

**NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
50 States Initiative**



Project Name: Fostering Illinois' SDI: Developing a Strategic and Business Plan, and a Revitalized coordinating Council

Agreement Number: 07HQAG0041 Interim Report

Report Date: October 5, 2007

Organization: Illinois Geographic Information Council
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Collaborating Organizations:

Office of the Governor
Congressman Paul D. Froehlich, 56th District
Central Management Services(Office of the CIO)
Terrorism Task Force (54 member organizations)

Illinois GIS Association (770 members-8 Board of Directors=4 municipalities, 1 county, 1 state, 2 scientific surveys) www.ilgisa.org
Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association
City of Chicago
Champaign County
United States Geological Survey
United States National Geodetic Survey
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Lincoln Land Community College
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Revenue
Illinois State Geological Survey
Illinois Department of Transportation
Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc
ESRI, Inc.
GIS Solutions, Inc.

Project Narrative:

Two of the primary goals of this project are 1. To provide strategic direction in maintaining a viable coordinating council which will be the principal geospatial oversight body in Illinois; and 2. Create a strategic and business plan for Illinois which identifies the needs for enhanced geospatial coordination and integration with all stakeholders including all levels of government, the private sector, and academia. By using the National State Geographic Information Council's (NSGIC) *Fifty States Initiative* as a model, the GIS Strategic Planning Committee is focused on the development of practical strategies to quickly move down a successful path. The revised strategy and business plans will serve to guide future efforts concerning the fiscal, administrative and technical requirements of an integrated geospatial technology infrastructure for Illinois.

A. Summary of Project Activities

1. Pre-award activities. In October 2006 a core group of GIS professionals met to discuss the status of geospatial efforts in Illinois. This group became the GIS Advisory Committee (GISAC). The group includes:

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The GISAC decided that it was essential that Illinois apply for one of the CAP grants under category three “Fifty States Initiative”. Although, Illinois has a long history of geospatial success stories, presently three fundamental coexisting geospatial coordination activities have mixed reviews. 1) ILGIC is a strong administrative place-holder in its legislated capacity, but the status and impact of ILGIC have waned considerably since its inception in 1995; 2) a state clearinghouse is firmly established, evolving, and ready for expansion; and 3) the State of Illinois embarked on a new Information Technology Governance (ITG) model (in 2003) with the consolidation of IT infrastructure and a shared services/enterprise approach for the coordinated delivery of services. This activity impacts the future of geospatial coordination activities within state government.

Sometimes “one needs to step back in order to move forward”. This is the case when embarking in the geospatial arena in Illinois. In January 2007 the GISAC invited David Mockert, of Wisconsin, Jill Saligoe-Simmel of Indiana, and Tim Haithcoatt of Missouri, to address the GISAC. The purpose of the meeting was to generate an objective venue where we could discuss different approaches taken by each of our neighboring states regarding coordination activities, coordination bodies, best practices, mistakes, unintended consequences, and situations beyond human control. The members of GISAC had experience with other state approaches, however, it was important to recalibrate and take a fresh look at the information.

The GISAC submitted a 50-States Initiative and Illinois received one of the awards. Post-award activities have included the following.

2. Attendance at the NSGIC Spring Meeting in Annapolis, MD (March 2007). This meeting was attended by Sheryl Oliver, Robert Krumm and Shelley Silch, and Illinois representatives attended the sessions concerning the Fifty States Strategic Planning Process.
3. Contracted with Northern Illinois University (NIU), Center for Governmental Studies (CGS). The CGS at Northern Illinois was hired to facilitate upcoming meetings, document meetings, post material, and help write the GIS strategic and business plans. NIU has a long relationship with the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA), as the CGS has served as the administrative support arm for the ILGISA for many years. For this effort, the CGS was contracted to facilitate the stakeholder meetings.
4. Preparation of first stakeholder meeting by GISAC and NIU. The first and largest of the stakeholder meetings was scheduled for July 25, 2007. Plans for the meeting

included identifying the stakeholder groups and criteria for selection, identifying the key personnel within stakeholder groups, defining contact protocol for invitees (personal invitations, listservers, phone,) developing material for the audience and selecting a facilitation model.

4. First Stakeholder Meeting, July 25, 2007. The first stakeholder meeting was held in Champaign, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: 1. Garner from the stakeholders their perspective and guidance on developing a GIS strategic plan; and 2. from the stakeholder participants, nominate a GIS strategic planning committee to take the process forward. Approximately 150 stakeholders attended this event.

The strategic planning exercise for identifying and prioritizing needs was done using a very interesting facilitation method known as Hoshin. This method of facilitation is a practical option assisting communication among diverse groups of people. The Hoshin process stems from the Japanese term which literally means “management of control” or “direction”. It is a systematic planning methodology for defining long-range objectives. It is simple, straightforward and participant-driven. Hoshin is intended to produce rapid outcomes in which all participants are invested. This process was chosen because there was such large and diverse attendance, and time was limited. All attendees get the opportunity to participate in a silent and nonthreatening manner.

During the strategic planning exercise the participants were asked one question “As Illinois' GIS Stakeholders, what issues and activities do you think need to be addressed for statewide GIS coordination”. Everyone in the room was supplied with 3x5 post-it-notes. Each participant was encouraged to write as many responses or ideas as they wanted, with one response per note. Each participant placed their notes on one of the walls in the meeting room. Then, all participants were asked to organize all, or as many of the notes as possible into common themes. Participants were encouraged to sort the notes, step back and observe the process, and then sort the notes again if they wanted to. During this process, there is no group discussion allowed at the “sorting wall.” This process could take anywhere from 1 to 3 hours, but the outcome was that there were distinct groupings of items and everyone had the opportunity to read what others had written. The beauty of this exercise is that no one individual or group of individuals dominates. No one issue immediately takes up a lot of time while others get short shrift. Every post-it-note and therefore every idea is recorded and captured. Hundreds of post-its later, nine categories emerged. These categories were then prioritized by participants as they placed colored stick-um dots on their most prized category. Categories 1-9 are: organization/structure/policy, funding, standards and accuracy, data sharing and distribution, data issues, education and training, imagery, communication, legislative issues, resources. These categories would be further refined by the GIS Strategic Planning Committee.

5. Selection of GIS Strategic Planning Committee. Selection of the GIS Strategic Planning Committee (GISSPC) was accomplished as follows. At the July meeting, stakeholders were asked to make nominations based on who they thought would meet criteria set forth, or they could self nominate. Professional criteria included; representation from diverse stakeholder categories as well as diverse business functions,

and representatives with a wide range of experience. Personal characteristics included; time and passion, open-mindedness and flexibility. Nomination forms were provided on our website. The GISAC allowed 1 week to receive and review nominations. At that time the GISAC selected the following committee.

GIS Strategic Planning Committee

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sheryl Oliver | Steering Committee |
| Rob Krumm | Steering Committee |
| Shelley Silch | Steering Committee |
| Joye Baker | Adams County |
| Mark Becker | Hamilton County |
| Tom Berns | Berns Clancy & Assoc. |
| Shawn Blobaum | Bruce Harris & Associates |
| Dennis Bomke | Illinois EPA |
| Jim Conlon | GIS Solutions, Inc |
| Max Dieber | UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs |
| Bill Faedtke | DuPage County |
| Peter Ferretti | Village of Barrington Hills |
| Fred Halenar | City of Champaign |
| Greg Johnson, GISP | Will County |
| Larry Hanson | City of Chicago |
| Mark Kinkade, CIO | IDOT |
| Mike Koutnik | ESRI |
| Molly Mangan | Even Keel Strategies |
| Thomas Medder | Southwestern Illinois RC&D |
| Pete Piet | City of Elmhurst |
| Vasudha Pinnamaraju | City of Decatur |
| Patrick Poepping | Poepping Stone Bach & Assoc |
| Diane Redwitz | Kankakee County Highway Department |
| Marilyn O. Ruiz, PhD | UIUC School of Veterinary Medicine |
| Jeffrey L. Simpson | Effingham County |
| Mark Toalson | Champaign County RPC |
| Dan Wilcox, CIO | Illinois Department of Agriculture |
| Sergeant Christopher Young | 5th WMD CST, IL ARNG |

The GISSPC is charged with working through the facilitated strategic planning process and structuring the GIS strategic and business plans.

6. First GIS Strategic Planning Committee Meeting. The first GISSPC meeting was held on August 28, 2007 at the Department of Natural Resources in Springfield, Illinois. The committee was provided with the information derived from the July 25, 2007 stakeholder meeting using the Hoshin method of facilitation. It included every item that was contributed by the participants. The issues are listed in priority order as

determined by the participants and were refined by the GISSPC (document upon request). Priorities 1-9: organization/structure/policy, funding, standards and accuracy, data sharing and distribution, data issues, education and training, imagery, communication, legislative issues, resources. A SWOC analysis was done (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges which face GIS coordination within the state of Illinois (document upon request). The afternoon was spent on developing a broad vision for GIS coordination.

7. NSGIC Meeting. It is important that new GIS professionals be exposed to NSGIC and the organizations goals and objectives. The GISAC believed that this was an essential educational opportunity for members of the committee. Seven members of the committee attended the NSGIC Annual Meeting in Madison, WI (Sept. 2007) and for some of our members, the meeting was a complete eye-opener.
8. Second GIS Strategic Planning Committee. The second GISSPC was held on October 2, 2007 at Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois. This meeting focused on refining the vision statement, reviewing strategic issues, developing goals for each strategic issue and start developing action steps for each goal.

B. Key Accomplishments to Date

- Compilation of reference materials and website (www.ilgisa.org)
- Development of a large and diverse stakeholder event.
- A new Illinois USGS Liaison at the right moment in time.
- Communication of the GIS Initiative at conferences and other venues by key personnel across the state.
- Creation of a GIS Advisory committee and a GIS Strategic Planning Committee.
- Ongoing Strategic Planning Committee meetings
- Enthusiasm

C. Explain how statewide coordination has changed as a result of this project. This will be documented in the final report

D. How Inclusive is your effort? The GIS Initiative has been very inclusive, open, and comprehensive. Numerous and continuous attempts are being made to obtain representatives from utilities, real estate, and other industries.

E. What practices or activities led to success? What have not? This will be documented in the final report.

Next Steps

- Third GIS Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 6, 2007.
- Status of the “Fifty States Initiative” to be presented at the ILGSA annual conference November 26, 2007.
- Continue working with NIU, Center for Governmental Studies on the Strategic and Business planning document.
- Decide on governance model for the GIS Coordinating body, while working within the existing framework of ILGIC.
- Prepare for listening tours across Illinois to expose more remote areas to the “Fifty states initiative” and our goals and objectives.