Final Project Report

Executive Summary
Creation of the AGIC Strategic and Business Plans through the NSGIC 50 States Initiative allowed a formal outreach effort to the Arizona GIS Community of unprecedented breadth and scope. This effort captured and documented input from city, county, state, tribal and private businesses to insure that the Strategic Plan and Business Plan were formulated using broad Arizona perspectives on GIS priorities. The Strategic Plan documented numerous ideas that had been discussed at length within the Council, but that had not been formalized prior to the availability of the FGDC CAP funding. The Business Plan resulted in an in-depth review of the Arizona Geospatial Clearinghouse and an analysis of what steps would be required to create it. Eight years had lapsed since AGIC had been able to make a concerted effort to update the Strategic Plan. Creation of the Business Plan was a first for AGIC. Both of these documents make it possible for AGIC to move purposefully forward in fulfilling it's mission to serve as Arizona's primary forum and oversight group for geographic information, geographic information technology issues and coordination efforts.

Project Narrative

The Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) Strategic Plan had two major goals:

- Facilitate the productive application and sharing of geospatial data and GIS and location-based services to address the needs of Arizonans by establishing a **Clearinghouse** with statewide accessibility.
- Achieve greater fiscal responsibility and efficiency through the wise **governance** of GIS services and geospatial data.

These goals were formulated to **support the key requirements of SB1318**. SB1318 is now established in statute and statute now updates definitions of GIS, changes statutory focus of GIS from projects to enterprise GIS, and reduces many historic constraints and facilitates geospatial data sharing in Arizona. The intent is to focus and concentrate all strategic efforts into the creation, sharing, and governance of geospatial data and services that support the business drivers in Arizona.

The AGIC Business Plan had one major strategic goal:

Facilitate the productive application and sharing of geospatial data and GIS and location-based services to address the needs of Arizonans by establishing a Clearinghouse with statewide accessibility.

The Business Plan provides a context for why the goal of establishing a Clearinghouse is important, i.e., to support the set strategic issues and business drivers that benefit from GIS. To define and prioritize this set, input was solicited from the Arizona GIS stakeholder community on issues and drivers across the state. More specifically, stakeholders were asked to identify the statewide issues for which GIS can or is adding value, and contributing to fiscal responsibility and efficiency.

Summary of Project Activities

The last major AGIC strategic planning effort was conducted in 1992. The plan provided very useful direction for AGIC as it was first being established. In recent years, AGIC committees developed annual work plans to provide direction for the upcoming year. As GIS has evolved and the benefits of Enterprise GIS became more apparent, AGIC determined that it was necessary to develop a new strategic plan to address organizational and governance issues of developing a more enterprise approach to GIS in Arizona. They also decided that a business plan would help to focus the board on specific activities to facilitate Enterprise GIS. A decision was made that establishing a GIS clearinghouse would be a major way to begin to better share geospatial data between agencies and begin moving towards enterprise GIS.

AGIC realized that it did not have the resources and expertise to conduct a strategic and business plan on its own with a volunteer organization whose members all have full time jobs besides being on the board. It was decided to apply for FGCD CAP Category 3 Fifty States Initiative funding and use those funds to hire a consultant with the experience to help AGIC conduct an AGIC Strategic and Business Plan Project. Arizona was fortunate enough to obtain the funding and hire Applied Geographics and Michael Baker as consultants on the project. The consultants brought knowledge of the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative to provide a framework for the project which allowed AGIC to provide input to develop plans that were specific to the needs and requirements of Arizona. AGIC requested the State Cartographer's Office provide oversight for the project and an Oversight Committee comprised of AGIC Board members was assembled to work closely with the project consultants.

Outreach was conducted and input was collected from the diverse community of geospatial stakeholders throughout the state during 2009, including a series of Regional Workshops held in Flagstaff, Kingman, Phoenix (Peoria), and Tucson. In addition, an online survey was conducted to gather input from GIS users and managers. Based on the input from the workshops and survey, preliminary findings and recommendations were compiled and presented at the Annual AGIC Conference, which was held in Tucson, in November 2009. This was the most significant outreach to the Arizona GIS community in recent years. AGIC holds a GIS conference every year that is a good forum for information exchange. However, the survey and workshops in support of the AGIC plans provided forums to specifically address the needs of GIS professionals in different regions of the state to address governance issues and identify constraints and opportunities to sharing geospatial data and GIS services. GIS leaders were consulted in each region to coordinate the workshops in their areas. This proved very helpful and many GIS professionals, who had not participated with or had knowledge about AGIC or state GIS activities, participated in the workshops, brought up many issues and helped to develop information that would benefit both their organizations and the state.

Who participated in the Online Survey?
- 151 responses (early August through mid October 2009)
- 137 in-state
- 14 out-of-state or no state given
- Overall, most responses came from counties (27%), followed by municipal (20%), and private sector (18%)
- Out of 15 counties in the states, all but 3 (Navajo, Greenlee, and Pinal) had respondents to the survey
- 73% of in-state responses from two counties
  - Maricopa (68 responses)
  - Pima (32 responses)
- Large percentage (70%) either GIS analysts or managers

a. **Who participated in the Regional Stakeholder Workshops?**

WORKSHOP LOCATION	Date	Actual Attendees	Predominant Sector in Attendance
Flagstaff	9/23/09	15	Private Sector
Kingman	9/24/09	17	County Government
Phoenix (Peoria)	9/30/09	30	State Government
Tucson	10/01/09	14	Municipal Government
Total (*)		76	

(*) NOTE: *Two workshops were also conducted at the Annual AGIC Conference on 11/05/09, in Tucson – one was held to present and validate preliminary findings from the Survey and Regional Workshops, and the other was to gather additional input. Attendance was not taken at the two workshops conducted at the Conference, but there was a similar diversity and number of participants when compared to the Regional Stakeholder Workshops; and for some, it was their second workshop.*
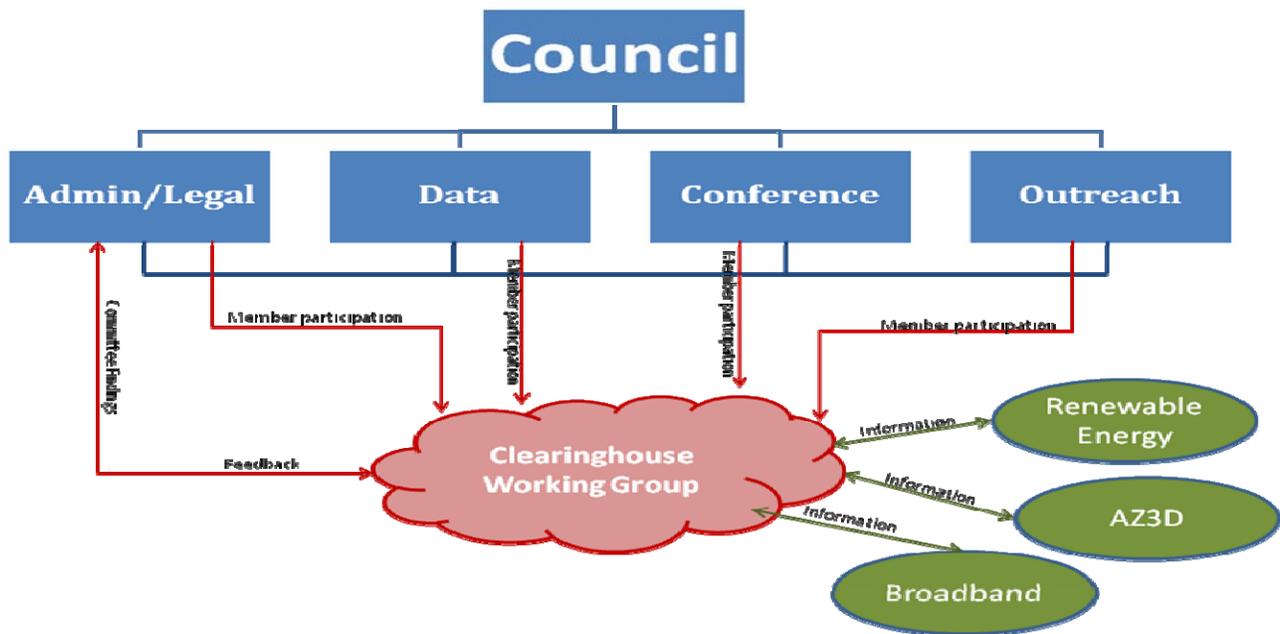
Key Accomplishments to Date
Although initially not part of the AGIC Strategic and Business Plan Project, a very significant accomplishment was the passage of SB1318 into law. This law establishes AGIC as a legislatively mandated council, and:

- Includes provisions for sharing geospatial data among public agencies. A written agreement among public agencies will not be required.
- Allows a public agency to share geospatial data for which it is the custodian. The public agency also would retain custodial ownership of the data it shares.
- Allows a public agency to prohibit the redistribution of its data by other public agencies if notification of the prohibition is given.
- Permits a public agency to exempt shared geospatial data from fees that would otherwise be prescribed by public records law (A.R.S. § 39-121.03, Subsection A, Paragraph 3).
- Exempts a public agency that shares geospatial data from liability for errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the data. Furthermore, the public agency will be held harmless from all damage, loss or liability arising from the use of shared data.
- Allows a public agency that receives or shares geospatial data to withhold the data from public disclosure if it is critical infrastructure information. Critical infrastructure is defined in statute as the systems and assets that are so vital to Arizona and the U.S. that destruction of them would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety.
- Requires that a clearinghouse and a central repository for geospatial data and GIS services be established.

- Explain how statewide coordination has (or will) change as a result of this project.
Passage of SB1318 increased the need for a strategic and business plan to provide governance and practical direction as AGIC moves towards Enterprise GIS in Arizona. SB1318 contained a section that establishes AGIC in legislation and makes the composition of the council open to participation by more and different participants.

AGIC adopted the AGIC Strategic Plan and the AGIC Business Plan for the Statewide Geospatial Clearinghouse at the February 25, 2010 Council meeting. It was also decided that all AGIC Committees would work closely together to achieve the programmatic goals of the business plan. The AGIC Data Committee created a Clearinghouse Working Group, comprised of members from each AGIC committee, to coordinate committee activities to develop an establish an Arizona Geospatial Clearinghouse. The AGIC Admin and Legal Committee endorsed the plan and brought it before the Council where it was approved at their May meeting.

AGIC Committee Diagram: Structured to Prioritize Clearinghouse Establishment

What practices or activities led to success? What practices or activities have not?
The State Cartographers Office and the AGIC Data Committee have made a concerted effort to leverage existing resources in order to establish a viable Statewide Geospatial Clearinghouse. This was a tactic identified in the Business Plan. The Arizona State and local government budgets are at an historic low. There is little or no discretion in state spending. A decision was made to utilize federal funding as much as possible to include development of the clearinghouse into the projects. Federal funding is currently one of the few sources of funding available. In order to accomplish these projects, many of the benefits of enterprise GIS, such as data and services sharing, interdepartmental coordination, and use of available technology to reduce costs allow the project teams to incrementally implement portions of the business plan within the context of the strategic plan. The Business Plan provides a blueprint for what we need to accomplish. The individual projects provide the resources to implement these components to the benefit of each project. The Business Plan provides direction on how we can conduct these projects in a way that builds out a cost effective clearinghouse approach. In the short term, the projects benefit by reduced database costs. In the long run, Arizona benefits by establishing a clearinghouse. This has proven to be a win-win situation.

Also, increasing AGIC Outreach Committee activities has proven to be one of the best ways get information about AGIC activities out to the Arizona GIS community. It also is a great way to involve people and increase participation by those that do not normally get involved with AGIC and state GIS initiatives.

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Next Steps

Next steps for AGIC include continuing to leverage project resources to establish a Statewide Geospatial Clearinghouse. This includes developing new policies, based on newly established statutes that facilitate data sharing and participation in the Clearinghouse.

The AGIC Data Committee is also leveraging the work done on various projects to develop a set of Arizona Framework Data. These data will be some of the first geospatial data to be put into the Clearinghouse and will all comply with standards, have metadata, and be available to all who require them.

Outreach is being conducted through funded projects, the State Cartographer's Office and AGIC to begin to include local data in the Clearinghouse. This has not previously happened in Arizona due to constraining statutes. With the passage of SB1318, many of the statutes that made data sharing very difficult have been modified or mitigated. Outreach is being conducted to explain these new statutes to the Arizona GIS Community and seek participation in sharing and hosting data on a statewide basis.

How will this project continue into the future and remain viable?

With AGIC now established in statute and the Strategic and Business plans approved and being implemented, the future looks good for AGIC to implement many of the success factors identified in the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative and move towards implementing Enterprise GIS in Arizona. Major components of the infrastructure for this will be built through the Federally funded projects that are now in work. Small amounts of sustained funding will be needed to maintain this infrastructure into the future and one of our focuses will be securing this funding for the years to come. SB1318 provides the essential elements needed to ensure that the data access component of this effort can be achieved. This will be leveraged to develop and implement long-term data sharing agreements with participants. One benefit of reduced resources is that people are more willing to cooperate and work together to stretch resources and get things done with less.

Where do you need assistance? What type of assistance do you need?

We will continue to need federal and other sources of funding until the State budget recovers from its current slump.

Attachments

Completed Strategic Plan and Business Plan

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

What are the CAP Program strengths and weaknesses?

Strengths include funding for states to address issues they may not have the resources to do on their own. Categories of the program are organized to help state GIS coordinating bodies achieve success. The program structures the criteria and factors for each of its categories and this provides valuable direction and resources for states.

Where does it make a difference?
The CAP provides resources for states to participate in and help develop a National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?
The assistance we received was sufficient. The funding was enough for us to obtain the services of a knowledgeable and professional consultant. The consultant provided the framework and direction for us to participate in developing plans that are tailored to work in Arizona.

What would you recommend that the FGDC do differently?
Strive to reposition the FGDC in Federal Government. The FGDC could be more effective if it were positioned in the Federal government in where it could provide leadership for Federal geospatial programs, as well as provide more incentives and resources to states to participate and coordinate in the development of a robust NSDI.

Are there factors that are missing or additional needs that should be considered?
An additional factor could be a possible focus on encouraging the development of State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) projects. This federated approach could constitute a structure that may be beneficial to establishing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

Are there program management concerns that need to be addressed, such as the time frame?
The program provided sufficient guidance and time to conduct the project.

If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?
We would not have done much differently. We might have advertised the workshop a bit more in advance. And we may have held one additional workshop. However, overall, I believe the consultants and project team did well with the resources and time we had.