

**Maine GeoLibrary Board**  
**GIS Strategic Plan and Integrated Land Records Information System**  
**Report on the Conference Call with the Federal Government**  
**Representatives| June 26, 2008**

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**Project:** Strategic and Business Plan Development in Support of the NSDI Future Directions Fifty States Initiative & Property Boundary Data Capture and Integration Framework

**Attendees:** There were 14 federal government attendees at the meeting. (Please refer to the attached list of attendees – Attachment A.)

**Discussion:**

▶ **Introductions**

The Forum was opened by Dan Walters, the USGS liaison for the State of Maine, who explained the purpose of the forum and how it was to be conducted. He then introduced the attendees and the Sewall Team. At that point, he turned the meeting over to the Sewall Team who went through 3 presentations for the group.

▶ **Presentations**

Bruce Oswald of Oswald Associates began with an overview of the project and a discussion of the strategic planning efforts. Rich Sutton of Reference Standard then did a presentation on the integrated land records portion of the project. Bruce Oswald then provided the group with a presentation outlining the results of the forums held in Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, and South Portland as well as a report on the results of the on-line survey.

▶ **Round Robin**

Dan Walters then conducted a round robin with each federal representative. He asked each one identify current projects, new projects, and ideas for better coordination. He noted that he wanted to cover those areas to examine potential synergies (e.g., data, services) so that Geolibary Board can plan resources for next 3 to 5 years.

The following includes the responses from each of the attendees:

**George Tabora – National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency**

George noted that he manages the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) which distributes HSIP data. He stated that “HSIP Gold” data is a combination of government and private sector commodity data (which has been contracted for through vendors such as NAVTEQ). George stated that there are contract and security restrictions on a portion of this data. However, he noted that the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data Working Group’s (HIFLD) goal was to distribute data categorized as ‘HSIP Freedom’ data to state and local governments. George went on to indicate that HIFLD was the data broker for the federal community. He stated that there were 330 critical infrastructure feature classes and that the group had identified up to 150 that could be released to state and local level with the remainder kept at the federal level. For instance, he indicated that police and fire stations could be distributed. He also noted that some state and local data had been improved by their consultant (to improve it’s positional accuracy to rooftop accuracy). He indicated that he anticipated a 2009 release of that data. He noted that they had partnered with 45 states and that their 133 Cities and Cross Border Infrastructure Program could potentially provide some imagery for Maine. He indicated that he didn’t believe that they used parcel data much for their current projects.

**Eric Martinson – Dept. of Homeland Security**

Eric indicated that they don’t use parcel data very often. He stated that their data interests revolved around more general statewide data. He indicated that they were up in their

Augusta field office for the recent flooding helping their mitigation division put together proposals for buying people out of flood prone areas rather than fixing up their existing properties. He noted that statewide parcel data would have been useful for that effort. He stated that he wasn't aware of any specific projects that had been proposed that were relevant to Maine at present. He noted that they just acquired hi-resolution orthoimagery for Fort Kent.

#### **Bob Houston – US Fish & Wildlife**

Bob stated that they were working on wildlife refuges, fisheries, law enforcement and a coastal program. He noted that they need parcel data for continued land acquisition for protection of these areas. He also stated that they will be modeling for sea run and other fish (including existing, potential and contiguous) habitats. As part of this, he noted that they needed good base data (roads, LIDAR, slopes and elevation, NHD, land cover, imagery, land ownership). He also stated that they needed an inventory of barriers such as culverts and dams.

#### **Binke Wang – Penobscot Nation**

Binke indicated that he didn't have anything to add to the discussion at that time.

#### **Ray Voyer – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service**

Ray indicated that they had soils (SURGO) data (currently best accessed from the web-based data mart). He also noted that they were currently working on the watershed boundary dataset where they were performing some minor edits related to the watershed names (they expect national certification of it this summer). He stated that they would like the watershed data merged with the NHD into a common database. He stated that they were hungry for a land records system as they had a number of cost share programs in which they were contracting with private land owners (easements, conservation reserve, farmland protection, and wetland restoration).

#### **Tom Giffen – US Environmental Protection Agency**

Tom stated that they were working on a mercury model for atmospheric deposition, impaired water evaluation, water sampling, optical sampling and beach monitoring. He noted that they were developing level 4 eco-regions in Maine and were working on coastal no-discharge zones. He stated that they had a project to look at lakes and streams for a national state of the environment and that they had developed a mobile survey/ArcPad application. Tom indicated that they had developed a metadata validation tool in Arc GIS and uses the ESRI portal toolkit. He made it clear that this was internal to EPA, but fed the GeoSpatial One-Stop. He stated that he would like to see higher resolution land use/land cover data. He noted that he was working with MA and NH on better resolution data watersheds for storm water evaluations and targeting.

#### **Karen Anderson – National Park Service**

Kate Anderson, who is the GIS coordinator at Acadia Nation Park, stated that there were initiatives for data standards for buildings, trails and cultural resources within the park's boundaries. She noted that they were beginning habitat mapping for benthic habitats which was being pushed by the ocean policy initiative. She indicated that they were trying to provide GIS services to light users (non-ArcGIS) and were experimenting with Google Earth and virtual computing labs at the university. She stated that she wasn't aware of any Park Service-wide data project except for the building's data. She also indicated that they were doing some cost sharing with local towns and noted that they did 5' contours with Bar Harbor recently. She also stated that national vegetative class system was done for the park area and that they completed a land use change project using 3 sets of Landsat data (30 m. resolution). She went on to note that boundaries are now being surveyed and delivered in GIS formats and that there was a lot of research relating to air quality deposition underway. She stated that she was interested in getting better elevation data to support their modeling projects.

### **Cindy Sessions – USDA Farm Service Agency**

Cindy introduced Kent Williams who was a program manager to review their current situation. Kent explained that NAIP orthoimagery (leaf on) was flown in 2007 for the full state at 1 meter resolution. He noted that they had modified their cost share model as well as the cycles and parameters of the program. He stated that the program agriculture areas in states every year at 2 meter resolution. However, now they are doing 1 meter resolution. He noted that, under the new parameters, they will fly the state every 2 years and provide the state and other federal agencies to partner with them to acquire imagery for the entire state. Kent indicated that the state was 55% agriculture so that only 45% would have to be bought by the state and federal partners with the next cycle being in 2010. If the other federal partners agree to partner on the program, the state could get the entire state for ~\$35,000. If they desire to go for 4-Band imagery, that would cost an additional ~\$90,000.

### **Michelle Dionne – Wells National Estuarine Reserve**

Michelle stated that she runs the research at the Reserve. She noted that there are 27 coastal reserves around the country which includes lots of science based coastal management. She indicated that they have several GIS staff and are interested in various types of spatial data for coastal watersheds. In particular, she stated that they would like higher resolution (2') contours of coastal areas. In addition, she noted that they are interested in obtaining LIDAR data for 1' contours. She explained that the need for this data comes from their need to study coastal areas in response to the sea level rise. As a result, they are also studying groundwater recharge, impervious surfaces as well as sewage treatment in these areas. She indicated that they just finished mapping the bridging marshes in Maine and need high resolution imagery and parcel data to study the development in the shoreline zone. She noted that, for several years, they had sent interns out to towns to digitize tax maps, however, they no longer do that and have a real need for parcel based data.

### **Matt Walsh – Army Corps of Engineers**

Matt stated that he was a GIS specialist for all of New England and worked out of MA. He noted that they worked on formerly used defense sites, worst case scenarios for hurricane inundation, etc. He indicated that he used the USGS DEM's for that work and was grateful for the MEGIS data as well. Lastly, he stated that they do have a real estate group that manages army reserve and recruiting centers and have some need for cadastral data at formerly used dense sites.

### **Ed Capone - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency**

Ed stated that he was with the Weather Forecast Service and did the daily forecasting of river stages throughout New England. He indicated that there were 25 forecast points. He stated that they were trying to tie in estuarine modeling with river forecast modeling and were looking for LIDAR data for inundation and flood potential mapping. He also indicated that they weren't actively pursuing the LIDAR at this point, but were defining their needs first. Lastly, he noted that they were interested in obtaining high resolution data downstream of high hazard dams.

### **Scott Mowry**

Scott had to leave the session before he had a chance to speak.

### **► Meeting Closure**

Dan Walters closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and providing their valuable input.

**Attachment A – Meeting Attendees**

Maine Federal Teleconference Attendees – 6/26/08

George Tabora – National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Eric Martinson – Dept. of Homeland Security

Bob Houston – US Fish & Wildlife

Binke Wang – Penobscot Nation

Ray Voyer – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Tom Giffen – US Environmental Protection Agency

Karen Anderson – National Park Service

Cindy Sessions – USDA Farm Service Agency

Kent Williams – USDA Farm Service Agency

Michelle Dionne – Wells National Estuarine Reserve

Matt Walsh – Army Corps of Engineers

Ed Capone - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency

Scott Mowry - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency

Dan Walters – US Geological Survey

Bruce Oswald – Oswald Associates, James W. Sewall Co.

Richard Sutton – Reference Standard, Jame W. Sewall Co.