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Illinois NSDI GIS Data and Standards Coordination System Demonstration Project

DuPage County, Illinois Information Technology Department, GIS Division

421 N. County Farm Road

Wheaton, IL 60187

William J. Faedtke, Manager of GIS, GISP
630-407-5033 wfaedtke@dupageco.org
www.dupageco.org

Principal Investigator

In Co-operation with:

University of Illinois, Illinois Geological Survey

Dr. Donald Luman

615 East Peabody Drive

Room 275

Champaign, IL 61820

217-244-2179 dluman@isgs.illinois.edu

<http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/nsdihome/>

The goal of this Illinois GIS Coordination Project is establish a model for standardized data sharing across all levels of government throughout the state. The primary means of accomplishing this will be to expand the capabilities of the existing Illinois GIS Clearinghouse operated by the University of Illinois and define a series of well documented data standards.

For this demonstration project, DuPage County will be producing three major GIS datasets; transportation networks, structures, and governmental units in a standardized format that will be served up to the public through the Illinois GIS Clearinghouse.

During the past six months, the County has been inventorying and analyzing the existing standards from USGS, the State of Illinois, and those used by local units of government for these three GIS themes to determine the scope of work required to produce a common exchange standard.

The County has established a series of ongoing standards development meetings with the State of Illinois GIS Coordinator, the USGS Liaison for Illinois, the University of Illinois, and regional county and municipal GIS managers to identify deficiencies in our existing data sharing operations and various scenarios for correcting them. These reviews consider both the technical and legal aspects of data sharing within the State.

This Project was presented at both the Spring and Fall Illinois Geographic Information Systems Association 2009 Conferences to both announce our goals and to solicit feedback regarding the scope of work.

The University of Illinois (U of I) has enhanced their staff resources to provide the level of support necessary for this project including the hiring of a full time GIS analyst. The Clearinghouse will provide metadata development support and enhancement of their data distribution facilities to support access to the data by both GIS professionals and the general public.

Due to U of I internal procedures, the hiring of a full time analyst for the GIS Clearinghouse was not completed until October of 2009. Due to this delay the County will be requesting an extension of the grant period until November 30, 2010.

During our discussions with the various federal, state, and local stakeholders in this Project, we have identified the following major requirements that will need to be addressed:

- Data interoperability requirements of all agencies.
- Ease of access to the data by both professionals and the public.
- Use of the new data access procedures to comply with new Illinois FOIA requirements.
- Existing standards to be used and/or those that require enhancement.
- Determine who is responsible for maintaining the various datasets.
- Documentation (metadata) for all data.
- Long term storage data format requirements.
- Update schedule.
- Resources required for the Clearinghouse to support distribution of this data beyond the grant period.