

Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)

## Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes: July 16, 2015

(Approved September 17, 2015)

The July 16, 2015 meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee was held at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room B09 (Basement), Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W. State St., Boise, Idaho.

### ATTENDANCE

#### **Members/Alternate(s) Present:**

Pam Bond, Dept. of Fish & Game (Chair)  
Dennis Hill, City of Pocatello  
Keith Weber, ISU GIS Center  
Bill Farnsworth, Office of the CIO  
Brynn Lacabanne, ITD (phone)  
Jared Stein, Bannock County Assessor (phone)  
Donna Phillips, City of Hayden (video conference)  
Wendy Hawley, US Census Bureau (phone)  
Bruce Godfrey, U of I, (video conference)  
Brian Liberty, Idaho Power  
Wilma Robertson, Tax Commission  
Dan Spinosa, Innovate! Inc. (phone)  
(*alt. for Frank Roberts*)

#### **Others Present:**

Erin Seaman, Office of the CIO  
Eric Buehler, USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA) (phone)  
Linda Davis, IDWR

#### **Members Absent:**

Tom Carlson, USGS  
Stewart Ward, Dioptra Geomatics  
Laurie Ames, Nez Perce Tribe

### WELCOME

Ms. Bond called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made.

### MINUTES

**MOTION: Mr. Farnsworth moved and Mr. Weber seconded a motion to approve the May 14, 2015 minutes, as presented; the motion passed unanimously.**

### ITA REPORT

Ms. Bond reported on the most recent ITA meeting, held on May 15, 2015. A Telecommunications Contract Update was given by Greg Zickau, DOA, which included an analysis of statewide vs. individual contracts for telecommunications or broadband services. Revisions to Enterprise Policy P5010 (Web Publishing) assuring that URL ownership, hosting or services are under state control, were approved.

In response to a question from Mr. Hill, Mr. Farnsworth explained that there is a separate statewide contract for cell phones, currently with Verizon. He noted that with regard to the telecommunications contract, the legislature had required that this contract be limited to one year, which has raised some concern about the pricing. However, it was hoped that in the future there would be a multi-year contract.

### ITA GIS-RELATED STANDARDS/GUIDELINES REVIEW

Ms. Bond reported that many of the GIS-related standards and guidelines are due for review. It was agreed that revisions to the standard and guideline related to metadata would not be made until the outcome of the Federal Geospatial Data Act was known. The TWG chairs would be asked to review their standards and guidelines. Ms. Bond volunteered to review Guideline G420 (Roles of GIS Participants).

Mr. Farnsworth clarified that policies and standards must be followed by the executive branch state agencies, and while guidelines are not required, they are generally considered “best practices.” IGC-EC has authority to approve standards and guidelines, while policies must be approved by ITA (IGC-EC may make a recommendation to ITA on a policy or policy revision).

### **REDEFINING STATE IT/GIS JOB CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS**

Ms. Bond led a discussion regarding state IT/GIS job classifications. The difficulty of finding the right person for a given job, due to the shortcomings of current state job classifications was noted.

Mr. Farnsworth briefly reported on a study currently being done by the Hay Group on current state IT job classifications. This particular study is looking at a universal standard of job descriptions, but he did not believe salaries were going to be part of this initial push. His understanding was that input for this study had been limited to a few specific agencies, but that there would be an opportunity for review.

Mr. Liberty commented that he has been through this process and agreed with the use of more generalized descriptions. He includes specific GIS-related technologies once he actually posts a position.

Ms. Phillips commented that she believed URISA had published its model GIS job descriptions several years ago. She offered to verify that and forward that information to the group.

### **FEDERAL GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT DISCUSSION**

Mr. Weber gave a brief overview of the Federal Geospatial Data Act (Senate Bill S. 740), also called the National Geospatial Data Act (NGDA). Senator Risch, who was supportive of the bill early on, is no longer a sponsor. Mr. Weber stated that although he prefers this revised version of the bill to the earlier version, it appeared that some of the traditional partners at the federal level were absent from the bill. At this point he did not believe the committee should support the bill as currently written. He explained the four year sunset clause contained in Section 10. He encouraged the GIS community in Idaho to look at this Act critically and make recommendations.

In response to several questions, Mr. Farnsworth confirmed that this had been a topic of discussion at the NSGIC conference the previous year. He will be attending the NSGIC conference this fall and it was agreed that the committee would come up with a list of questions for him to take to the conference. He explained that there has also been discussion as to whether entities can charge for data they are actually already charging for. Lawsuits have been brought against entities who have charged for data, and his understanding is that the interpretation of state law is that you can charge for reproduction of the data.

Mr. Farnsworth agreed to contact Sen. Risch's office to find out why he was no longer a bill sponsor, and would also ask about Esri's official position during the Esri User's Conference the following week.

### **SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE (SDI) RESEARCH PAPERS DISCUSSION**

Mr. Weber briefly discussed the SDI review which had been presented by one of his students at the IGC spring bi-annual meeting on May 14. Given the need for revisions to SDI, but lack of time and resources available, Mr. Weber would like to recruit one or two students for a semester-long research project to identify areas that need focus.

**MOTION: Ms. Phillips moved and Ms. Bond seconded a motion to approve the recruitment of a student by Mr. Weber to undertake a review of the Idaho spatial data infrastructure (SDI) documents and highlight areas that specifically need revision; the motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Weber abstaining.**

### **DATA SHARING STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Farnsworth reported that a meeting of this newly created subcommittee was scheduled for the following day. Creation of this subcommittee came out of recognition of the need to have data sharing standards, along with a common format for sharing the data. The subcommittee was likely going to look at defining the term "data sharing standards." The state of Oregon currently has a policy which essentially adopts the Esri standard. Mr. Farnsworth agreed to forward the Oregon policy to the subcommittee members for review as a starting point for the discussion.

## **TWG UPDATE**

**IMAGERY** – Mr. Godfrey gave a brief summary of the 2015 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), currently being flown. Deliveries are expected sometime in September, and information can be found on the [Imagery TWG webpage](#). Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Weber plan to distribute it as a service to the state through the mechanism they put in place in 2013. Mr. Weber stressed the need for redundancy since many people use this for day-to-day business. There are no plans to charge for this service.

Mr. Farnsworth reported that there has been discussion of a pilot in which USDA would offer this as a service on the Amazon cloud. Although Amazon would stand it up as a service on the cloud this year for free, it was unknown how that would be handled for the next year or the next flight. Mr. Farnsworth added that OCIO would fund the minimal costs.

Mr. Buehler shared that there is an early release access link that is available for public entities, although it is not available for private entities yet. FSA no longer receives a copy, but it will be available for download from the geospatial data gateway. Image and production services will begin this fall. Mr. Buehler suggested contacting the Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) for individual Idaho TIFF tiles.

Mr. Farnsworth has received a price list recently from a service center in Utah for obtaining the information on disk and for the shipping costs, but he did not know who the service center was affiliated with. Mr. Buehler confirmed that the Utah service center was APFO.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**PLANNING FOR THE FALL 2015 IGC BI-ANNUAL MEETING** – Ms. Bond noted that this meeting was going to be held in conjunction with the URISA GIS-Pro & NWGIS 2015 Conference in Spokane in October. She asked the members for their thoughts on using that time to host a roundtable on the Federal Geospatial Data Act, and whether there was anything else the group would like to include. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and possible suggestions for panelists were discussed.

**LIDAR** – Mr. Hill reported on the LiDAR acquisition for the Snake River Plain. The data should be available sometime in the fall.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2015 in room B09 (Basement), Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W. State St., Boise, Idaho.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Seaman, Office of the CIO