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Agreement Number: 07HQAG0035

Project title: Maine GIS Strategic and Business Plan Alignment FINAL REPORT

Organization: Maine Library of Geographic Information (GeoLibrary)

Principal Investigator:

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Collaborating Organizations:

Maine Office of GIS (same as above)

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Executive Summary:

Maine used the CAP opportunity to update the state's GIS strategic plan and align it with the Fifty States Initiative. Our vendor, James W. Sewall Company, conducted extensive outreach with state GIS stakeholders and the Maine GeoLibrary to draft a plan. A secondary project was to draft a specification for an integrated land records information system (ILRIS). Both goals were achieved and are being used to guide the future GIS activities in Maine.

Project Narrative:

The Maine GeoLibrary, in partnership with the Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS), contracted with GIS vendor James W. Sewall Company to conduct outreach and updated the Maine GIS strategic plan based on those activities. Sewall held several forums with stakeholders at various locations throughout the state to gather feedback on GIS requirements. The resulting information was collated into a report that also aligns Maine with the "Fifty States" initiative. A secondary aspect of this award was to create a specification for an integrated land records information system (ILRIS). Maine has a split responsibility for land records, with tax records and parcel geometry managed by towns, while deeds and transfers are managed by the county. Sewall inventoried the towns to find which ones had parcels in digital format, and built on previous efforts by the GeoLibrary to create digital parcels. The land record system in Maine was also examined in depth and compared with other states. A functional specification and data model were then suggested to create an ILRIS in Maine.

The project has accomplished all of its goals and wrapped up in the Spring of 2009. The accomplishments include:

1. Extensive user outreach via forums, surveys, and written correspondence
2. Review of user requirements and summary
3. Drafting of an updated strategic plan including alignment with "Fifty States"
4. Posting of the strategic plan on a public web site ([www.maine.gov/geolib](http://www.maine.gov/geolib))
5. Extensive research of Maine parcel mapping and land records
6. Drafting of a functional specification for an ILRIS

## 7. Posting of that specification on a public web site ([www.maine.gov/geolib](http://www.maine.gov/geolib))

Maine made a strong effort to be inclusive in its outreach for both of these efforts. User forums were held in numerous locations throughout the state and attended by a wide array of geospatial users. To ensure participation by new stakeholders, the forums were advertised in theme-specific media not typically dedicated to GIS, such as municipal professional societies.

Statewide coordination has already changed as a result of these projects. Maine has already adopted the altered system of workgroups for coordination and is already implementing other outreach suggestions outlined in the strategic plan. At least three grant proposals are pending which build on the ILRIS specification and implementing that in Maine.

Two practices were crucial to success in this project, the first was extensive outreach to the geospatial users in Maine via the forums. These forums had representatives from Sewall, MEGIS, and the GeoLibrary there to directly interact with users and discuss their needs. This personal feedback was crucial to drafting a plan which meets their needs. Secondly the key to success now is the follow-up Maine is doing to implement the plan. This is not a document which will gather dust on a shelf, it is already being enthusiastically implemented by the GeoLibrary and other stakeholders.

### Next Steps:

1. Workgroups to follow up on tasks outlined in the strategic plan
2. MEGIS and GeoLibrary to follow up on funding strategies for data recommendations
3. ILRIS working group to continue implementation of the functional specification
4. MEGIS and GeoLibrary to follow up on ILRIS with grants and in-kind work on parcel automation

Both projects funded under this grant are well-positioned to remain viable. Strong commitment to both is evident in the participation found in the strategic plan implementation workgroups and in the stakeholders. Participants realize this is a way to get "more for less" in difficult financial times. Continued practices in the Maine geospatial community will be based on these projects.

Assistance would be most beneficial to reach the data goals outlined in the strategic plan. Other goals such as cooperation and infrastructure can be met with current resources. The hardest projects to fund are the large data development, multi-stakeholder project such as statewide orthophoto updates or lidar. Direct financial assistance (perhaps from USGS) to develop such projects would be the most useful type of assistance.

### Attachments:

Attached: Strategic Plan final report  
Attached: ILRIS functional specification

### Feedback:

Maine has benefitted from the CAP award and the resulting products. They have already made a difference and influenced statewide coordination. The assistance Maine received was sufficient to meet these goals.