

**Executive Summary**  
**Montana Land Information Advisory Council**  
**December 6, 2011 - Red Lion Colonial Inn**

**Attendees:**

Members or Designees: Chairman Jennie Stapp – State Library; Mike Bousliman – Department of Transportation; Annette Cabrera – Yellowstone County; Dan Chelini – Department of Environmental Quality; Rudy Cicon – Association of Land Surveyors; James Claflin – Bureau of Land Management; Lance Clampitt – U. S. Geological Survey; Johnny Doney – Fort Peck Tribes; Warren Fahner – Lincoln County; Fred Gifford – Tetra Tech Inc.; Wendy (Thingelstad) Largent – Montana Association of GIS Professionals; Cathy Maynard – Natural Resources Conservation Service; Cynthia Moore – Department of Revenue; Art Pembroke – Lewis and Clark County; Nate Rogers (Designee for Christiana von Riechert) – University of Montana; T.O. Smith – Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Michael Sweeney – Department of Administration; Linda Vance –Montana Association of GIS Professionals; and Ken Wall – Geodata Services Inc.

Guests: Nat Carter – DEQ; Liz Murray – DNRC; Lydia Bailey – FWP; Allan Cox – Montana Natural Heritage Program; Erin Fashoway – MSL; Evan Hammer – MSL

Staff:

Stu Kirkpatrick and Marlys Stark - MSL

**Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m.**

**Brief Council Orientation:**

New members were given a brief overview of the Council, its purpose and function. The Council is now advisory to the State Library Commission rather than DOA since the merger of the BMSC with NRIS has been completed. This merger and the advisory position of the council will require a statute change during the next legislative session. A staggered term for the members will be a consideration for the future so that all the Council members aren't lost at the same time.

**Approval of September Executive Summary:**

**Motion by Member Pembroke to approve the summary as presented and the motion carried.**

**State Executive Branch ITMC GIS Task Force:**

Mike Bousliman gave an update on the Governor's GIS Task Force. The six member task force was formed about a year ago to assess and understand and then make recommendations for GIS in Montana. They had three goals. The first was to assess the current GIS programs and then to recommend improvements and changes to the organizational structure with regards to GIS in the executive branch. The second was to develop a strategic plan for GIS in Montana. The final goal was to recommend enterprise architecture for GIS in MT. Of those goals, the first was the one that the most time was spent on resulting in the recommendation to consolidate state GIS data and coordination at the State Library, with DOA continuing to oversee hosting GIS enterprise architecture. The task force did not spend much time on the second goal as the library has already been working on this in the past and

will probably be tasked with finishing that aspect. Given available resources, the final goal focused on understanding the use of the current architecture and services hosted with the state. They want to allow agencies to know what hosting opportunities are currently available and how to make better use of the resources available. The task force should wrap up in the next couple of weeks and turn the long term work over to other groups that deal with it on a regular basis such as MLIAC and the GIS Managers Forum.

A GIS Architecture Needs Survey was sent out to CIO and GIS managers of each state agency. The results are still preliminary but the purpose of the survey is to help with the enterprise architecture and to establish rates for services for the next biennium.

### **MSDI Policy Planning Team:**

Jennie outlined her visions for this team and saw some potential here for overlap with the task force. They will look at updating the MLIA, and possibly the NRIS Advisory Committee statutes to make sure that all the advisory bodies are being used in the best possible way. Representation from MLIAC will be needed for team.

As clarification from a previous meeting, the State GIO serves as the GIS advisor for SITSD.

### **MLIA/MSDI General Administrative Budget:**

Budgets presented to the Council by MSL will look different from previous budgets presented to the Council by SITSD, since the transfer of MLIA authority to MSL. Authority is granted for the full amount of the funds in the account, not just the amount approved by MLIAC. The expenditures account is what is important for the council members to monitor. In an effort to reduce costs and improve efficiencies, since September MSL has reduced or eliminated SITSD GIS services including servers, databases and storage. This reduction in the use of hosted services will result in an estimated \$50,000 annually although clear numbers won't be available for a couple of months. Efforts will continue to be made to move services and servers to where it makes the most sense. At this point, it is unclear what percentage of the infrastructure will stay with SITSD and what will move on to MSL as this will depend on several things such as the impact of service rates.

### **Annual Land Plan:**

MLIA statute requires that a plan be completed annually and MSL presented the FY13 plan for approval. The FY13 Land Plan was significantly different from previous land plans in that it allocates \$750,000 for MLIA administration and MSDI development and guarantees \$300,000 for grants to local and tribal governments. These changes allow more flexibility to address issues as they come up and enable more efficient management of resources, including staff, to support MSDI. The categories for grant funds have specific amounts attached to them as budget guidelines; however money could be expended for other categories if approved grants are less than the budgeted amount.

### **Motion by Member Bousliman and seconded by Member Maynard to approve the plan as presented and the motion passed.**

MSL will produce a MSDI work plan with measurable objectives to support the Land Plan. The FY13 MSDI work plan also funnels into the MSL plan.

### **MLIA Grants Update:**

The FY10 grants are all completed and there are three outstanding FY11 grants. The closure date will be December 31 on one of those and January 31 on another. The final one is the Ravalli County grant and, due to staff issues, the work could not be completed as required so a yearlong extension was granted. FY12 grants are in progress with no problems to date.

MSL presented collection data for the MLIA account over the years and based on the numbers it appears FY12 will probably be an average year for collections.

FY 13 MLIA grant applications are due February 15, 2012. All applications have to be reviewed to be sure they meet the statutory requirements. Volunteers are needed to serve on the subcommittee which performs the review. There are no anticipated changes to the grant process as worked out last year. A suggestion was made that success stories from grant applications should be published.

### **MAGIP Report:**

The conference plans are moving forward and brochures are available. In September, a board retreat was held and a work plan for next year was produced. One interesting goal is to support web based training. Rickie Ketterling resigned due to health issues and Mike Sweet has stepped in until spring as chair for the Professional Development training. Maya Daurio is the new chair of the Education Committee. The tech session in Missoula had a very good turnout and feedback was very encouraging although the cost was higher.

### **Council Updates:**

The NAIP 2011 imagery collection was flown in late summer. When the data processing is complete and available from the contractor Surdex, MSL will work on integrating those files into services and downloadable data. The files will not be available until January so feedback is desired as to how the data should be provided. Large amounts of data (state wide or regional) can be made available if hard drives are sent in. The bulk of the cost was paid by the federal partners with four state agencies contributing \$4,000 each. Those agencies were Department of Transportation, Natural Resources Conservation, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Revenue.

GIS Day was held November 16<sup>th</sup> during Geography Awareness Week. It was a day to promote GIS and a time for GIS groups to get together to showcase their work. The public was invited to the Capitol Rotunda this year and there was about 150 attendees and 16 exhibitors. There were a couple of major sponsors and two guest speakers, Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger and Director of DEQ, Richard Opper. Photos of the event are on the MAGIP.org website. The rotunda is reserved for the 2012 GIS Day which will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of November. There is also a reserved timeslot in the rotunda in January 2013 which will be during the legislative session.

The HB642 Interim Committee is looking into efficiency in government. The fiscal analyst for that committee, Barb Smith mentioned several areas of focus that MLIAC and MSL might be interested in. Natural resources was mentioned with no specific direction and IT was brought up with several specific areas such as how to better utilize the services of the new State of Montana Data Center, energy usage across the state and so on. Other areas of interest were archives and records management, security

issues, procurement issues and so on. More information can be obtained from the legislative services website.

The BLM has done a lot of GCDB work around Dillon and Butte and will be doing yearly enhancements. Revenue has given MSL a list of townships they would like to see enhanced so it might be worthwhile to ask for funding to increase the amount of work being done. The townships for ARRA funding had to have federal interests to be qualified.

### **Open Forum and Public Comment:**

Ken Wall would like to find out how the 911 system and addresses fits in with the efficiency of government goals. Some states are using E911 to drive their systems but NextGen911 is local driven. Mobile 911 requires state standardized databases which can pinpoint locations very close.

Lewis and Clark County is getting ready to go out with a RFP to fly aerial photography for the greater Helena urban area. They have several partners already but are looking for more. More funding may allow wider coverage or possibly LIDAR.

Nate Rogers congratulated the council for the work being done. He said that the data available is far superior to that available in other states.

Evan Hammer thanked the council for passing the land plan because it addresses several administrative issues that limited efficient management of MSDI in the past.

Erin Fashoway reported that Lewis and Clark County has become a contributor to Esri's Community Maps Program which has templates that data on parks, schools, roads, boundaries, parcels and so on can be uploaded to. Smaller communities might benefit by contributing as well.

Liz Murray said that Esri also has a base map correction site that you can submit to.

Ken Wall added that Esri instructor led classes will be moving to just their own instructors in about a year.

### **Next Meeting Date, Location and Agenda Items:**

The next meeting will be held as a part of the Intermountain GIS Conference in Kalispell which will be April 16 to 20, 2012. The actual meeting date and time is undetermined at this time.

Current topics being considered for the agenda for the next meeting include 2012 meeting dates, presentation of proposed work plan, update on grant process for next year, update on policy planning committee and a budget update.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.**