

Maine GeoLibrary Board
GIS Strategic Plan and Integrated Land Records Information System
Information Gathering Forums + Meetings SUMMARY

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

Forums to date:

Auburn	April 29
Augusta	April 30
Bangor	May 6
South Portland	May 7

Planned

Northern Maine Electronic Records Workshop	May 20
Maine Title Standards Meeting	May 21
Maine Revenue Service	June 13

Attendance:

Overall attendance to date (05/17) for forums amounts to approximately **130 stakeholders** representing

- Federal government agencies
- State government agencies
- County deeds registries
- County emergency management agencies
- Municipal assessors and other officials
- Regional councils of government
- Non government agencies
- Commercial interests
- Educational interests
- Interested citizens

Findings Highlights to Date

A core set of issues and needs has become apparent throughout these forums. These include:

- Data
 - Better and more transparent access to data
 - More frequent and automatic notification of changes and updates
 - Easier services for generating and understanding metadata
 - Expansion of the parcel grants program
 - More frequent and accurate aerial imagery
- Training and Access
 - Accessible services and/or staff dedicated to exposing data and services to novice users
 - Specific training for underexposed stakeholders: deeds registries, legislators
 - Dedicated regional service centers providing walk in services
 - More educational programs for communities
 - Development of more targeted and easy to use web applications
- Coordination and sharing

- Better data sharing between state agencies
- Better data sharing and consistency between municipalities and the LURC townships
- Active efforts to collaborate between municipalities and counties around land records standardization
- Fuller utilization of growing capabilities within the educational sector for data development and distribution
- Standards development for additional layers – easements especially – to allow these to be collected and shared
- Communication
 - Better utilization of online resources to ask questions of the Maine GIS users community and get specific answers
 - More awareness of GeoLibrary activities
 - Fuller awareness of grant opportunities and grants that have been awarded
 - More complete ongoing awareness of regionalized land records data initiatives
- GIS Software and Support
 - Closer examination of enterprise/bulk licensing of commercial software to maximize access to functionality by greatest number of users
 - Better use of web-based mapping software and services (Google Earth, Maps, Microsoft Virtual Earth/Live Local) to distribute and access complex GIS data

Integrated Land Records System Specifics

- Moving toward a statewide system will primarily involve deeper collaboration between County Registries of Deeds and Municipal Assessors
- A unique parcel identifier, if effectively and dynamically integrated, would provide considerable benefits to multiple stakeholders in government and the private sector
- Serious concerns exist regarding parcel geometry data quality, especially at municipal boundaries and in less populated areas
- Privacy of landowner information is a concern, more intensely felt in the north than in the populated southern part of the state
- Benefits may be derived from leveraging existing high quality data resources at the Deeds Registries (primarily registered surveys) and integrating these more fully with GIS data
- Legislation to require electronic submittal of plans and surveys would present a significant opportunity for integration with the GIS community
- Funding opportunities based on permitting surcharges at the local level seem to offer more potential than transfer tax additions at the county level
- More fundamental integration of GIS data (parcels with wetlands, floodzones, shoreland zones, vernal pools, etc) will cement the utility of these data as a reference standard and improve quality and efficiency of permitting and regulation