Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Board (GISB)
Summer Board Meeting

Henderson State University
Community Education Center
640 South 6th Street, Suite A
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
The Alcoa Room

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
10:00AM - 12:00PM

➢ **Board Called to order by Vice Chair, Mr. Randy Everett at 10:13am**

➢ **Roll Call**

> **Board Members Present:**
> Dr. Margaret "Beth" McMillan (Chair) (Phyllis Poche - Designee)
> Mr. Randy Everett (Vice Chair)
> Mr. Glen Dabney
> Mr. Jon Sweeny
> Ms. Kasey Summerville
> Judge Clayton Castleman
> Ms. Tracy Moy
> Ms. Bekki White
> Ms. Claire Bailey (Mr. Hershel Cleveland - Designee)
> Mr. Taylor Wynn
> Ms. Amy Whitehead
>
> **Board Members Absent**
> Dr. Jackson Cothren
> Ms. Heather Stevens

➢ **Chair Welcomes and Acknowledges Guest**

Guests:
Mr. Shawn Brewer,Natural Resources Conservation Service of Little Rock
Ms. Tosha Horton, Clark County Assessor's Office

AGIO Staff:
Mr. Shelby Johnson, Arkansas Geographic Information Officer
Mr. Seth LeMaster, Sr. Analyst
Ms. Holly Settlers, Administrative Specialist

➢ **Meeting**

Randy recognized Tracy Moy, Jon Sweeny, and Bekki White for their commitment and service to the GIS Board and the GIS community. Tracy and Bekki have served their full terms.

The Chair then called for any corrections to the March 5, 2014 minutes. No one contested the March 5th minutes.

Motion: to accept the March 5th 2014 minutes- Judge Castleman
Second: Mr. Jon Sweeny
No discussion; Unanimously Approved.

➢ **Old Business**

1. State Strategy on Elevation Data (Attachment 1)
2. Committee Report on GIS Certification

***State Strategy on Elevation Data (Attachment 1)* -** Shelby started off by refreshing the Board's memories on the Bill Sneed Presentation on the LiDAR projects in North East Arkansas. He stated how these projects were a function of joint or cooperative funding from a number of federal agencies and additional funding from Game and Fish Commission. This funding was used to capture or collect high resolution elevation data for those areas in Arkansas. This led to a more in-depth discussion for the need for the state to have a planned strategy that would outline or prioritized areas of the state in some sort of systematic way that would direct where else in the state where high resolution elevation data should be developed.

Refer to Attachment 1, Shelby pointed out on the map the areas outline in red represented existing footprints of high resolution elevation data that has already been collected. This is the coordination footprints that is loaded on GeoStor and then combined with the new project areas outlined in green. The area outlined on the eastern part of the state represents a whole area of the states that will be covered with the current project and the existing data. The discussion for the Board was, "How does the state prioritized what areas of the state should be done next"?

*open discussion between board members

Randy suggested that the Board review the state strategic plan once a year or once every two years and re-aligned where they think they need to be or where they are going. This would help them know if they needed to move priority or add things to the strategic plan. He would like to add the review to the next agenda of the next Board meeting.

Review Strategic Strategy plan was re-tabled to be reviewed at the next Board meeting

Committee Report on GIS Certification – Tracy stated at the last meeting, Game and Fish employees and a couple of other state employees asked the Board to endorse GIS Certifications. She stated that it would benefit state employees by increasing pay. A sub-committee was put in place to research the criteria's and benefits of these certifications. They identified there are three GIS related certifications. Shelby arranged a conference call with the sub-committee and the executive director of GISCI. Tracy stated that he gave an excellent overview of the certification. They have more conference calls scheduled with representatives from ASPRS and ESRI. Kasey mentioned that there was another certification program through the International Association of Assessing Officers that could also be considered by the committee.

➢ **New Business**:

1. AGIO Report
2. GeoStor Data Load Historic Districts & Educational Cooperatives (Attachment 2 & 3)
3. Proposed Legislation for 2015 (Attachment 4)
4. Clark County Assessor's Office Use of Parcels (PowerPoint Presentation)

LiDAR - The agency completed a massive data transfer of all the LiDAR data that had been collected by Bill Sneed at U.S. Geological Survey. All of the existing data is now located at AGIO. The next steps involve developing a strategy for distribution via GeoStor.

Staff Update - We are pleased to report that Tony Davis joined the agency to fulfill the role of helping us maintain GeoStor. Over the next several months we anticipate Tony will be developing an updated interface for GeoStor. The current user interface has not been updated since 2006 and is not mobile friendly. That is one of our objectives to make the website more mobile friendly. Tony has been on the job roughly 12 days. As you may also recall Adrian Clark retired and we immediately began the process of refilling that position as well. We have been through the initial part of the hiring process and are awaiting the opportunity to make a final announcement on that position as soon as we are able. One of short term challenges has been keeping up with all the county level coordination from the vacancy created by Adrian's retirement.

We are also working with the Department of Information Systems (DIS) to help them in the selection process for a Sr GIS Analyst position that would work with DIS on future broadband mapping related work.

Fire Station Locations
We have been working closely with Kendell Snyder from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to develop a permanent strategy for updating fire station locations on GeoStor. The data currently on GeoStor dates back to 2007 and has not been updated since. Kendell is the Act 833 Fire Coordinator and through his work he receives annual updates from all departments apply for the 833 assistance and that includes new station locations.

Outreach Activities - The agency sent two staff to attend the Mid-America GIS Consortium 2014 Symposium. This included provide a number of presentations about GIS activities in Arkansas to the Mid-America attendees. We are pleased to report that former GIS Board Member, Susan Norton, has been elected as Chair of the Consortium and I was re-elected to the Board of Directors. So Arkansas continues to play a leadership role in the consortium.

We have continued to attend and represent at the Legislative Blue Ribbon Study on E-911. The most recent meeting was held in Hot Springs, where the committee heard testimony on the E-911 challenges associated with the tornadoes that devastated Mayflower and Vilonia. I was able to provide some testimony on the importance of the address point project and the work of addressing authorities. We will keep attending their committee meetings and seeking opportunities to inform that study. Their objective is to look at policy and funding mechanisms that will support E-911 services in the future. Under the current structure counties are using County General funding to support E-911 operations that instead should be supported by telecommunication fees.

The agency also attended and presented at the Arkansas Rural Development Conference in Rogers.

Tornado Response
We had numerous coordination activities related to the storm response. Very early in the process we started feeding data to the GIS Analyst for FEMA Region 6. We launched several online maps and provided data to a number of sources. The first data set requested by FEMA was tax parcels. We followed up later with them to learn the rapid availability of GIS data played a partial role in the speed of which the Federal Disaster Declaration was approved. That declaration was approved in less than 24 hours after Governor Beebe made the request.   We coordinated an orthoimagery procurement with several cooperators including PAGIS, Faulkner County, White County, Arkansas Game and Fish, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and AGIO. That data is available through GeoStor and focuses on the severe portions of the damage path.

Parcel Mapping Project
The Schneider Corporation is underway with the parcel mapping work on the counties where Smart Data Strategies failed. This represents seventeen counties worth of work on the hardest and final phase of the project. Maria in the office has worked with project managers and analysts at Schneider to develop a project plan to accomplish the work. One of our biggest challenges has been that AGIO does not have all the funding needed to complete the project. We are $90,000 short on funding. We've consulted with the Governor's Office about the possibility of additional funding through General Improvement. We also met with our Attorney from the Attorney General's Office on our legal remedies.   We have a revised plan going forward and are optimistic the Governor's Office will assist. We do not intend to request more funding from the counties.

GeoStor Update
I mentioned earlier in my report about staff related to GeoStor and I wanted to make the Board aware of our current situation with the hardware. The system was purchased in 2008. So we are now in the sixth year of a platform that was designed for a five year life cycle. Up to the last few months we have managed the system successfully but we have now reach a point of critical failure. Some of the system components manufactured by the original vendor are no longer supported and are no longer stocked. In other words we are at a point that we cannot buy parts. We had some redundancy in the equipment but with our most recent failure we do not have any redundancy left. If we have more drives fail on one of the mission critical servers then GeoStor services will not function. We have been researching a number of options and have met with a number of equipment and service vendors. Unfortunately this also represents a key expense the agency does not have budget to procure. Since GeoStor began operating the equipment has always been procured with one time funding through General Improvement Funding. We have briefed the Governor's Office on this critical nature of this problem.   We have some possibilities of ways to operate the system at lower cost but do not have the funds needed to procure a new platform at this time. We will keep the Board updated on this.

Hexagon
AGIO received an unsolicited proposal making an offer of from Hexagon for all their geospatial product lines. Lecia, ERDAS, GeoMedia suite. As we understand this would allow cities, counties, state agencies, universities and K-12 public schools to access the software products.

Shelby extended an invitation to the Board to attend the annual NSGIC conference in September in Charleston, SC. Shelby will take the gavel as the president for the year going forward. He also thought it would be beneficial for the board because there is lots of discussion about GIS policies and GIS activities in the other states.

__GeoStor Data Load Historic Districts & Educational Cooperatives (Attachment 2 & 3)-__
AGIO request to load the historic districts of Arkansas and the School Educational Cooperative boundary data sets on to GeoStor.

Motion: Mr. Hershel Cleveland
Second: Ms. Amy Whitehead
No discussion; Unanimously Approved.

__Proposed Legislation for 2015 (Attachment 4)-__   Shelby presented briefing documents on the City Boundary and Annexation issues. He stated that the maps of city boundaries are often inaccurate and or out of date. He stated that these boundaries are used to determine 2020 Census population, property tax jurisdictions, voter districting, representation in the legislature, franchise fee collection, and much more. He proposed that legislation require AGIO to provide annexation technical service to cities and incorporated towns and requires cities and towns to use these services. Services would include preparing legal descriptions and digital plats for the annexation filing process. Existing legislation would need to be changed to require a map/plat to be filed regardless of the annexation or de-annexation process. Shelby stated that this proposed legislation would require AGIO to add a professional surveyor to the staff to meet State standards for plat filing.

The next issue deals with the address data files. AGIO wants to ensure the long term maintenance and development of the Arkansas Master Address Program. If this address data is not maintenance long term, then state and counties risk losing the investment made to date on this strategic resource. Shelby states that AGIO is taking immediate steps to mitigate this issue by developing a method where local jurisdictions may update and maintain their data online. This system would cut down on local software expense and benefit other state agencies in accessing this date in near real-time. The policy will require that AGIO maintain this online system. He believes the agency has the operational funding necessary to maintain this system.

AGIO wants to put these two items in his brief to the governor's office to meet the June 12th deadline. We want to make sure the current administration is aware of it and that it gets put into the transition package for the next administration. The Board concurred to move forward.

__Clark County Assessor's Office Use of Parcels (PowerPoint)__-Tosha Horton presented a PowerPoint on Clark's county's cadastral mapping project. The projected was started in 2004 and is still ongoing. The project involves using surveys, plats, and legal descriptions that are all manually entered into the ARCGIS mapping.

➢ **Announcements**:
Shelby stated that location for the next board meeting was not finalized. The board will be notified of the location as soon as a location is found.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and entertained the motion to adjourn.

> **Adjournment**

Adjournment was at 12:28pm
Motion: Taylor Wynn
Second: Tracy Moy

Next Meeting: September 3, 2014

Minutes Adopted_____9/3/14_____

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Dr. Margaret "Beth" McMillan, Chair(Signature)