

MSGIC Meeting October 13, 1999

State Highway Administration (SHA)
Baltimore, MD

Minutes

Lamere Hennessee
Secretary

INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves and briefly described their agencies' GIS activities.

REVIEW JULY MEETING MINUTES

Ken Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 1999 MSGIC meeting; Maureen Kavanagh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

DATABASE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

As an aside, Bill Burgess reported having heard that Delaware state police have begun installing GPS units in patrol cars. The units help pinpoint the car's location when an officer is in trouble.

The Maryland Office of Planning (OP) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have submitted a contract to VARGIS for the purchase of IRS-1C data. The contract is open. If, within the next three years, other agencies want copies of the same data set, they can acquire them for the existing price.

The subcommittee has begun identifying issues to be addressed during the strategic planning session. These include:

- Facilitating the use of new technologies, such as Oracle spatial database software and Internet GIS
- Compression utilities
- Scale tolerance for vector conversion
- Data distribution - copyrights and licenses
- Definition of GIS (have minimal legal definition)
- Goals for long-term data production (Is the GIS community satisfied with maintaining and updating current data sets or do users want larger scale data sets in the future?)

State agencies announced the availability of the following data products:

- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) - historic sites
- SHA - town maps (1" = 500') for incorporated towns
- Maryland Department of Agriculture - roadside trees; forest pest damage (e.g., gypsy moths); mosquito spraying (flight lines; property owner notification); nutrient management plans; exotic pests
- DNR - MERLIN online; updating protected lands database (January-February 2000 revision)

The various state agencies involved in data distribution have seen steady sales. The question of the timing of payments from the resellers to the participating state agencies has been resolved.

The second version of the vertical integration report has been distributed to members of the study group. Bill will forward it to Rose Davis for distribution to those on the MSGIC mailing list. At present, much of the information in the report is anecdotal. A statistician reviewed the study and advised that, for the study to be statistically valid, the group obtain 20 cost comparisons for each data type. Bill urged other counties to participate. From their initial efforts at pricing data layers, the group concluded that data production and quality control together account for about 95 percent of the cost. That information alone will suffice for study purposes. Bill has received inquiries from other states, including Ohio and North Carolina, that are interested in implementing similar studies. He would like to see more county participation before distributing the report to other states.

GPS SUBCOMMITTEE

Joe White, subcommittee chairman, reported that the proposed Hagerstown and Annapolis base stations for differential GPS did not receive funding this year. The tri-county (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties) base stations are up and running, though they are not yet accessible via the Internet.

SHA's Landscape Operations Division is developing reforestation and wildflower coverages within SHA's rights of way. The division also tracks the locations of "champion trees," large, old trees within the right of way. DNR representatives expressed interest in coordinating with SHA on those coverages.

MARKETING AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

John Coleman, subcommittee chairman, reported on the status of preparations for the upcoming Technology Showcase. The layout of space in the state booth has been finalized. The theme of this year's presentation is Maryland mapping and how it is being used – how GIS is being used and what the end products look like. Four map products will be displayed and layers from the Technology Toolbox will be demonstrated. A link to the MSGIC web site will be provided, with the idea of promoting use of the site.

In recognition of National Geography Awareness Week, Governor Glendening will sign a proclamation declaring November 19, 1999, as Maryland GIS Day (see below). Suggestions were (1) to frame and display the proclamation in various state buildings during the week of November 12-20, 1999 and (2) to scan the proclamation and include it on the MSGIC web site. Everyone involved in MSGIC is encouraged to add a "GIS Day" trailer to his or her e-mail signature file for a few weeks. DNR is working with Alisoun Moore on a press package for GIS Day.

The subcommittee is pursuing having the Technology Toolbox™ logo trademarked. A trademark is a symbol used in the distribution of a product, as opposed to a service, and protects the use of the logo. Establishing a trademark requires filing an application with the Office of the Secretary of State and paying a \$50 fee.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, USES, AND APPLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Tom Nasuta described the subcommittee's efforts to update the *MSGIC Applications Guide* and post it on the web site. The 1995 report described and illustrated state agency use of base layers. Now, the emphasis is on human service applications, such as

- A joint OP/Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) project identifying brownfield sites in Baltimore City,
- A joint OP/Department of Business & Economic Development (DBED) project delineating expanded enterprise zones in Baltimore City,
- A joint OP/local community association project identifying local land use in the Barclay community of Baltimore City,
- Comprehensive town plans, coupling land use and zoning,
- An initiative of the Office for Children, Youth, & Families establishing school-based health centers,

- The Department of Juvenile Justice's program to place probation officers in schools located in high crime areas (hot spots), and
- The Maryland Energy Administration's promotion of the use of alternative fuels for fleet vehicles by identifying alternative fuel vehicle refueling sites

Subcommittee members are working with human service agencies, using the base layers and standards developed by the various agencies participating in MSGIC. In posting the applications guide, OP and DNR are streamlining its contents to make it more visually attractive.

Many of the human service applications are created using OP's Maryland PropertyView (MPV). (For confidential data sets, OP signs a confidentiality agreement before working with the data.) The digital layers (plus metadata) remain in the custody of the agency supplying the data or requesting the service. Those agencies are in the best position to update the data. The decision to include the layers in the Technology Toolbox™ resides with the custodial agency. Often, human services data is more sensitive than land use data, for example. The final decision regarding data distribution should involve an agency's executive staff.

MLOGIC

MLOGIC was not represented at the meeting.

QUARTERLY MEETING LOCATIONS AND DEMOS UPDATE

JANUARY 12, 2000

The tentative location of this joint meeting with MLOGIC is Towson State University. No demos have been scheduled yet.

APRIL 12, 2000

The Marketing and Education Subcommittee will solicit interest in hosting the meeting and providing a demo. Dick Bean will check on the availability of conference rooms at the Department of Agriculture.

JULY 12, 2000

The unconfirmed location of this meeting is College Park, Md. No demos have been scheduled yet.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Rose Davis is working with a copy of the RFP from the first strategic planning session in writing the RFP for this session. She expects to distribute a draft RFP to the Executive Committee within a month. MLOGIC, which has been represented at Executive Committee meetings, is very interested in attending the session.

GIS DAY

In observance of National Geography Awareness Week, Governor Glendening will sign a proclamation declaring November 19, 1999, Maryland GIS Day. (The idea of GIS Day was proposed by the American Association of Geographers, National Geographic, and ESRI.) Bill Burgess distributed a draft of the proclamation, which contains the State Plane coordinates of the Capitol rotunda. Other activities include educating children about geography and GIS. Posted on the GIS Day web site at National Geographic is a mosaic map of the United States showing how the various states are observing the week. MSGIC will register the Governor's proclamation. If it is possible to obtain copies of the proclamation, it could be exhibited in the lobbies of several state office buildings.

Other activities in conjunction with GIS Day include:

- Enterprise Information Solutions (formerly CADDScan) will host a four-hour seminar demonstrating different GIS projects it has completed, especially for government.

- DNR staff will work with middle schoolers using MERLIN online. (Rich Ledbeater remarked that lesson plans are available on a GIS Day web site.)

GIS was on the agenda at a recent meeting of the National Governors' Association. Jack Dangermond of ESRI addressed the group. The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) offered to be involved with the association's Technology Subcommittee.

NASA MEETING UPDATE

As a result of conversations between Bill Burgess and Blanche Meeson of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, MSGIC and MLOGIC members have been invited to attend a meeting at Goddard on December 1 or 2, 1999. NASA staff will demonstrate some of their data capabilities and technology, emphasizing how they can be applied to state and local issues.

CONFERENCES

CAPITAL CONNECTION

At this meeting in Frostburg, Md. on September 16, 1999, Ken Miller and Bill Burgess talked to an audience of three or four people about MSGIC. The purpose of the meeting had been inadequately communicated to prospective audience members.

MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

The Maryland Technology Showcase is scheduled for December 8-9, 1999 (see above).

CHARLES COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

John Coleman will represent MSGIC at this conference on October 28, 1999.

TOWSON STATE UNIVERSITY (TSU) GIS CONFERENCE The annual TSU GIS conference is scheduled for early May 2000. It will be held in downtown Baltimore. Abstracts are due in November 1999.

DEMONSTRATION

Rose Davis demonstrated a streams data set being created by the hydrology group in SHA's Office of Highway Development. Line work extracted from SHA grid maps is classified by watershed. SHA uses the data layer for highway construction permit work. The data set will be demonstrated again at an Arc Users Group meeting on October 22, 1999, from 9-12 a.m. at SHA (707 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md.)

NEW BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION

MSGIC WEB SITE

Dick Bean suggested that the MSGIC membership list on the web site be updated to reflect the recent elections of chairperson and subcommittee chairs. Rose Davis would like to send a letter to state agencies asking that they confirm existing MSGIC members or appoint new ones.