial draft reflects information collected on the use of the Cadastral website only. It did not include county information, agencies who receive direct downloads, or other applications using cadastral data. It is also difficult to separate the value of map from that of tabular (CAMA and other) data associated with it. The re-creation of this example for other layers will be difficult because the information is not as readily available. However cadastral data does not stand alone and depends on other MSDI data themes. The general consensus was that the effort be focused on spending a reasonable amount of time on this layer and leverage it as a proof of concept for the value of the entire MSDI and not just the value of Cadastral.

Lunch (Provided for Council Members and Invited Guests)

MAGIP Report

President’s Report – Erin Geraghty

- The MAGIP Board retreat was a success. A full write-up will be available in the next edition of the “Vector”. A preliminary schedule was provided for the October technical workshop in Kalispell.

- MAGIP bi-laws currently read that if the appointed MLIAC member resigns the MAGIP Board, the Board becomes member short until such a time when MLIAC re-appoints. MAGIP is considering changing the bi-laws to allow for the resigned MLIAC member to stay on the MAGIP board until a replacement is assigned.
- If the Council would like to get a tribal track and framework summit into the Inter Mountain Conference they will need to get in touch with the MAGIP Conference Committee very soon.
- A handout was provided “Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals: Request for Assistance.” The purpose of the document is to track any kind of assistance requests, streamline efforts and create a more professional environment within MAGIP, as well as to clarify and define the functional requirements of the request. MLIAC requests for MAGIP assistance should follow this process.

GISP Certification – Kris Lars0n

Kris explained the certification process started about 5 years ago to ensure authentication and to recognize and encourage further educational efforts by GIS professionals. MLIAC’s endorsement would simply provide recognition to the existence and validity of the program, indicating that MLIAC recognizes the rigorous nature of the program and the qualifications of those who complete it.

Kris Larson will provide a presentation at the December meeting and MLIAC potential endorsement will be an action item at that time.

Updates and New Business

MLIA Council Membership Appointments – Robin Trenbeath

Robin welcomed new members and noted that all appointments have been made and this will be the Council makeup for the next two years.

Portal Progress – Evan Hammer

Currently the Montana GIS portal is based on ESRI’s 3.1 Portal Toolkit. The State Library has been working to develop a version 9.3 based GIS Portal. They are currently wrapping up phase one testing. Phase two will take place over the next couple of weeks and they hope to release the v9.3 portal on October 1. A metadata session will be held at the summit in Kalispell. The USGS has worked with many agencies to register data with Geospatial One Stop (GOS) in the past. There is now an agreement with MSL and USGS that data will be registered with the Montana Portal and be harvested by GOS.

BMSC OUTREACH – Stu Kirkpatrick

Most outreach over the last three months has been cadastral related. BMSC has spent several days in Butte/Silverbow, Lake and Yellowstone Counties. Overall the Cadastral Database Analyst has spent approxmaelty30 days of the last 90 in the field assisting local governments. We anticipate that as the software gets more technical our visits will become more necessary. A late September general outreach visit to Eastern Montana is scheduled

A web mapping service for school districts is now up. BMSC has five more services that will be coming up in the next month including county boundaries, cadastral, public land survey and an image server service for the 2005 NAIP.

NHD Report – Lance Clampitt/Evan Hammer

On August 25th and 26th the Montana State Library, NRIS, FWP, USGS and others held a hydrography working group meeting. The focus was on the barriers and opportunities in migrating the FWP hydrography business model to a strictly NHD business model. Many states are having the issue of having and trying to maintain multiple hydrography sets. Maintaining one data set (NHD) is a large challenge that may take several years. FWP felt the meeting was very productive but believes we need to get a central point of contact like the former NRIS Water Information System operational again. There will be follow-up meeting in late September for the working group and also be a workshop and workgroup meeting in Kalispell in October.

Governor’s Challenge Letter of Support/Thanks – Robin Trenbeath

The letter was delivered to the Governor by Robin Trenbeath. We have not received a response as of the time of the meeting.

DEQ Energy Atlas – Nat Carter

A handout was provided “DEQ Energy Atlas”. This was intended as an overview of DEQ’s vision of the Energy Atlas. The goal is to create an Energy Atlas for MT not just of potential resources, but all the related infrastructure and products to make those resources a viable investment and enhance Montana’s economic picture while meeting the Governor’s Challenge set forth in September 2008.

DEQ will be making a presentation at the IT conference in December. They will also plan to make a presentation at the December MLIAC meeting.

NAIP Status

Funding – Robin Trenbeath

With the funding received from the University of Montana the NAIP funding goal was reached. The State has started receiving the compressed county mosaics and the uncompressed TIF 4-band product should be delivered around January.

Updates from Alex Philp – via email

The Rocky Mountain Service Center in Butte is open and is doing some GIS business. The USDA is going to be doing some advanced work there in the near future.

Alex hoped the Governor’s Challenge is moving forward. The report by DEQ illustrates that some work is progressing but things have slowed since legislative funding was not approved.

Broadband Mapping – Stu Kirkpatrick

In June the National Telecommunication and Information Association (NTIA) issued a Notification of Funding Availability (NoFA) announcing stimulus funding for Broadband Mapping. Grant applications were to be written by a single State agency authorized by the Governor, in Montana’s case the Department of Commerce. The result was that the Department of Commerce did submit a grant for approximately \$3.6 million for broadband mapping. There was a designated amount for a private contractor. If the grant is procured there will be over \$1.2 million designated to go to local governments for addressing assistance

MLIA Funding Financial Analysis – Robin Trenbeath

Robin delivered a PowerPoint presentation accompanied by handouts and spreadsheets. The spreadsheets generally highlighted:

- The amount of MLIA funds that were used at the State, local government or other levels. This also showed the dollar amounts leveraged into receiving other grants or in-kind

funding. MLIA funds have contributed to approximately \$7.5 million in GIS efforts since inception. Overall MLIA funds accounted for near 38% of total dollars.

- A breakdown of state agency vs. “other” distribution. Distribution currently sits at 55% for State efforts and 45% for non-state efforts.
- The amount contributed by individual counties was shown on the handout titled “MLIA Collections by County”. No specifics on what the counties are spending the money on were available. A list of approved questions has been created, and MACO is putting together a questionnaire, in hopes of obtaining more data in this area.

There was a request that the leverage funds be tracked to a specific source for future referencing.

Open Forum and Public Comment –

Janet Hess-Herbert: For the council’s information during our crucial and connectivity assessment work we have run across a protected areas database. It is taking a look at status 1 and status 2 categories for all properties and land in the United States. It is pretty thorough as far as categorizing levels of protection based on designation. The thought was that this might be a good base for anyone who is building mapping services.

Next meeting – Tuesday, December 1, 2009 (IT Conference) @ Red Lion Colonial Hotel

Potential December Agenda Items

Energy Atlas Presentation – Nat Carter

GISP Certification- Kris Larson

Demonstration of Geodetic Control Application – Stu Kirkpatrick

Code of Ethics Draft document – Robin Trenbeath

MACO – on local government spending

Update from the GIO, Funding Subcommittee and Kyle Hilmer on funding document

Portal Presentation – Evan Hammer

Lincoln County Presentation – Ed Madej

Land Plan Draft – Art Pembroke