2006 NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) Interim Report Category 3: Fifty States Initiative

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Project Title: Formation of a New GIS Coordinating Structure for West Virginia

Award Number: 06HQAG0107

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Collaborating Organization(s): USGS Geospatial Liaison for WV, KY, TN (Bruce Bauch); USGS NSDI Partnership Office (Diane Eldridge); West Virginia Office of State GIS Coordinator (Craig Neidig); WV Governor's Office of Technology (Kyle Schafer); WV Association of Geospatial Professionals; and WV GIS Strategic Planning Committee.

(1) Project Narrative: http://www.fqdc.gov/grants/2006CAP/Category3/WV

The State of West Virginia Fifty States project will organize a new statewide coordinating structure for advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in West Virginia. The vision of the new coordinating structure is to have a broader representation that includes the private sector, academia, and all levels of government. It will strive to include high-level champions who understand geospatial technologies and funding issues in the form of elected officials or executive decision makers in the coordination process. The new coordinating body will develop the strategic and business plans necessary to leverage resources and minimize redundancies in the integration and publishing of standardized geospatial data from multiple sources. Lastly, it will seek formal political recognition, either through executive level or legislative action, and identify a source of sustainable funding from state government.

(2) Key Accomplishments to Date and Next Steps:

Since the inception of this project, significant progress has been made in organizing a new coordination program, developing a state GIS strategic plan, and contacting high-level champions willing to promote the strategic plan. Most importantly, the recent coordination meetings have led to new stakeholder groups eager to participate in the strategic planning process for the State (Appendix A). Discussions have been held on how to promote the GIS strategic plan to local and state political leaders. Below is a project timeline of significant past and future planned events.

NEW GIS COORDINATION STRUCTURE:

- Aug 2006: After seven meetings, the WV GIS Coordinating Committee completes a business plan to create a new geospatial coordinating body.
- Sep 2006: At the first organizational meeting prospective members adopt a resolution to form a new coordinating body named the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals.

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- o Oct 2006: Draft the new bylaws that will govern the association.
- o Jan 2007: Adopt bylaws and enroll charter members at the second organizational meeting.
- Jan 2007: Finish branding (graphics) and website for new association.
- Feb 2007: Complete Articles of Organization and other administrative documents.
- Mar 2007: Hold the charter meeting and elect permanent officers.
- May 2007: Seek formal political recognition of new association by executive order.
- Jul 2007: Create marketing materials to promote new coordinating structure.

STATE GIS STRATEGIC PLAN:

- May 2006: Strategic Planning Committee holds its initial kick-off meeting, using the Fifty States Initiative Strategic Planning Process Guide produced by NSGIC for the FGDC. Participants identify the target audience of the strategic plan as local and state political leaders.
- May 2006: The Chief Technology Officer, Kyle Schafer, presents at the WV GIS Conference.
 This initial contact between the Chief Technology Officer and the statewide geospatial community is very positive and will hopefully result in further contacts in the near future.
- July 2006: The Chief Technology Officer convenes a GIS Working Group, presenting his GIS strategic goals and objectives, along with instructions to the group to create a 3-year strategic plan and one-year tactical plan by December 2006.
- Aug 2006: Strategic Planning Committee identifies strengths and weaknesses of current state GIS program. The committee agrees to create a single plan that meets both the requirements of the Fifty States Initiative Project and Governor's Office of Technology.
- Sep 2006: Strategic Planning Committee meets and identifies the modernization of the State's land information system as an important goal.

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- Dec 2006: Complete draft of 3-year strategic plan and 1-year tactical (business) plan for Chief Technology Officer.
- o Mar 2007: Schedule a forum regarding enterprise-wide GIS services in the State.
- Mar 2007: Finalize plans.
- Jun 2007: Market plans.

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(3) Attachments:

- Business Plan for New Geospatial Coordinating Body Business Plan
- o First organizational meeting minutes of WV Association of Geospatial Professionals
- o GIS Strategic Goals and Plan of Chief Technology Officer

(4) Helpful Assistance from CAP Program:

- USGS Liaisons and Partners: Support from NSDI Partnership Offices and other partners such as the State GIS Coordinator have been instrumental in project achievements.
- Website Resource Postings: Information and resources on NSGIC and FGDC websites have been helpful in advancing project goals.
- Fifty States Initiative Strategic Planning Process Guide: For the strategic planning process,
 West Virginia has been using the strategic planning guide produced by NSGIC for FGDC.
- Other Awardees Correspondence: Information from other project leaders is useful, such as Zsolt Nagy's email about the NGPO and its Strategic Plan. The USGS Open File Report 2005-1379: NGPO A Plan for Action (October 2005) details strategic goals which in many cases parallels the State's goals.

(5) Program Management Concerns:

- No-Cost Extension: A no-cost extension will be needed to complete all the objectives of this project. Organizing and promoting a new coordinating body and state GIS plan within the same year are challenging goals.
- Budget Category Adjustment: An adjustment to the budget expenditure categories will be necessary so that the grant funds are properly allocated to match project expenses.