

# SC GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

DHEC Board Room (Room 3420)  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC

## **PROCEEDINGS:**

Meeting commenced at 2:00

**Welcome and Opening Remarks** – conducted by Doug Calvert. He started the meeting and introduced Tim De Troye to continue with the agenda.

**GIS Strategic Planning Efforts** – Tim De Troye

*Discussion of strategic planning goals, pilot projects and potential timeline*

What follows are the strategic planning goals and pilot projects discussed as well as a summary of the discussion based on the presentation. The presentation is available [here and contains important information regarding the strategic goals and pilot projects \(http://www.gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic\\_030209.pdf\)](http://www.gis.sc.gov/documents/gic/gic_030209.pdf).

### **Strategic Planning Goals:**

1. Define and put in place an organizational structure and institutional relationships to support Statewide GIS coordination and use.
2. Create policies, procedures, and tools to encourage and enable joint GIS development and access and pursue joint projects.
3. Build and maintain geographic data important for users Statewide.
4. Establish a formal process and technical infrastructure for providing GIS data and services.
5. Establish, manage, and provide outreach and educational programs and services.
6. Explore and pursue effective partnerships and funding strategies to support GIS initiatives.

### **Pilot Projects**

1. Routable Street Centerlines (including state and local roads) – state roads are already routable using mileposts. Inclusion of local roads and address ranges would allow for routing based on a street address. Commercial data sets are currently being purchased for routing purposes. This data set can have solid ROI based on time saved, not duplicating data, routing/mileage/man-hour savings, etc.

2. Multi-county parcels project – develop a parcels layer that includes multiple adjacent counties. Determine what data is required as well as best practices for aggregation. Multiple state organizations currently use or would like to use parcels. Until now, parcels have been put together on a project by project basis. This data set could benefit all GIC organizations.
3. Statewide aerial photo web service – develop a web service based on existing aerial photography, and make it available to state agencies. Depending on bandwidth and permissions provided by the counties, the service could also be made available to local government organizations. This project will probably require a funding component (server, software, bandwidth).
4. Address Points – develop a statewide address points layer from voluntary participation from local government organizations. This layer will allow for much more accurate geocoding of data (where address points exist), and will be an excellent complement to the E911 centerline project. Multiple state organizations would benefit including DHEC, Forestry, PPP, DOR. Local organizations can benefit from data developed/plotted using the address points (more accurate location) and it will line up with their local data better. In addition, information on state use of data can help provide more details to supervisors on benefits to citizens in the area.
5. Statewide Geocoding Service – develop a statewide geocoding service and make it available to state and local organizations. This keeps each state organization from needing to build/host their own geocoding service. It also allows local government organizations to geocode addresses outside their jurisdiction – beneficial for multiple purposes including crime mapping/analysis, people who work in the jurisdiction but live outside it, etc.

### **Strategic Planning Goals Discussion Comments Summary**

- Tim De Troye indicated that the strategic goals remain largely unchanged from the 2001 strategic planning efforts based on input received, and that they are still pertinent today, and appear to be in line with the long term focus and goals of the GIC
- In the discussion on developing partnering opportunities with different entities, including utilities, Mike Garon pointed out that Santee Cooper is a state entity
- Mike Garon – suggested discussions with Doug Drenning regarding the GIS Business Intelligence component of the current strategic planning efforts they are involved in as they may pertain to the strategic goals of the GIC
- In the discussion on the strategic goals pertaining to outreach and partnering opportunities multiple suggestions were provided to include information on what is already being done and should be continued – such as the important role SMAC plays, interactions with SCARC, conference involvement, speaking engagements, and participation in local user groups, etc.

- In addition, Mike Garon said that he would provide Tim De Troye with information on what he has regarding county auditor, IT, and treasurer user groups.
- Mike Garon suggested that an intern could help advance the efforts and assist with completion of some of the work, as a low cost option.
- Dave Cowen said that USC has a strong internship program and has a combination of paid and unpaid internships as part of the program. He also said that in one particular class / project group dealing with web applications, that the students are developing some very interesting applications and solutions as part of their work, and these skills can be capitalized on.
- General summary of comments – the Council is supportive of the strategic planning goals presented

### **Pilot Project Discussion Comments Summary**

- Tim De Troye started off the discussion by stating that in order for the pilots to be possible, they need to require little to no money to start up and operate, and they will focus on the inclusion of willing participants and groups that can provide the necessary time and effort to complete. The one possible exception to this is the statewide aerial imagery server, which might require hardware, software, and bandwidth. If it does require funding, then a discussion can be held regarding if and how the money might be made available
- Mike Garon brought up a concern regarding potential scope creep on the pilot projects in general and indicated we would need to be clear who was going to be project managing each of them.
- Discussion ensued regarding if Tim De Troye should manage the projects and it was generally agreed that it would not be a good idea in most cases, as he is one person and therefore has limited time resources at his disposal, and also because those that would be directly contributing time and effort to the projects should be the ones managing the particular project in question.
- In discussion on the parcels pilot project, Dave Cowen stated that it was very important for Department of Revenue to be directly involved. Tim De Troye stated that Mike Garon was going to have two people from his organization participate, but that the bulk of the time and effort involved would be incurred by Lexington County Planning personnel, and that therefore Lexington County Planning should manage the pilot project. After the conclusion of the pilot project, and moving forward, should the project be expanded, we could again look at who should manage the project and where it ought to be housed, as well as how it would be funded.
- In discussion of the Address Points pilot project, Mike Garon cautioned about the use of personal data as it pertains to proper use and security of said information. Tim De Troye said that the information being collected and used for the pilot project did not contain any personal information at all – just the address information – no name, or other identifying information that would tie a person to the address point.
- While discussing the statewide aerial photo web service pilot project, Gloria Forthun of EMD indicated that Eagle Vision already has a copy of the aeri

available via a server connection. Tim De Troye indicated that he would follow up with Gloria in order to get more information and to speak with Eagle Vision about what imagery they had, who can access it, etc.

- Mike Garon asked about time demands associated with the pilot projects and which ones would be more important than others, if any. Tim De Troye indicated that aside from the initial startup and documentation associated with the pilot projects, that his direct time commitments to them would not be a factor, as most of the work associated with the pilots will be performed by other willing parties on a voluntary basis. Tim De Troye did indicate, however, that he is directly involved with the address points pilot project in order to assist with acquisition of data from organizations that choose to participate.
- General summary of pilot project comments – the pilots are all good pilot projects and we should move forward with them where we can

Doug Calvert indicated that it is readily apparent a lot of progress has been made both in the strategic planning efforts and in the development of the pilot project ideas.

### **Other Business**

- Doug Calvert opened the floor to new business items
- Tim De Troye brought up the idea of making the DHEC Board Room the default meeting location for the main council meetings. He indicated that initially the meetings had moved from agency to agency, but the last several were held at DHEC.
- Doug Calvert indicated that the meetings were held in different locations initially to help demonstrate that each of the participating agencies are equal members of the council. He also indicated that if anyone was interested in hosting a particular meeting, that would definitely be a possibility.
- Tim De Troye said that if an organization wanted to showcase or demonstrate a particular GIS-based application, it may be beneficial to meet at their particular agency.
- General discussion ensued and the council members agreed that it is convenient to have a regular meeting location for logistical purposes, but if anyone wanted to host a particular meeting, we could still hold the council meeting in that particular venue.

Meeting concluded at approximately 3:45 pm

Meeting notes compiled by Tim De Troye

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### **FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR THE MAIN COUNCIL**

- Monday, June 1st, 2009 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Monday, August 24th, 2009 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- April 20th (Monday) - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- July 20th (Monday) - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm