NSDI LEADERS FORUM – MEETING NOTES
March 7, 2013

Welcoming Remarks & Introductions: Dan Cotter, DHS

Participants:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Alameh, Nadine	Open Geospatial Forum
Anderson, Carl	Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Baber, Max	U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
Brooks, Talbot	Geospatial Information & Technology Association
Burgess, Bill	National States Geographic Information Council
Byrd, John	National Society of Professional Surveyors
Cotter, Dan	Department of Homeland Security
DeLoatch, Ivan	USGS
Hammerlinck, Jeff	University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
Hardy, Matthew	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Johnston, Jerry	DOI
Kerkis, Mitch	NASCIO
LaVoi, Tony	Department of Commerce
Lenczowski, Bobbi	American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Lewis, Steve	Department of Transportation
Mahoney, John	USGS
Moeller, John	Coalition of Geospatial Organizations
O'Rourke, Peter	National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation
Palatiello, John	Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
Pohl, Alyssum	NOAA, NSGIC, NACO
Richardson, Doug	Association of American Geographers
Vandegraft, Doug	Cartography and Geographic Information Society
Shaffer, Ken	USGS
Summers, Lew	Department of Homeland Security
Wells, Martha	Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Yang, Phil	University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
Gibbons, Tricia Jeffords, Carol	LEAD Alliance Facilitation Team

Overview PowerPoint Presentation
Leadership Perspectives/Overview of the NSDI/Strategic Plan Initiative/Summary of Federal
Workshop Results: Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC/USGS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN: CONTEXT MAP

Task: Table groups were assigned specific topics of those factors impacting the geospatial community and the continued development of the NSDI. Results of the table group discussions were shared and additional ideas were added to the group's work. The following is the result. This is also displayed in a PowerPoint graphic titled: **NSDI Leaders Forum Context Map**

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS:

- Increasing reliance on crowd input into federal data (crowd sourcing)
- Uncertainty toward the outcome of federal cuts
- Increasing awareness of geospatial by the public
- Collaboration to improve the efficiencies of geospatial operations
- Changes in budget and budget planning in state and corporate budgets
- Interdisciplinary nature of geospatial will continue to increase
- Increased reliance on standards so that collaboration can occur
- Where will geospatial reside within the federal government?
- Impractical for the nation to provide data for the entire nation
- Availability of data drives the development side
- Proving our worth – need to do socioeconomic value study – ROI
- Changing expectations – have it all now, at minimal cost

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY FACTORS:

Technical	"Bridging"	Operational
• Are technical needs being met? • Remote sensing (industry working on this) • 3D technology • Rise of open source technology (e.g., railroad data, social media, community-based) • Analytical tools being used to interpret & use data • Location-based – broad impacts (planning, infrastructure, etc.)	• Not just geospatial community using the data – everyone uses • Data is a national (not federal) resource • Expectation that data will be free (access, open) • Expectation that data will be free, though <u>not free</u> to collect or maintain • Private sector is driving a lot of the innovation; how do we engage them & others in partnerships? • Availability of data often drives innovation • Roles are different (producer & user communities) • Is private or government bigger in geospatial? (We don't know.) Who is driving/following? Who is supply/demand?	• Private industry stepping in to provide services (government as consumer) • Are operational needs being met? • Public data supports private sector data • The more government can do to organize geospatial data, the more we enable the private sector to succeed • Technology being used to break down barriers to use/data access

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA FACTORS:
- Democratizing
- Technology as a driver of geospatial data
- Data discoverability
- Cloud and crowd storage innovation
- Trusted sources; cyber security
- Is government a supplier/aggregator or a customer of data in the future? (governance, roles/responsibilities)
- Legacy (technology/applications; skill sets)
- Creation of mass market/mass producer
- Backlash – concerns about aerial photography/UAVs (domestic)
- Lack of awareness of government role (standards, data, policies/procedures)
- Definitions: "authoritative data," "precise geo-location data"
- Privacy vs. geospatial demands
- Lack of consumer education
- Big data & analytics
- Are we regulating who can collect what?
- Ubiquity vs. licensing & certification

STAKEHOLDER/CUSTOMER NEEDS:
- Current & timely data that is useable real time
- Education for the next generation workforce
- Innovation in industry and technology
- Access to data & discoverability
  - Timely datasets (near real-time)
  - Emergency response
  - Increasing role of real-time data
    - SOPs
    - Structuring this could be profound
    - Need to know the role of standards
    - Train on the use of real-time data
- Science as a driver
- Role of standards in real-time data
- Policies that impact vibrant economy strong, sustainable for geospatial
- Multi-sectional applications
- Ongoing obstacles that geospatial allows us to overcome
- Political acknowledgment of value of the industry
- Build communities
- Public/private partnerships
- Understanding the investment and the value added to many industries & disciplines
- Understanding the federal government's requirements
- State stakeholders have changed
  - First responder emphasis has gone to GIS
  - Local & state government will be the drivers; because of this the face of the user has changed; then federal government can fill in the gaps & adapt
- Sustainability has bred efficiency (financially, socially, resiliency – e.g., UAVs)

UNCERTAINTIES:
- Undefined roles and responsibilities
- "Trusted" data – how to get there?
- Unclear vision – what is NSDI supposed to do?
- Role of value-added data to NSDI
- Funding commitment
- Ability to implement plan
- Coordination of sectors; capacity of each sector
- Sustaining relationships among data partners
- Sustain relationships without in person/face-to-face meetings
- Agility – fast data; fast technology adoption
- Too much focus on technology and not enough on relationships
- Should we keep focus on geospatial or focus on information in general?

After a short break participants focused on the role of the federal geospatial community.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE <u>FEDERAL</u> GEOSPATIAL COMMUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSDI?

Participants worked in table groups to brainstorm the role of the federal geospatial community to further the development of the NSDI. Results of the table group discussions and debrief are listed below. The most common themes among the 5 groups included:
- Leadership force/ Central Player
- Set and Maintain Standards
- Stability
- Enabler
- Define and focus the vision
- Seek authorities
- Data development
- Strategic investments in interest of the U.S. (look at the NIH model)
- Set national priorities – collaborative process
- Engage with Non-federal partners to support federal initiatives; integrate local data

Group 1:
- Revisit extend of "mandatory" standards (e.g., expansive scope of metadata)
- Prevent duplication between the federal agencies
- Set and maintain standards (enforce standards?)
- Education requirements defined
- Explore governance structure
- Courageous leadership – stop delegating down – raise priority
- Institutional knowledge is getting lost
- Partnership opportunities get incentivized and increased

Group 2:
- Central player
- As an enabler and not as a roadblock
- Research and development
- Roles and responsibilities
- Regularly review and update
- Tangible product; living/breathing document
- Science-based authoritative data
- Specifications-based; QA/QC the data collection
- Executive Order & any legislation
- Provide leadership
- Bring stakeholders together
- Funding: budget & planning
- Refresh data layers? Add pipelines and underground utilities
- Open mind
- Quality of data

Group 3:
- Seek authority
- Define/narrow vision
    - What does success look like? What outcome is NSDI hoping for?
    - Suggestions: focus on data, not application; A16 supplemental guidance
    - With narrowed vision, NSDI could include a smaller #/more manageable selection of sectors to participate in FGDC discussion (federal government as one participant)
- Integrate local data → share → robust national programs → buy-up → integrate local data

Group 4:
- Funding – appropriations, authorizations
- Facilitator – funding, partnerships, applications
- Standards – collaborator
- Champion – political, cheerleader, advocate
- Plan and incorporate Metrics
- Move geospatial out of "IT"; treat it as an infrastructure asset
- Funding data acquisition
- Stability – political
- Advocate to OMB
- Senior-most folks need to buy in to its relevancy
- Challenge – governance model
- Strategic role of CIO and GIO
- 3-DEP as a behavior model

Group 5:
- Facilitator – enabler
- Promulgator of standards
- Education
- Data development
- Role of FGDC? NGAC?
- Access/aggregation

Following are some additional comments captured during the whole group discussion:
- Tap into a diverse community
- Federal strategy for geospatial research (e.g., NSF) – feds, university, not private sector
- Federal government – an R&D-type organization
- Provide funding to some degree to support mission responsibility and to support growth
- Role as a stabilizer/stabilizing influence is important
- Stabilizing influence/dynamic
- Open sources will contribute to stability
- One problem with stability is that it takes so long to produce standards
- To have stability, need a mechanism to incorporate change
- A product – working toward an end product
- Engage at a higher level within government
- Part of the political environment: have to have buy-in (ties in to courageous leadership)
- Importance of a champion – OMB does not understand the importance of geospatial
- Adapt to other standards faster & better – guidelines, rules (now a destabilizing influence)
- Leadership force

Meeting Evaluation – Plus /Delta

+	Δ
- It happened! - Not just about the federal government - General acknowledgment about change & innovation as part of the process - Good participation - Common themes & agreements - How community is prepared to move forward in addressing issues and creating standards	- Too short - Major topics not yet addressed - No time to talk about role of other sectors - Beneficial to pull off another session to get together (could another organization host?) - More of a partnership activity - Could another org host one of these activities?

Ivan DeLoatch and Dan Cotter thanked the group for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.