

2006 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program

Project Title: NSDI CAP Category 3 Grant: Development of a Strategic Plan to implement the NSGIC 50 States Initiative in Oklahoma

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(1) **Project Narrative**

(a) **Summary of project activities**

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Geographic Information Council has entered into a contract with a facilitator consultant Dr. Mary Jo Major, to complete our strategic plan. We have formed a work group of Council members that will be working toward the completion of the strategic plan. We are currently working on putting together a needs assessment survey to be sent out to an extensive list of stakeholders throughout the Oklahoma GIS community. The survey is set to be released to the GIS community on Friday, September 15 with results to be returned to the work group by Friday, September 29. Once the survey statistics have been compiled the work group will assemble two focus group meetings to gain more information from the GIS community. These focus group meetings are set for Thursday, November 2 in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Friday, November 3 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

(b) **Key Accomplishments to Date**

To date our key accomplishments include hiring a consultant, forming a work group, and developing a needs assessment survey. In addition to these accomplishments we have also identified over 170 stakeholders that will be asked to participate in the needs assessment survey.

(c) **Explain how statewide coordination has changed as a result of this project?**

By involving over 170 different stakeholders in the needs assessment survey we are giving the GIS community of Oklahoma a chance to participate in the strategic planning process. This process will allow the stakeholders to voice their opinions and concerns about the current coordination efforts in Oklahoma. This participation will help strengthen the coordination efforts throughout the state once the Office of Geographic Information is fully operational.

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(d) How inclusive is your effort? What have you done to bring new stakeholder groups or organizations into statewide coordination?

The GI Council has made every effort to locate groups that would be interested in providing input into the strategic planning process. The stakeholders have been identified by using a number of list serve, user group and meeting databases. These resources provide a fairly inclusive representation of the stakeholders in Oklahoma. While many of these stakeholders have participated in GIS activities throughout the state, many have not been active in the GI Council. By including these groups in the list of recipients of the needs assessment survey they will have the opportunity to participate in activities that they may not have been aware of in the past.

(e) What practices or activities let to success? What practices or activities have not?

The use of a highly recommended facilitator to lead the work group has made this planning process much easier and more successful. We have also found success in locating stakeholders by using various user group and list serve resources that have not been used in past Council activities. Our biggest hurdle thus far in the process is finding enough volunteers to complete the strategic planning activities. We are hopeful that more Council members will join the work group and participate in the development of the strategic plan.

(2) Next Steps

(a) How will the project continue in the future?

Our next step in the project will be to launch the needs assessment survey to the GIS Community. Once we have gotten the results we will continue with the strategic planning process with the help of Dr. Major.

(b) Describe the next steps in your project?

Once the needs assessment survey and focus group meetings results have been compiled the Council will continue with the planning process. This process will include refining the mission statement, developing a 3 year practical vision, and identifying obstacles to the 3 year vision. The Council will then determine the strategic directions to neutralize or remove the obstacles and develop objectives and performance measures that will move in the strategic direction to realize the practical vision.

(c) Where do you need assistance?

It would be extremely helpful to have samples of strategic plans from other states. During the workshop at the NSGIC Mid Year Conference it was announced that sample plans would be made available on the NSGIC website. Unfortunately these have not been posted and we feel it would be extremely beneficial to see what other states have been able to develop during their planning processes.