

Black Hills Digital Mapping Association
2050 West Main Street, Suite 1
Rapid City, SD 57702
Organization Web Address: <http://www.sdgs.usd.edu/bhdma/>
Award No. 05HQAG0122

Final Grant Report
June 27, 2006
2005-2006 NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program
Category 3: Geographic Information Coordination

Project Leader: Jenifer Sorensen
Black Hills Digital Mapping Association Secretary/Treasurer
(605) 641-2581
jensorensen@rushmore.com

Collaborating Organizations:

State of South Dakota Bureau of Information Technology
Stephen Daw, South Dakota State GIS Coordinator
(605) 773-4750
stephen.daw@state.sd.us

State of South Dakota Geological Survey
Tim Cowman, Natural Resources Administrator
Akeley-Lawrence Science Center, USD
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 677-5227
tcowman@usd.edu

Pennington County/City of Rapid City GIS Division
Don Jarvinen, GIS/LIS Specialist
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4120
don.jarvinen@ci.rapid-city.sd.us

Project Narrative:

The purpose of the grant was to provide funds to sponsor a two-day GIS conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. Planning for this meeting was organized by the Association's Board of Directors, which includes two officers (President and

Secretary/Treasurer) and seven Representatives (Federal Government, Local Government, State Government, Academic, Tribal, Private Sector, and Member-at-Large Representatives). The focus of the conference design includes speaker presentations and training related specifically to National Spatial Data Infrastructure priorities, including metadata documentation, standards implementation, and GIS community framework development. The grant has the following specific goals:

- Serve as a model for other geospatial organizations in South Dakota and surrounding region to follow regarding interagency coordination and cooperation.
- Increase membership involvement in the Association.
- Provide a forum for multi-agency cooperation and involvement related to spatial technologies and implementation in South Dakota and demonstrate the existing interagency coordination capabilities of the Association.
- Improve data access and use by disseminating information on available data sources.
- Increase participation in national geospatial data programs by presenting information on these programs and how they can benefit government agencies.
- Provide education and training opportunities to conference attendees, specifically in the areas of metadata documentation and standards implementation.

From January 2006 until the conference on May 2-3, 2006, the Association's Board of Director's met five times. During these meetings, much of the conference planning was completed. Both the President and Secretary/Treasurer and several Representatives devoted additional time to organizing the conference. Judging by the turnout and the verbal feedback received, the conference was a strong success. Included with the hard copy of this report is a copy of the conference agenda. One of the highlights of the training workshops included metadata training. This topic of training has been requested multiple times at previous Association conferences, and the workshop itself was well attended. Overall attendance at the conference reached 110 people, excellent for this Association's membership base. Other well-attended training sessions included "Geodatabase Basics", "Data Sharing Panel Discussion", "GPS/GIS Field Data Collection Techniques", and "Putting Your GIS Data on the Internet".

The conference itself met most of the grants specific goals (as listed above). The Black Hills Digital Mapping Association provided a model for interagency cooperation and coordination by including five non-profit or government agencies in the planning and execution of the conference. Both the State Commissioner of the Bureau of Information and Technology and the State GIS Coordinator were speakers at the conference, and provided an overview of the status of state government and digital spatial technology. At least 20 new members were added to the organization through involvement in this conference. The workshop on data sharing provided attendees the opportunity to learn more about data access online and the workshop on putting data online showed one way that geospatial information can be made available publicly. Training was offered in both metadata documentation and standards implementation.

This conference has increased regional coordination between state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations. The best practice that increases coordination is steady and open communication. By involving state government leaders in the Association's activities, they are able to provide updates to local government, and

local government is able to provide input as to what direction they want to see the state progress. Communication between state and local government agencies regarding GIS in South Dakota remains limited, however, because no formal forum for regular discussion and goal-setting has been established. It is the goal of the Association to continue to foster the level of communication needed to build stronger relationships between state and local government.

Next Steps:

A board meeting was held in June 2006 to review the success of the conference and to provide feedback on areas that can be enhanced in the future. The Association plans to hold another two-day conference in 2007, hopefully offering training sessions again as well as speaker presentations. A State GIS meeting is planned for this fall. The Association Board will be involved in the planning of that meeting, and hopefully GIS organizations within South Dakota will be given the opportunity to formally discuss State goals with State GIS leaders.

Resources available to the Association proved satisfactory. The Association board is considering a small annual membership fee to provide the organization with a small revenue stream for administrative expenses.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program:

The Cooperative Agreements Program has been instrumental in furthering the grant goals of the Black Hills Digital Mapping Association, specifically by providing funding for training and conference facility expenses. The grant proposal design provided plenty of structure to establish solid, attainable goals that could be executed in the grant's timeframe. A weakness of the program is continued communication with grant administrators. When assistance was made available, it was effective. The CAP Kick-Off meeting would better serve the grant administrators if further details were provided on financial matters, specifically the online Payment Management System.