

Idaho's Interim Project Report – 2008 CAP Category 3

Date: August 29, 2008

Agreement Number: 08HQAG0007

Project Title: Idaho Geospatial Enterprise Strategic and Business Plans Development
Interim Report

Organization: Gail M. Ewart, State of Idaho, Dept of Administration, Idaho Geospatial Office, <http://gis.idaho.gov> and <http://cio.idaho.gov>

Principal Investigator: Gail M. Ewart, 208.332.1879, gail.ewart@cio.idaho.gov

Collaborating Organizations: Idaho Geospatial Committee, Nick Nydegger (Chair), (208-272-4182, nick.nydegger@id.ngb.army.mil, <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/committees.htm>)

Project Narrative

The project is more than half completed, and our efforts are taking tangible form. The draft Strategic Plan is attached.

We began by forming an executive steering committee of six to help guide project activities on an operational level. Together we developed an RFQ to solicit proposals from qualified consultants. We selected Crowell-Schulte IT Consultants to guide our planning process, write the plans and help with presentation and approval of the steering committee—the Idaho Geospatial Committee.

After securing a consultant, we held a kick-off meeting and began arranging the six stakeholder meetings. I enlisted six local GIS professionals who were most influential in their areas to identify a venue, a caterer, and help with outreach. This approach proved immensely helpful in getting the right folks to the meetings and accomplishing all the arrangements within a short period of time.

In June, we facilitated six stakeholder meetings in different parts of Idaho. We added an executive session in Boise at the end. Over 110 people attended the meetings, and all stakeholder groups were represented. In addition, we distributed a simple survey to collect basic information about GIS capabilities. Organizations, including the Idaho State Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS), the Assessors of the Idaho Association of Counties, a few legislators, federal agencies not recently engaged in statewide coordination, and members of the Idaho Technology Resource Management Council, attended the meetings, are engaged, and some will actively help. We took notes at each session and have posted them and related materials on the community's website.

A strategic plan has been drafted and is being reviewed by the ESC and IGC members. The preliminary draft pulls together the input collected from the meetings, subsequent conversations, and the survey. It contains recommendations and approaches that speak to our weaknesses and challenges and builds on our strengths and existing capabilities.

The preliminary draft is rapidly becoming the first circulation draft. That draft will be distributed widely for comment early next week. The attached version includes many of the ESC comments but not quite all.

With more lead time, we would have intensified outreach efforts for the stakeholder meetings. We noted that many state agencies only had one or two attendees from their main office, while regional offices largely went unrepresented. Our primary means of communication has been the GIS community listserv, and unfortunately, a substantial number of GIS users are not subscribers. To augment that strategy, we also asked other list administrators to repeat the announcements to their members. Some followed through and some did not.

The collaborative approach, meeting materials & preparation, and facilitation by the consultant all contributed to the overall success of the meetings. Our open invitation to provide feedback has been exercised by several attendees. Direct contact requesting survey responses have met with good success; however, a shortage of time has limited those contacts. Better survey response could have better informed the plan.

Next Steps

The next step is distributing the draft Strategic Plan for comment and additional input during September. The final draft Strategic Plan will be presented to the steering committee (IGC) at its October meeting for its recommendation for approval by the Idaho Technology Resource Management Council. Meanwhile, we will begin work on the Business Plan.

No additional assistance beyond that contained in the project plan is anticipated.

Timeline

The project is on track and adhering closely to the original schedule. We expect to complete the project on the scheduled completion date.

Attachments

Draft Strategic Plan