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Project title: Business plans for Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure framework layers for emergency management applications

Interim Final Report

Organization: Iowa Geographic Information Council, 291 Durham, Ames, IA 50011, <http://www.iowagic.org/>

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Executive Summary: The Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC), along with its local, state and federal government partners, will lead an effort to develop detailed business plans for establishing sustainable programs for statewide ortho-imagery, parcels/administrative boundaries, and addresses/structures. Using FGDC's Business Planning templates, IGIC will create working groups composed of GIS technical experts, vendors, program managers and GIS users, who will devise plans for creating and maintaining these layers within the context of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure, Iowa's contribution to the NSDI. Development of business plans for these framework layers is seen as meeting strategic objectives that move the state's geospatial community forward, especially considering needs made evident by recent natural disasters. Federal partners in the state and region are seen as key stakeholders and will fully participate in the planning discussions, as well as implementation.

Project Narrative

Summary of project activities - Since July 1, 2012, we have had three meetings involving the IGIC board beginning with the July 17, 2012 quarterly board meeting, October 17, 2012 board meeting and a general brainstorming session in December 12th. During each meeting we have broken up into small groups and discussed the three layers (statewide parcels/boundaries, orthos and addresses/structures), taken notes and tried to work through program goals, needs and requirements for various applications and user sectors, and some initial forays into justifications and benefits. In each of the three broad areas, we have tried to focus discussions around three scenarios: 1) business as usual - what will happen if go along with our current (in)activities on coordinating these layers; 2) best case scenario - what will happen if we make a strong case for bold action and receive necessary funding for all program goals to be met, and finally, 3) a "plan B" that outlines how to make progress, but with modest increases in funding and other resources. The best case scenario would essentially fulfill the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure(IGI) requirements for these three layers, leading to the full agency and societal benefits determined in our previous ROI studies of the IGI. Our business planning efforts will no doubt uncover how realistic the original ROI estimates of costs were.

Key accomplishments to date include the three sessions that outlined program goals, needs and requirements, and key participants and stakeholders. Within the last year, interesting discussions within state and county governments have tackled issues with adjusting valuation of agricultural properties across the state, lead by the Iowa Department of Revenue. Creation of a statewide parcel database, as well as a land use layer, has been key to these discussions. As the new legislative session approaches, it is uncertain if actual funding will be appropriated for this task, but at least the GIS community is playing a key role in the discussions. A similar opportunity has arisen with regards to Next Generation 911 systems within the state, which would relate to the statewide address and geocoding efforts. development of the business plan for addresses should positively impact this discussion and hopefully lead to real programs to create and maintain the data.

- How inclusive is your effort? What have you done to bring new stakeholder groups or organizations into statewide coordination? Meetings have included county, state, federal, private, university, non-profit, city participants. Goal of the project is to create a reason for each participant to receive benefits for their buy in. Not only selling “we all do better”, but also “this is how YOU benefit”. New stakeholder includes the Iowa Dept. of Revenue.

Next Steps

Phase two: we will define more specific requirements for each framework layer within small working groups within our three working scenarios. We also need to start working with individuals in some of the higher level stakeholder groups that might help in the search for political and funding support. Since there is no GIS champion or centralized GIS facility in the state this has always been problematic, but not impossible. The statewide lidar project showed that it was possible to extract commitments from a few big agencies and fund a \$5 million project. But an ongoing funding stream will be a very tough sell in this fiscal environment. A lot probably depends on how tightly the drought continues this year.

Revised Timeline

Our project is progressing slower than anticipated, so having the original timeline go out 18 months was a good decision early on. Thank you FGDC. Our original plan had phase 1 vision/goals and benefits/justification completed in August 2012 and Phase 2 product definition completed by 2/13. We are behind on phase 2 and parts of phase 1, benefits and justification. I think we can get these done by 4/13 and get phase 3 completed by the end of summer 2013. This will allow us to work on phase 4, reporting and presentations next fall, with completion in 12/13.