

Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee

Subcommittee of the Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)

Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2020

Approved January 21, 2021

The September 17, 2020 meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee (IGC-EC) was held at 9:30 am (Mountain) via Webex/teleconference.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Wilma Robertson, Information Technology Services
(CHAIR)
Mike Woodford, Information Technology Services
Carolina Valderrama-Echavarria, US Census
Jan Cunningham, Esri
Laurie Ames, Nez Perce Tribe
Bruce Godfrey, University of Idaho
Betty Conces, Kootenai County
Cyndi Andersen, Bannock County
Keith Weber, ISU GIS Center
Jerry Korol, NRCS
Pam Bond, City of Boise
Shane Lim, Suez Water

Members Absent:

Sydney Lewis, Transportation Department
Kelly Green, Blaine County
Stewart Ward, Dioptra Geomatics
Tom Carlson, USGS

Others Present:

Margie Wilkins, Dept. of Water Resources
Bill Reynolds, Nez Perce County
Gail Jorgenson, ACHD
Marc Camin, Idaho State Police
Jeff Cook, Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Eric Wing, City of Boise
Craig Logan, Idaho Military Division
Jeff Swann, BLM
Tony Lafferty, 1 Spatial
Saul Teska, Dept. of Agriculture
John Laughery, Esri
Arron Lee, Merrick
Danielle Favreau, Dept. of Water Resources
Mathew Syphus, LHTAC
Tammy Oliver, City of Burley
Angela Vander Pas, City of Lewiston
Kevin Jones, Tax Commission
Greg Wallingford, Transportation Dept.
Heather Studley, Bannock County
Josh Enterkine, Boise State University
Kristin Bartz, Information Technology Services
Erin Seaman, Information Technology Services

WELCOME

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am (Mountain). Ms. Seaman called the roll.

MINUTES

MOTION: Ms. Ames moved, and Mr. Weber seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Meeting, as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

CENSUS 2020 UPDATE

Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria reported on the status of the 2020 census, which ends on September 30th. Ninety-nine percent of Idaho has been counted, with a 68.9% self-response rate, which surpasses the 2010 Idaho self-response rate. Governor Otter recently issued a proclamation asking Idahoans to complete the census, and more information can be found at <https://2020census.gov/>.

GIS WEBSITE (GIS.IDAHO.GOV) UPDATE

Mr. Woodford gave an overview of the redesign underway for the GIS website (<https://gis.idaho.gov/>). He is seeking feedback from the TWG chairs for updates to the TWG pages on the site. Those wishing to propose relevant third-party links for the website may contact him or Chair Robertson. It is anticipated that the redesigned website will be rolled out in mid-November.

Discussion followed, and it was noted that approximately half of the TWGs are currently without a chair. Ms. Conces expressed interest in serving as the chair of the Parcel TWG. Those interested in serving on any of the TWGs may contact Chair Robertson or Mr. Woodford.

STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Chair Robertson discussed the four stated goals of the 2016 strategic plan, which had been reviewed during the previous IGC-IC meeting in July. Working groups were formed to reviewed and developed a course of action on completing each goal.

GOAL #1 (Create/support a robust geospatial data clearinghouse for sharing current and historical TIM Framework and other authoritative data layers):

Ms. Bond noted that with two portals (INSIDE Idaho portal and the state open data portal), this goal may need to be revised. The state portal will focus on providing access to authoritative state agency data and a link to the TIM framework layers on INSIDE, while INSIDE will be the repository for authoritative data from any organizations or agency in Idaho. She reported on outreach efforts to encourage adding data to the portals.

GOAL #2 (Provide best available statewide TIM Framework data layers.)

Mr. Woodford gave an overview of TIM (The Idaho Map) and explained that the working group is reviewing strategies to create an inventory and reinvigorate the TWG leadership, with a focus on assessing progress on TIM layers and developing a timeline for approval and publishing.

Discussion of the nationwide initiative to implement NextGen E911 followed, with Mr. Logan (Idaho Office of Emergency Management) and Mr. Reynolds (Nez Perce County) explaining the role GIS plays in this initiative, which will move dispatch of first responders from antiquated tabular data system to device location-based geocoordinates.

GOAL #3 (Improve geospatial data quality.)

Ms. Lewis chairs this group, but was not able to attend the meeting, so Chair Robertson gave the update. The group conducted a survey on metadata use to determine areas needing improvement. Chair Robertson gave an overview of the survey results. Next steps will include outreach to newer GIS professionals, and education in the form of a series of TechTalks on creating and using metadata.

GOAL #4 (Improve delivery and accessibility of GIS services and information.)

Mr. Jones gave an overview of current data sharing applications available through counties, state agencies, and federal agencies. The working group is putting together a survey that will go out to the Geotech listserv to determine what can be done to improve the data sharing or apps that are available. Those wishing to add their information may contact Mr. Jones directly.

NOMINATIONS, STANDARDS, EXCHANGE STANDARDS: WHEN IS DATA PART OF TIM?

Chair Robertson explained that while reviewing the Trails application nomination, which will be discussed later in the meeting, it became apparent that although there are several ITA policies and guidelines that address this, there is a need to simplify and streamline the process for nominating layers and developing standards so that the process is not a barrier.

Discussion followed, and it was agreed that a standard template, including critical items, that could be used across multiple datasets would be a good starting point. Mr. Woodford and Ms. Ames agreed to help identify criteria for simpler versus more extensive standards.

TWG UPDATES

TRAILS APPLICATION NOMINATION – Mr. Cook gave an overview of the Trail application nomination, which was originally submitted in 2017 to the ArcGIS Living Atlas, where it continues to reside. The application pulls data from multiple sources and is divided into approximately 12-15 layers.

IMAGERY – Ms. Wilkins reported that the 2019 NAIP is available and is being provided as image services through INSIDE Idaho and ISU’s GIS TRec Center. Those interested in more information may contact her. INSIDE Idaho is providing all years of the NAIP (2004-2019) when those years are collected, and ISU is providing 2017 and 2019. Mr. Weber clarified that at some point 2017 will be turned off.

HYDROGRAPHY – Ms. Favreau reported on the most recent TWG meeting, held on September 10. USGS presented on proposed changes to the Idaho Falls SubBasin and Elevation-derived Acquisition Specifications and Read Rules. Details of the meeting are at: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/GIS/NHD/hydro-TWG.html>. The next TWG meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021.

ELEVATION – Mr. Enterkine announced that the next elevation TWG meeting will be hosted on October 15 to discuss the current state of Lidar for flood risk management in Idaho. They also have new and upcoming lidar datasets, which will be available on the Idaho Lidar Consortium website at: <https://www.idaholidar.org/>. A future TWG meeting will discuss use of lidar-derived elevation maps.

LIVING ATLAS LAYERS

Mr. Cook gave an overview of ArcGIS Living Atlas and how to contribute. Esri reviews nominations and determines what can be accepted. Ms. Cunningham added that Esri has resources for using the site such as a checklist for nominating maps and apps, as well as a blog on using tags effectively. Esri can conduct training workshops on how to use the site. She will send information on resources out to the group.

OTHER BUSINESS

FALL IDAHO GEOSPATIAL COUNCIL (IGC) MEETING – Chair Robertson announced that the fall IGC meeting has been scheduled for October 13. Mr. Godfrey and Ms. Bond will give a presentation on INSIDE Idaho and there will be TWG updates. This meeting is being co-hosted during the NW GIS Conference.

NW GIS CONFERENCE – Chair Robertson announced that there will be a panel discussion involving the GIOs for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and Chair Robertson will also participate in her capacity as chair of the IGC-EC, along with those in similar positions in Oregon and Washington. Ms. Bond will moderate the event, which will be hosted live. Questions for the panel may be sent to Chair Robertson.

STARTING PROCESS TO INCLUDE LiDAR SERVICE/MCPD CONTROL POINTS IN TIM – Mr. Weber discussed the multi-state control point database (MCPD), which now has over 20,000 points. He announced plans to nominate this as a TIM dataset.

FEDERAL SEAT (4) – Chair Robertson announced the departure of Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria, whose term of service with the Census Bureau is ending. Chair Robertson is seeking nominations to fill this seat. Those interested in serving on the committee or nominating someone to serve may contact her directly.

GIS INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: Ms. Bond stated that she is now teaching an online GIS class at CWI and has heard from students seeking internship opportunities. She is encouraging students to sign up for the Geotech listserv and watch for opportunities. She queried the committee for other ideas.

Discussion followed, and Chair Robertson and Mr. Woodford agreed that the GIS website might be a good location for posting internship and other related resources and opportunities.

IGC-EC COMMITTEE SUPPORT – Ms. Seaman announced that she is moving into a new position with ITS. The new management assistant, Ms. Bartz, will be taking over support for the committee.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 am. The next meeting was scheduled for November 17, 2020.

Erin Seaman

Erin Seaman, Governor's Office of IT Services (ITS)