

Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC)  
**Idaho Geospatial Committee**  
**February 8, 2007, Meeting Minutes**  
(Approved April 19, 2007)

The February 8, 2007, meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Committee (IGC) was held from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room B, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 N. Hilton Street, Boise, Idaho.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/Designate(s) Present:**

Nathan Bentley, ITRMC Staff  
Chris Clay, Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Gail Eckwright, University of Idaho Library/ INSIDE Idaho (*via phone*)  
Nancy Glenn, Idaho State University  
Dennis Hill, City of Pocatello  
Nick Nydegger, *Chair*, Idaho Military Division  
Craig Rindlisbacher, Madison County, City of Rexburg  
Frank Roberts, Coeur d'Alene Tribe (*via phone*)  
Jim Szpara, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality

**Others Present:**

Janet Cheney, Bonneville County	Bill Masters, Resource Data, Inc.
Linda Davis, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources	Harley Parson, Rohm Institute
Bruce Godfrey, University of Idaho Library/ INSIDE Idaho ( <i>via phone</i> )	Ken Pidjeon, Idaho Military Division
Eddie Goldsmith, Idaho E911 Emergency Communications Commission	Donna Pitzer, USDI Bureau of Reclamation
Roger Kassens, Idaho Transportation Dept.	Brent Saurey, Madison County
Anne Kawalec, Ada County Assessor's Office	Nancy Tubbs, U.S. Geological Survey
Jerry Korol, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Scott Van Hoff, U.S. Geological Survey
	Dan VanOrden, Resource Data, Inc.

**APPROVALS**

- September 7, 2006, IGC Meeting Minutes, as written
- December 7, 2006, IGC Meeting Minutes, as corrected

**REPORTS, UPDATES, MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Nick Nydegger, Idaho Military Division, is the **new chair** of the committee
- **Statement of Purpose and Annual Goals.** An excerpt from the executive order that authorized the continuance of the IGC was reviewed (see Executive Order No. 2006-05: [http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/execorders/eo06/eo\\_2006-05.htm](http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/execorders/eo06/eo_2006-05.htm))
- **Discussion of IGC's Goals:**
  - The need for improved communication by the IGC regarding the importance of GIS was addressed.
    - The group discussed methods for improving communication amongst those in the state's GIS community, including expanding membership to the Idaho GIS List Server.

- Craig Rindlisbacher, Madison County and City of Rexburg, pointed out that, since data tends to have higher spatial accuracy at the local level, it makes sense to move the data up from the local level to the state and then to the federal level.
  - It was agreed that this idea is a key element for the committee to focus on.
  - Dennis Hill, City of Pocatello, suggested that maybe other state elected officials, beyond the assessors, may need to push this priority.
  - There was some discussion concerning the varied responsibilities of county assessors; and Nathan Bentley, State GIS Coordinator and ITRMC Staff, mentioned that many counties are moving toward getting a GIS coordinator.
    - When the Idaho Geospatial Data Implementation Plan (I-Plan) was first implemented four years ago, the assessors were first points of contact for GIS in every county. That is not always the case now and that may not be the case in the future.
    - As an organization, the IGC should facilitate communication between county groups, the commissioners, and the assessors.
  - Nydegger reinforced the importance of and need for data integration at all levels of government in Idaho.
    - Dennis said that he thinks local elected officials are understanding more, but that there is a huge disconnect between the state Legislature and what the IGC is doing.
    - The lack of executive/legislative-level visibility of GIS in the state was discussed.
      - It was suggested that inviting the ITRMC Senate representatives to an IGC meeting would be a good start.
- Nancy Tubbs, U.S. Geological Survey, prompted a conversation on the level of specificity of IGC's annual goals.
- Per Eddie Goldsmith of the Idaho Enhanced 911 (E911) Emergency Communications Commission (IECC), there are 18 counties that have no mapping in their E911. Eddie's office was trying to update these issues, and will be a good resource for GIS information in three to five years (depending on funds availability).
  - It was mentioned that the biggest E911-related problem for counties is mapping and getting updated addresses; and this issue was talked about further.
    - Craig suggested a statewide GIS mapping technical working group or ad-hoc committee be formed to work with E911.
      - Eddie expressed support for this idea.
      - Nick cited this problem as precisely what the committee needs to work on.

➤ **Discussion of the Statement of Importance of GIS Technologies to:**

- Development / Planning Services
  - Said Harley Parson, Rohm Institute, he is asked daily for local-level maps about water, sewer, etc. Without GIS, the information could be done; but today it needs to be instantaneous, and that's what GIS provides.
  - GIS mapping is used in multiple applications for analysis, planning, etc., as well as for cartography.
  - Dan VanOrden, Resource Data, Inc., explained that economic development for the Cities of Boise and Nampa, as well as Idaho Commerce and Labor, relies on providing services via the web. GIS would provide information on demographics, buildings, etc. for companies interested in Idaho.
- Emergency Services
  - Nick reiterated that utilizing geospatial technologies is the only way to optimize emergency response and the benefits for the citizens of Idaho. IGC can facilitate this process.

- The committee agreed that geospatial technologies are basically a requirement to integrate into emergency service.
- o Donna Pitzer, USDI Bureau of Reclamation, said that even at the federal level, they definitely are looking to the IGC for information.
- o Craig mentioned that perhaps this statement of importance should include language regarding the importance of coordination amongst the entities using GIS technology. Also, perhaps the statement needs to be broader to include aspects like the natural resource management phase that takes a traditional role in GIS technology.
- o Anne Kawalec added that E911 services are not the only emergency response. For example, Ada County has county emergency management, not just dispatch within the state.
- o The committee decided that there will be an IGC working group formed to work with the IECC in order to move toward the direction to provide geospatial technologies and data that meet the needs of the State of Idaho. The group will be headed by Janet Cheney from Bonneville County.
- Homeland Security
  - o Geospatial technologies are critical to homeland security.
  - o There was discussion regarding what the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) needs from the states. This information has been difficult to obtain.
  - o DHS tends to be very proprietary, and interfacing and coordinating with the agency has been very nearly impossible.

➤ **New Business**

- At Craig's suggestion, committee members agreed to having a social lunch at the 2007 Intermountain GIS Conference to be held in Donnelly.
- Linda Davis, Department of Water Resources and former IGC chair, reminded members that the technical working group (TWG) reports are really important and provide vital information to the committee.
  - o Nick advised he would be looking for TWG reports at the next IGC meeting.
- Frank Roberts, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, reminded everyone that there was some valuable training being offered at the Intermountain GIS Conference.
- Nathan updated the group about a scoping meeting, which would be held at least two weeks before the Intermountain GIS Conference.
- It was noted that the National Institute of Standards and Technology withdrew Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 55. As a result, the existing FIPS 55 guideline was being redesigned with significant changes. Please refer to: [http://idaho.gov/itrmc/committees/igc/minutes/m070208/fips55\\_change.pdf](http://idaho.gov/itrmc/committees/igc/minutes/m070208/fips55_change.pdf).

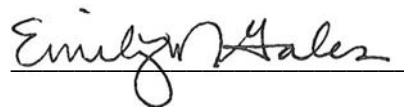
➤ **Scheduled Meeting Dates**

- Beginning March 15, 2007, meetings will run every other month, the third Thursday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Lantz, Freelance Writer



Emily Gales, ITRMC Assistant