Committee on State Cartography (CSC)
April 19, 2013
Conference Call

Present: Rob Roth (CSC Chair, UW-Madison Geography), Adam Derringer (Ayres Associates), Fred Iausly (Dane County), Ian Muehlenhaus (UW-La Crosse Geography), Mutlu Ozdogan (UW-Madison Forest and Wildlife Ecology), Kent Peña (NRCS), Curt Pulford (GIO), Tony Van Der Wielen (Legislative Technology Services Bureau)

SCO Staff: Howard Veregin, Brenda Hemstead, Tim Kennedy, Jim Lacy, Tim Kennedy, AJ Wortley

Absent: Nancy Von Meyer (Fairview Industries), John Ellingson (National Geodetic Survey)

Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Rob Roth.

Additions to Agenda
None

Minutes
Rob Roth motioned to approve minutes from December meeting, Mutlu Ozdogan seconded. Motion approved.

Governor’s Budget proposal: Potential Impacts for SCO

Reallocation of social security redaction fee to DOA

- Proposed budget would remove sunset on a current $5 social security redaction fee, and begin funneling this to Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) by 2015. Amounts to $5-6 million per year.
- According to the executive budget documents on the Department of Administration (DOA) Web site, the goal of reallocating the $5 fee is to support the creation of a statewide digital parcel map.
- Also requires DOA to establish an implementation plan for a statewide digital parcel map.
- DOA has stated that initially they will be seeking input from stakeholders: county surveyors, land information officers, register of deeds, state agency GIS staff, etc.
- Ed Eberle, Division Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations at DOA, has also stated that the parcel initiative will support a variety of derivative datasets: municipal boundaries, school districts, and public lands.
- Has also stated that much of the reallocated fee revenue would be targeted for investment at the local level.

Deer Trustee Report and land cover

- Budget bill authorizes DNR to implement the recommendations in the 2012 Deer Management Report (a.k.a “Kroll report”).
- Includes updating the 20-year old WISCLAND statewide land cover map.
According to the executive budget documents on the DOA Web site, the proposal includes reallocating existing expenditure authority and utilizing additional federal funds (“segregated funds”) from the DNR to update the state’s land cover map.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s analysis states:
- Funding would be used to acquire satellite imagery of the entire state.
- Automated computer processes would be run to derive land cover.
- DNR staff and potentially partners from the University of Wisconsin would perform ground truthing.

Result would be a statewide updated land cover database in a “GIS format” to support the needs of DNR, other government agencies, the University of Wisconsin, and a variety of other stakeholders, e.g., mapping wildlife habitat, planning recreational opportunities, managing timber resources, providing data to aid deer density evaluations and habitat suitability models.

Howard attended a session of the “Deer Trustee Report Implementation Plan” and heard the same message.

SCO along with Mutlu Ozdogan met with Kroll at his request to discuss land cover in January 2012, and feel this was partly responsible for the recommendations in the report.

Nothing official has been requested of SCO, although we hope to be involved in the project should the budget proposal be passed.

Forest and Wildlife Ecology staff met internally to discuss landcover needs, and they feel it would be productive to meet with DNR to discuss further. Mutlu thinks most of the responsibility at DNR falls on the Forestry Division. Action: Mutlu will follow up with Howard regarding a meeting with DNR.

Adam asked what the SCO’s role will be in the landcover project. Mutlu hopes the University (SCO and Forest and Wildlife Ecology) can take on the project. However, it is unknown at this point how DNR wants to proceed. SCO’s likely role would be coordination and publicity, not image analysis.

Action: Mutlu and Howard will provide a summary of any DNR meeting to the CSC.

Uncertainty

- There are many questions about the details of the Governor’s proposal, for example the processes to create statewide land cover and parcel maps are not spelled out in the budget bill.
- Also the bill is not yet law, and is currently in the process of being debated within the Joint Finance Committee as well as in public meetings.
- There is not necessarily unanimous support for all aspects of the bill, especially given some distrust of DOA intentions at the local level.
- And there are other proposals on the table to modify the Governor’s bill, including increasing the allocation to local governments, including language on data sharing, etc.
- If the bill is passed in the way it is written now, the SCO anticipates being involved in both the parcel and land cover projects.
- Fred noted there is a lot of uncertainty for Counties on some of the initiatives, unclear who is going to take on what roles in the future.
- The SCO is involved in all of these issues, and will continue to do their part to keep the community connected and aware of what is going on.
Update on DOA/SCO proposal to Public Service Commission (PSC) for statewide parcels

Background

- Since November 2009, Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) has received $4.5 million in grant funding to support broadband infrastructure development in Wisconsin.
- Part of a much larger nationwide effort led by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- In 2010 PSC received $175K to further improve the detail of broadband mapping work in Wisconsin.
- Those funds were specifically set aside for the DOA Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) (i.e., GIOs office) to work with PSC on statewide digital parcel map.
- Project ended in 2012 by then CIO (now departed) due to resource concerns.
- In an effort to save $175K in grant funding, staff from the DOA Division of Intergovernmental Relations (DIR) began discussing options with PSC last year.
- DIR then came to SCO for assistance developing the scope of a renewed PSC project.

Scope and details

- Main goal of the project is to produce a statewide parcel/address database for PSC needs.
- However, the project dovetails into the DOA-led Governor’s initiative on statewide parcels and an implementation plan (along with longer-term issues of maintenance and sustainability).
- A formal agreement between DOA and PSC is in the works.
- The project is a joint DOA-SCO partnership, with each group having different roles.
- Curt (GIO) is aware and supportive of this effort.
- Fred commented that we should get information out to the land information community sooner rather than later, so people know what’s going on. He wants to avoid getting the SCO pulled into the “suspicions” some people have toward the Department of Administration. Howard is concerned about raising expectations falsely before we know for certain the project will proceed.
- Curt suggests moving SCO from an ad hoc coordination role into a more formal role. He thinks that type of role would be welcomed by leaders at DOA.
- Action: Howard will follow up with Fred and Curt to explore SCO’s potential coordination role in more detail.

Update on “GeoDesign” activities (Rob Roth)

- GeoDesign is possible new certificate program on campus, being led by Howard and the Landscape Architecture department.
- GeoDesign broadly involves use of geospatial tools to support landscape architecture.
- If implemented, it would be an entirely online program, and tie together several UW System schools. Not “owned” by UW-Madison.
- This is currently in the early proposal stage, with implementation a couple of years away.
- Rob feels the role of SCO is to help ensure the curriculum matches the needs of the broader (non-academic) community.
- Ian expressed interest in participating as the effort moves forward.
- Tony mentioned his participation in the Penn State online Master’s program; if done right, the online method works very well.
• Adams likes the idea of potentially bringing in private sector instructors to assist.
• Action: CSC members should get in touch with Howard if they are interested in being part of an informal survey to explore GeoDesign needs.

2013-2016 strategic plan: discussion of process/timeline and involvement of CSC

• Current strategic plan ends in June 2013.
• SCO would like CSC input on the next plan, which should be complete by end of FY2013 (June 30).
• Proposed process/timeline:
  o SCO would like to have input from the CSC by the end of April. Share your ideas for projects, opinions about what our role should be, etc.
  o First draft created by SCO staff based on CSC input. Draft will be shared with CSC by the last week of May.
  o Meeting at the end of May or early June to discuss the draft plan.
• Ian thinks the timeframe sounds fine.
• Curt asked how adjustments will be made given all of the uncertainty of the items discussed earlier in the meeting. Howard explained the plan is fairly general in nature, deals with high-level issues.
• If something major changes, or some additional authority is assigned to the SCO, we can always go back and modify.
• Action: Ad hoc committee formed in December should meet in parallel while the SCO staff are drafting strategic plan.
• Action: CSC members should send their thoughts and ideas about SCO projects/role/etc. to Howard by April 30th.
• Action: Howard will send draft strategic plan to CSC members by the end of May (in advance of next meeting).

Mutlu Ozdogan departed at 1:00

Questions, comments, other agenda items

• Adam surveyed around 30 private organizations to learn how they utilize SCO services. 10 responded.
  o Wide range of responses, but Adam was generally surprised by the level to which private organization take advantage of SCO services and products.
  o However, 40% reported they are not using SCO products or services. Survey was brief, and did not get into potential reasons for this. (i.e., lack of awareness, relevance of products to their business, etc.)
  o Action: Adam will share a summary of survey results with Howard and Rob.
  o Tony asked Adam to share the survey questions and format, could be very helpful in reaching out to other constituencies.
• Howard suggested we need to revisit a broad survey on SCO services. This was last done as part of the 2006-2009 strategic planning process. SCO will consider it as part of the overall strategic planning process.
Next Meeting

- We will target late May or early June. **Action: SCO staff will send a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.**

Summary of Actions

1. Mutlu will follow up with Howard regarding a meeting with DNR.
2. Mutlu and Howard will provide a summary of any DNR meeting to the CSC.
3. Howard will follow up with Fred and Curt to explore SCO’s potential coordination role in more detail.
4. Committee members should get in touch with Howard if they are interested in being part of an informal survey to explore GeoDesign needs.
5. *Ad hoc* committee formed in December should meet in parallel while SCO staff are drafting the strategic plan.
6. CSC members should send their ideas about SCO projects/role/etc. to Howard by April 30th.
7. Howard will send draft strategic plan to CSC members by the end of May (in advanced of next meeting).
8. Adam will share a summary of survey results with Howard and Rob.
9. Howard will share first draft of strategic plan at the end of May.
10. SCO staff will send a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting in late May or early June.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.