

GIT GOVERNANCE

State Models and Best Practices

Arkansas

Prepared for
Wisconsin Geographic Information Office
Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office

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The **Wisconsin Geographic Information Office (GIO)** has the responsibility to coordinate Wisconsin's geospatial information activities, to implement standards to facilitate interoperability of information related to homeland security, to make recommendations on awarding grants to fund geospatial data, and to create information sharing agreements with state, local and tribal governments.

The **Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office (SCO)** is a unit within the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With an outreach mission, the SCO gathers, maintains and disseminates information about mapping and geo-spatial data in the state.

The **Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility (LICGF)** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison provides research, training, and outreach in the use of land and geographic information systems while focusing on land records modernization, land and natural resource management applications, and the use of information for land-use decision-making.

The **US Geological Survey (USGS)** has realigned its spatial programs into a National Geospatial Program Office (NGPO), bringing The National Map, Geospatial One-Stop, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee into a single program office. With the creation of the NGPO, the essential components of delivering the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and capitalizing on the power of place will be managed as a unified portfolio that benefits the entire geospatial community.

This state GIT governance profile was compiled as part of *GIT Governance: State Models and Best Practices*, a summary report in support of a proposal for a geographic information council for the State of Wisconsin (April 2007), and was prepared by L. Shanley, Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and National Consortium for Rural Geospatial Innovations (RGIS), with assistance from Shelby Johnson, State Geographic Information Coordinator, Arkansas Geographic Information Office, and with additional assistance from D. David Moyer, and Stephen J. Ventura, Director, Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison. This report was funded by a "50 States Initiative" grant award through the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) 2006 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP). This CAP grant – Agreement Number 06HQAG0109 – was administered through the Wisconsin Geographic Information Office (GIO), in cooperation with the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office (SCO).

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Arkansas GIT Governance

GEOSPATIAL COORDINATION STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

Statewide geospatial coordination efforts began in Arkansas in 1989 with the coalescence of an informal statewide GIS coordinators network. A year later, the Arkansas GIS Users Forum was formed to facilitate coordination under the direction of the State Department of Computer Services (DCS). In response to the efforts of the Forum's Executive Committee, the Arkansas Legislature statutorily established the State Mapping and Land Records Modernization Advisory Board in 1993.

Statewide GIS coordination efforts were expanded in 1997 with the statutory creation of the Office of State Land Information Coordinator, and with the replacement of the Land Records and Modernization Advisory Board by an independent Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB). Coordination was further strengthened by Governor Mike Huckabee's executive Order 99-07 in 1999, which required "state agencies, boards, and commissions to cooperate and participate with the Arkansas State Land Information Board" in regards to geospatial needs assessment, inventorying, strategic planning, and implementation. The Office of State Land Information Coordinator was renamed the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) under Act 1250 of 2001 and was established as a general revenue agency by Act 1589 of 2003.

Today, the authority for statewide GIS coordination activities in Arkansas is specified by Arkansas Code § 15-21-501 through § 15-21-504 (see Appendix). This legislation provides for a State Geographic Information Coordinator (GIC) and an Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO), which function under the Arkansas Office of Information Technology. The State Geographic Information Coordinator reports directly to the State Executive Chief Information

Officer, who in turn reports to the Governor. This legislation also authorizes the Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB), which is technically and administratively supported by the State Geographic Information Coordinator and AGIO. In addition, the SLIB has an Advisory Panel, which provides advice and feedback on SLIB programs and activities (see Figure 1). The SLIB plays an advisory role to the Governor, Legislature, the State CIO, and the Geographic Information Office (GIO) on matters of geospatial information systems and activities.

State Geographic Information Coordinator

The position of the Arkansas State Geographic Information Coordinator, originally called the Land Information Coordinator, was created in 1997 simultaneously with the creation of the Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB), although the Coordinator position was not filled until 1999. The Coordinator is assigned by the Executive Chief Information Officer and approved by the SLIB. The Coordinator provides administrative and technical support to the SLIB. In addition, the Coordinator, as mandated under Arkansas Code § 15-21-503, assists the SLIB with comprehensive planning and strategic implementation of geographic information systems and land information systems (GIS/LIS), with implementing informational and educational programs, and with coordinating intrastate geographic information systems and land information systems activities. Under the direction of the SLIB, the Coordinator also administers the daily operations for the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO).

Arkansas Geographic Information Office

The Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) was created by Act 1250 of 2001 and established as a general revenue agency by Act 1589 of 2003. Organized under the Office of Information Technology and currently authorized under Arkansas Code § 15-21-504 (see Appendix), the AGIO provides administrative and technical support to the Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB). The AGIO is comprised of five (5) full-time staff members, including the State Geographic Information Coordinator, a GIS program manager, two senior GIS analysts, and a GIS analyst.

In cooperation and coordination with the Coordinator and the SLIB, the AGIO coordinates framework data development and maintenance, provides technical processing of data sets,

evaluates adherence to state-approved mapping standards, and works with both state and federal stakeholders on statewide projects. In addition, the AGIO provides public outreach. It offers education and information regarding land and mapping data resources to various entities throughout the state.

Lastly, the AGIO administers and maintains “GeoStor”, which serves as the State of Arkansas’ Geospatial Data Clearinghouse and is a major component of Arkansas’ Spatial Data Infrastructure. GeoStor functions as both a distribution and application center; GeoStor enables local, state, and federal agencies to store and publish Arkansas GIS data that they produce for others to access. In addition, it provides a consolidated hosting service for interactive Internet mapping, allowing many agency websites to pull down common data from the same database over the Internet, thus reducing costs by eliminating duplication of effort. Users of GeoStor can view and download metadata, as well as search for, view, download, and analyze geospatial data in the datum/projection and software format of their choosing. Dynamic GIS data sets, such as City Boundaries, agency specific data such as environmental permit coordinates, or regulatory site coordinates, are updated frequently. Data sets that are less dynamic, such as road centerlines, are updated on an as needed basis, while most federal data, such as census data, are updated as they are published. Recent innovations to GeoStor include interactive online mapping capabilities, including ArcIMS map services, Web Map Services (WMS), and Web Feature Services (WFS).¹

State Geodetic Advisor

The National Geodetic Service (NGS) State Geodetic Advisor Program is “a cost-sharing program that provides a liaison between NOAA and the host state.” The NGS State Geodetic Advisor Liaison to Arkansas coordinates the state’s network of geodetic control monuments. This position is half-time, and is funded partially by the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department through general revenue and partially by the NGS. However, several stakeholders in the state are working towards making this a position full-time.

¹ Arkansas GeoStor 5.0 Website, About This Site: <http://www.geostor.arkansas.gov/Portal/ptk>

Arkansas State Land Information Board

In 1993, an interim board, the Mapping and Land Records Modernization Advisory Board, issued a report recommending the establishment of a state coordinating office and board. In response, the Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB) was authorized and established in 1997 under Arkansas Code § 15-21-501 (see Appendix). As the statewide coordinating body for geospatial information systems and activities in Arkansas, the SLIB “provid[es] basic spatial data infrastructure, coordinate[es] geographic information activities, and creat[es] short- and long-term strategies that will result in improved decision making, effective asset management, and reduced costs.”²

The Arkansas State Land Information Board (SLIB) is stakeholder governed; local and state governments, the private sector, and higher education are represented equally on the SLIB. The board is comprised of twelve (12) members, including:

- Three (3) state agency representatives;
- Three (3) city, county and local government representatives;
- Three (3) representatives from the private sector; and,
- Three (3) representatives from institutions of higher education.

The Governor appoints all board members, taking into consideration candidates suggested by the AGIO and the SLIB. Although by statute “all members of the board shall have knowledge of the use and usefulness of digital land and geographic information in the management of government and a general awareness of the role of mapping as related to that management,” not all appointees have GIS experience. This makes it difficult at times for them to follow board discussions; on the other hand, they may bring a fresh policy and business perspective to the discussions.

The twelve (12) board members serve four-year terms. With the exception of those members representing state agencies, no person is permitted to serve as a member of the board for more than two (2) consecutive terms, and terms are adjusted at time of appointment so that an equal

² Arkansas SLIB Website, About the Board: http://www.gis.state.ar.us/ASLIB_index.htm

number of members rotate out each year. The board elects a chairperson and a vice chairperson every year to oversee all board and committee meetings.

In order to build momentum, the SLIB met monthly from 1997 to 2004. In 2001, however, the AGIO was created. As the AGIO matured, staff members were able to assume many of the board's responsibilities, and thus by 2005, the board no longer needed to meet monthly and switched to a quarterly schedule.

The mission of the Arkansas State Land Information Board is to “[coordinate] geographic information programs and [deliver] data products and education, improving resource management, health, safety, and decision making for economic development across Arkansas.” As directed by statute, the SLIB is empowered to:

- “Provide a strategy for the continuing development of the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure;
- Develop standard metadata reports through the Arkansas Geographic Information Office; and
- Direct available funds to mapping and land records modernization projects at various levels of government.”

The board's duties, statutorily-defined by Arkansas Code § 15-21-504 (see Appendix), include but are not restricted to:

- “Identifying issues, problems, and solutions in implementing an overall Arkansas land and geographic resources information program, [and the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure];
- Identifying and clarifying the roles of participants;
- Developing an overall coordinating schedule for framework projects;
- Recommending methods of financing;
- Developing recommended priorities for the distribution of funds;
- Developing procedures for the inventory, storage, and distribution of spatial information;

- Implementing ongoing educational programs to promote understanding and productive use of spatial and land information systems by public and private entities and individuals; and
- Encouraging and coordinating collaborative GIS projects.”

However, the SLIB must follow the state rule making processes when developing policies and standards, and must seek the review and advice of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology prior to issuing guidelines, proposed legislation, and strategic plans.

The statute also requires the SLIB to enter into interagency agreements with the Office of Information Technology and other qualified entities for the purpose of providing geographic information systems services, and to establish a system of uniform fees or special charges to be paid by state and local government entities served, thus enabling the board to defray the cost of providing the services. While this charge-back policy is in place to date, costs associated with data development and clearinghouse functions have been supported instead by a combination of agency budget, grants funds, and capitol improvement funds. In addition, the board is authorized to contract with the Office of Information Technology to support GeoStor and to provide framework data and metadata for geographic information systems development to the public. The Office of Information Technology, in turn, is required to host the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure and provide technical support.

Finally, the SLIB also serves as a point of contact for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies in the development of Arkansas spatial data. The State Geographic Information Coordinator, along with all state agencies, boards, and commissions, are required by statute to cooperate and participate with the SLIB.

SLIB Advisory Panel

The SLIB Advisory Panel, which meets once a year, provides advice and feedback for SLIB and AGIO programs and activities. The panel is currently comprised of nineteen (19) members, who are picked by the board to represent a defined list of sectors, including: agri-education research, agri-business, city government, community development, county government, state agencies,

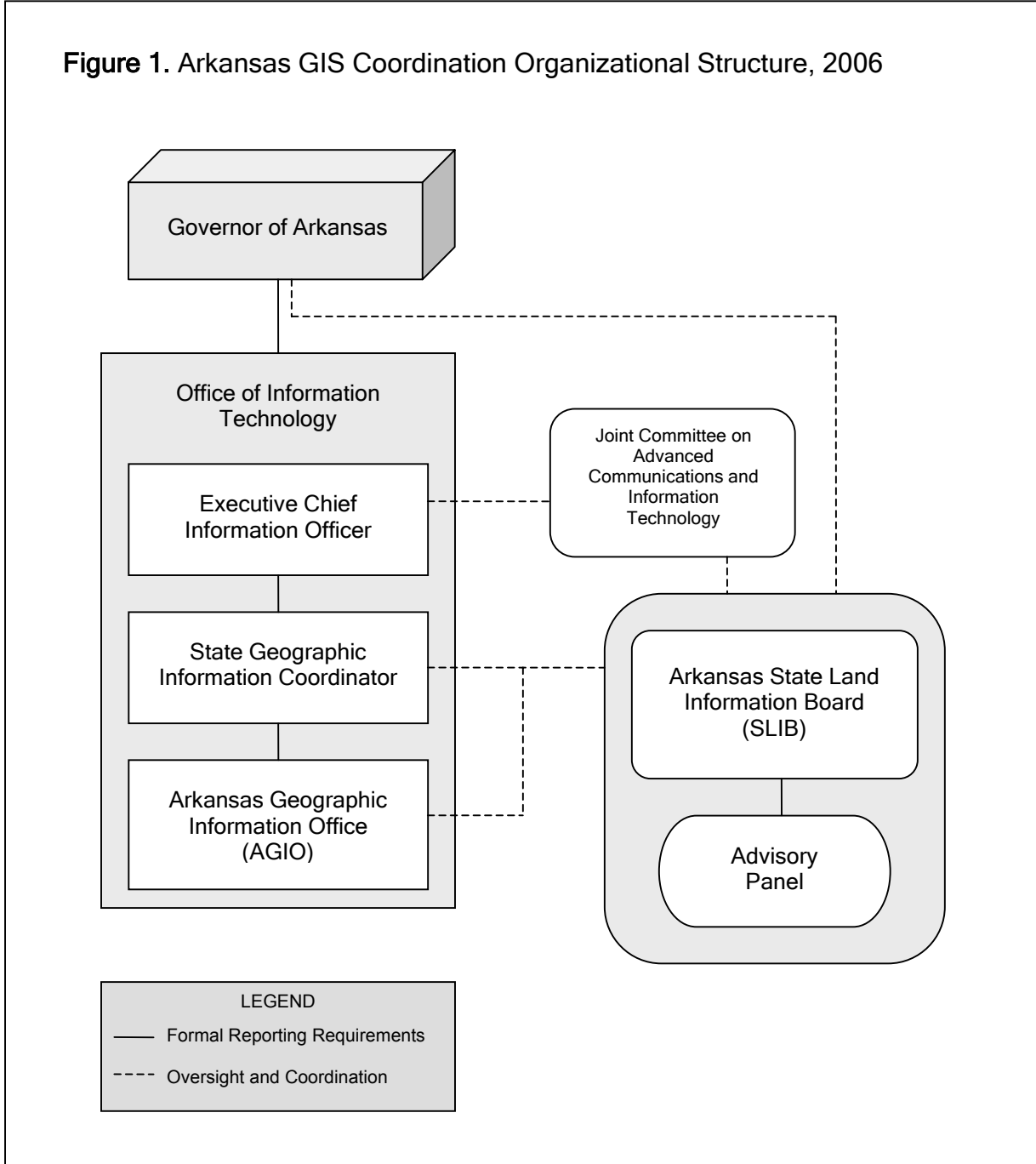
education (3: K-12, 2-year college, 4-year college), transportation, industry, utilities, real estate, homeland security, forestry, federal agencies (2), information technology, and surveying, engineering, and land development.

Arkansas GIS Users Forum

The mission of the AR GIS Users Forum is “to advance a common goal by the various agencies and institutions of state, federal, county, and local governments to acquire, apply, and share Geographic Information (GIS) automation technologies to the productive and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas.”³ The Arkansas GIS Users Forum hosts quarterly meetings as well as a major statewide conference every other year. While Forum meetings tend to focus on application development and technology transfer, the Forum-sponsored email listserver is a strong point of coordination.

³ Arkansas GIS Users Forum Website: <http://argis.ualr.edu/forum/>

Figure 1. Arkansas GIS Coordination Organizational Structure, 2006



FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Act 1589 of 2003 established the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) as a general revenue agency and appropriated funding from the State General Services Fund Account. The 85th session of the Arkansas General Assembly subsequently renewed this funding in 2005-2006, in part because of the efforts of the AGIO, which had provided high-profile GIS support for statewide public education reforms; the AGIO organized, prepared, and analyzed data for members of the legislature and the Governor's Office. The AGIO operating budget, which is administered by the Office of Information Technology, was \$719,066 (including grants, etc.) for 2005.

Funding for specific projects comes from the Geographic Information Systems Fund; as specified by Act 1249 of 2001, the GIS Fund consists of:

- Funds approved by the General Assembly;
- Grants, gifts, and donations received by the state for the purposes of this act;
- Agency investments toward enterprise GIS projects;
- Federal funds; and
- Any other funds allowable by law.

These funds, which are managed by the Executive CIO, are used to create, operate, and maintain the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure, and to create, update, maintain, and disseminate framework data as defined by statute. The annual operating cost of GeoStor is estimated at \$250,000 per year.

The AGIO maintains a staff of five (5) full-time employees, including the State Geographic Information Coordinator (1 FTE), a GIS program manager (1 FTE), two senior GIS analysts (2 FTEs), and a GIS analyst (1 FTE).

Estimated costs and staffing for AGIO geospatial coordination activities in 2006 are summarized in Table 1: Arkansas' Estimated Geospatial Coordination Costs and Staffing. As noted in Table

1, geospatial coordination activities in Arkansas cost approximately \$323,614 in total and required roughly 5 FTEs for 2006.⁴

Table 1. Arkansas’ Estimated Geospatial Coordination Costs and Staffing, 2006

GIS COORDINATION	Allocated Budget	Allocated Staff (FTE)
Governance Council (SLIB)	\$35,061	0.5
State Agency Coordination	\$128,246	2
Local Government Coordination	\$128,246	2
Federal and National Coordination	\$32,061	0.5
Total Coordination	\$323,614	5 FTE

While SLIB members do not receive compensation for their services, the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) and State Geographic Information Coordinator do provide administrative and technical support to the board, including but not limited to staff, hardware, software, and representation. Administrative costs for the State Land Information Board (SLIB) are covered by general revenue through the Office of Information Technology, and run approximately \$3000 per year, which includes board members’ travel expenses and miscellaneous expenses such as photocopies. Approximately \$32,061 per year was needed to cover staff support for the Board in 2006.

As noted in the previous section, the SLIB is authorized to enter into interagency agreements with the Office of Information Technology and other qualified entities for the purpose of providing geographic information systems services, and to establish a system of uniform fees or special charges to be paid by state and local government entities served, thus enabling the board to defray the cost of providing the services. However, costs associated with data development and clearinghouse functions have been supported through 2006 by a combination

⁴ The values presented for coordination costs and staffing are estimates only.

of agency budget, grants funds, and capitol improvement funds. In addition, the board is authorized to contract with the Office of Information Technology to support GeoStor and to provide framework data and metadata for geographic information systems development to the public. The Office of Information Technology, in turn, is required to host the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure and provide technical support.

The State Geodetic Advisor is a 0.5 FTE and is funded jointly by the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department and the National Geodetic Service at approximately \$50,000 per year under a five year agreement.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Arkansas has had a strong statewide approach to GIS coordination for over fifteen years, but still faces some difficult coordination issues. First, participation and interest by the GIS user community in multi-year, multi-phased coordination activities has been generally low. For example, working groups under the SLIB have not been active for two years. Despite a staff of five including the Coordinator, the AGIO is overcommitted. There is not enough staff time to provide broader coordination leadership, such as motivating participation in working groups under the SLIB or personally interacting with the SLIB Advisory Panel throughout the year. In the case of the Advisory panel, for example, this lack of regular interaction results in the Advisory Board largely responding to AGIO activities, rather than raising new concerns and initiatives for the AGIO to address.

The AGIO can sustain coordination infrastructure within its operating budget and underwrite the GeoStor geospatial data clearinghouse, but there is a great need for sustainable funding for framework data creation, update and maintenance, particularly at the local level. Currently, there are no official land information officers at the county level, and only two or three counties have GIS coordinators. Furthermore, no formal grant program exists for local governments. GIS projects at the local level have been conducted using one time capital expenditures from state general improvement funds.

Despite these barriers, the Arkansas coordination infrastructure has a strong foundation and is growing steadily. Perhaps one of its greatest strengths is that the Arkansas State Geographic Information Coordinator, the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, and the Arkansas State Land Information Board have a clear legislative mandate. The Coordinator, AGIO and SLIB worked hard to garner political support from former Governor Mike Huckabee and several state senators and representatives. To build this support, the AGIO actively looked for opportunities, solicited or otherwise, to provide GIS solutions for issues faced by the state and by the legislature, sometimes at the expense of other GIS projects and activities. For example, Arkansas had over 30,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees needing shelter, overwhelming state services. The AGIO sent two staff members to the state's Emergency Operations Center for two months, totaling 370 staff hours, to respond to map requests.

Second, the Arkansas Geographic Information Office is a dynamic office that engages its staff and the GIS community. AGIO practices a strong project management methodology and encourages team collaboration and flexibility in work-related tasks. If a need arises unexpectedly, the staff is empowered to address it. Furthermore, as Arkansas is a largely rural state, AGIO focuses its energies on developing local government GIS capacity, where the returns have been great. Similarly, SLIB members representing city, county, and local government have had a strong voice on the Board and offer an important perspective. Equal representation on the SLIB has worked well, particularly given that Arkansas does not have many local geospatial data producers.

GeoStor, the state's enterprise class geospatial data clearinghouse, is one of the most sophisticated in the nation. It is opening new doors to capabilities yet to be realized, such as new online store fronts for state agencies using the same foundational geospatial data sets. Designed and maintained by the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, GeoStor serves as a data distribution and application center, providing a "seamless" and centralized GIS database for the entire state, i.e., existing maps have been merged into one single statewide map.

Recent activities of the AGIO, SLIB, and State Geographic Information Coordinator include coordinating the acquisition of updated digital orthoimagery for the entire state, and assisting counties with standard road centerline data development in order to accelerate the completion

of road centerlines throughout Arkansas. The AGIO and SLIB also are in the process overhauling the State's GIS Strategic Plan.

Appendices

A. AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION FOR THE ARKANSAS LAND INFORMATION BOARD, 2003

SLIB Website: http://www.gis.state.ar.us/SLIB/Ar_Code_15-21-501.htm

Arkansas Code 15-21-5 – Creation of the Arkansas State Land Information Board

Title 15. Natural Resources And Economic Development.

Subtitle 2. Land And Water Resources Generally.

Chapter 21. Land

Subchapter 5. Arkansas State Land Information Board.

15-21-501. Purpose

(a) In recognition that a vast majority of all information used in the management of government can be spatially referenced and that public institutions and private firms expend considerable resources collecting and managing land information records in diverse and disparate formats and scales, a modern automated system of accessible land information data and technologies is required to serve the essential needs of individuals, businesses, and government agencies.

(b) Unnecessary duplications of effort and cost are incurred since currently available spatial data and land records are not consistently collected and maintained from jurisdiction to

jurisdiction and state agency to state agency, are not maintained in a manner to assure total integrity, often do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards, and are not readily available or useful for cooperative planning or policy decisions.

(c) The essential component of all automated land information systems is valid, consistent, comprehensive, available, and current data. Since federal, state, regional, county, and municipal agencies, state universities and colleges, private firms, and others require the same spatial data, it is desirable that unnecessary duplication of effort be avoided, that existing data be shared in a coordinated manner, and that new data be developed in an accurate and usable form in accordance with the State of Arkansas Shared Technical Architecture. Pursuant to this, all state agencies, boards, and commissions are required to cooperate and participate with the Arkansas State Land Information Board.

(d) Implementation of an overall Arkansas land and geographic resources program requires cooperative methods for development and maintenance of spatial data between state and local governments in the State of Arkansas.

(e) The board will determine, define, and implement short and long-term strategies that will result in improved decision making, effective asset management, and reduced costs for the citizens of Arkansas.

History. Acts 1995, No. 1259, § 3; 2001, No. 1250, § 1.

15-21-502. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Agency" means any agency or instrumentality of the State of Arkansas that utilizes geographic information systems data;

(2) "[Arkansas Geographic Information Office](#)" means the office that provides administrative and technical support to the Arkansas State Land Information Board, including, but not limited to, staff, hardware, software, and representation;

(3) "Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure" means the combination of state framework data, data repository, or GeoStor, distribution mechanisms, and the staff and organizational structures necessary to accomplish these activities;

(4) "Board" means the Arkansas State Land Information Board;

(5) "Digital basemap" means a computerized representation of map information;

(6) "Digital cadastre" means the storage and manipulation of computerized representations of parcel maps and linked parcel databases;

(7) "Framework data" means commonly needed data themes developed, maintained, and integrated by public and private organizations within a geographic area. These data themes include, but are not limited to, digital cadastre, public land survey system, elevation, geodetic control, governmental units, hydrography, orthoimagery, transportation, soils, and geology;

(8) "Metadata" means a description of the content, ancestry and source, quality, database schema, and accuracy of digital map data;

(9) "Spatial data" means information that identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on the earth. This information may be derived from, among other things, remote sensing, mapping, and surveying technologies;

(10) "Spatial data repository" means the physical location and content of the state's consolidated spatial data;

(11) "State Geodetic Advisor" means the coordinator of the state's network of geodetic control monuments;

(12) "State Geographic Information Coordinator" means the person who provides administrative and technical support to the board; and

(13)(A) "State of Arkansas Shared Technical Architecture" means the structure of program or system components, how these components relate to one another, and the principles that govern their design and evolution over time.

(B) Important aspects include the division of functions among system parts, the means of communication among them, and the representation of shared information.

History. Acts 1995, No. 1259, §§ 2, 7; 1997, No. 914, § 27; 2001, No. 1250, § 2; 2003, No. 1473, § 32.

5-21-503. Creation – Board.

(a) The Arkansas State Land Information Board is created.

(b)(1)(A) The board shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members appointed by the Governor for terms of four (4) years.

(B) At the time of appointment or reappointment, the appointing authority shall adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of members of the board are staggered so that, insofar as possible, an equal number of members shall rotate each year.

(2) The board shall be composed of the following members or their designees:

- (A) Three (3) state entity representatives;
- (B) Three (3) city, county and local government representatives;
- (C) Three (3) private sector representatives; and
- (D) Three (3) representatives of institutions of higher education.

(3) All members of the board shall have knowledge of the use and usefulness of digital land and geographic information in the management of government and a general awareness of the role of mapping as related to that management.

(4) No person shall serve as a member of the board for more than two (2) full consecutive terms.

(5) Upon the death, disability, resignation, removal, or refusal to serve of any member, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person to complete board membership.

(c)(1)(A) A chair and a vice chair shall be elected by the board membership to oversee all board and committee meetings.

(B) Members of the board must elect a chair and vice chair every year.

(2)(A) The board will work with the State Geographic Information Coordinator assigned by the Executive Chief Information Officer with approval from the board.

(B) The State Geographic Information Coordinator will:

- (i) Assist the board in developing a comprehensive plan and evaluation procedures on how the state should implement tactical and strategic geographic information systems and land information systems planning;
- (ii) Implement informational and educational programs; and
- (iii) Coordinate intrastate geographic information systems and land information systems efforts.

(C) The State Geographic Information Coordinator shall report directly to the Executive Chief Information Officer.

(d)(1) The State Geographic Information Coordinator shall administer daily operations of the Arkansas Geographic Information Office with direction from the board.

(2) This may include liaison between the board and the Governor, the Executive Chief Information Officer, and public or private sector entities involved in spatial data and land records modernization, project management in the preparation of the strategic planning documents related to spatial data and land records modernization, developing policy and procedures for land records modernization, and developing policy and procedures for the activities of the board.

(3) Additional requirements are the implementation of educational programs, coordinating vendor exhibits, and facilitating technical assistance and consulting.

(e) The board may conduct meetings at such places and such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish its objectives and purposes.

(f) Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services.

(g) The board will be provided administrative support through the Office of Information Technology.

(h) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter shall come from the Geographic Information Systems Fund.

(i) The board shall seek the review and advice of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology prior to issuing guidelines, proposed legislation, and strategic plans.

History. Acts 1995, No. 1259, §§ 1, 5; 1997, No. 914, § 28; 2001, No. 1250, § 3; 2003, No. 1473, § 33; 2005, No. 264, § 1.

15-21-504. Duties, responsibilities, and authority.

(a) The Arkansas State Land Information Board shall be empowered to:

(1) Provide a strategy for the continuing development of the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure;

(2) Develop standard metadata reports through the Arkansas Geographic Information Office; and

(3) Direct available funds to mapping and land records modernization projects at various levels of government.

(b) The board shall:

(1) Undertake a continuing study of the land information needs of federal, state, county, local agencies, and private entities in the state;

(2) Review current and projected technology, standards, and collection methods and all statutes pertaining thereto;

(3) Develop strategies and guidelines for spatial data systems and land records modernization; and

(4) Pursue activities that result in coordinated, cost-effective programs for spatial data development and distribution.

(c) The board shall coordinate completion and maintenance of shareable statewide framework data, applications of geographic information system technologies, spatial project methodologies, and methods of funding.

(d)(1) The board will develop and implement a program to further the process of land records modernization.

(2)(A) The board, using the technical support provided by the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, shall conduct a comprehensive study of the costs, requirements, and benefits of a digital cadastre system.

(B) The digital cadastre manages and provides access to cadastral information. Digital cadastre does not represent legal property boundary descriptions, nor is it suitable for boundary determination of the individual parcels included in the cadastre.

(e) The duties of the board shall include, but not be restricted to:

(1) Identifying issues, problems, and solutions in implementing an overall Arkansas land and geographic resources program;

(2) Identifying and clarifying the roles of participants;

(3) Developing an overall coordinating schedule for framework data projects;

(4) Recommending methods of financing;

(5) Developing recommended priorities for the distribution of funds;

(6) Developing procedures for the inventory, storage, and distribution of spatial information;

(7) Implementing an ongoing information and education program to promote understanding and productive use of spatial and land information systems by public and private entities and individuals; and

(8) Encouraging and coordinating collaborative spatial project efforts and rewarding participants of collaborative efforts that result in economies of scale or demonstrable cost savings.

(f)(1) The board, through the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, shall assist local and state government agencies in defining technical specifications and standards to use in the collection, distribution, and reporting of spatial information including metadata as required by the State of Arkansas Shared Technical Architecture.

(2) The revised National Map Accuracy Standards shall provide the basis for digital basemap standard guidelines.

(3) The Federal Spatial Data Infrastructure Standard will be followed for standard metadata reports by public entities that create digital geodata.

(g)(1) The board will coordinate with the United States Geological Survey and other federal agencies in the development of Arkansas spatial data.

(2) The board will serve as a point of contact for existing or proposed federal programs that impact the creation of spatial data or the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure, or both.

(h) The board, through the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, shall review the strategic plans for digital mapping and land records modernization and make recommendations for the distribution of public funds for land records modernization, enhancement, and implementation.

(i) The Arkansas Geographic Information Office will serve as a statewide source of mapping and land information technology information and will coordinate with the United States Geological Survey and the Federal Geographic Data Committee on metadata requirements of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

(j) The board will develop and require a data quality report to be prepared and attached to all publicly funded mapping and digital maps and their associated databases.

(k)(1) The board shall enter into agreements with the Department of Information Systems and other qualified entities for the purpose of providing geographic information systems services and

shall establish a system of uniform fees or special charges to be paid by the state and local government entities thus served to enable the board to defray the cost of providing the services as provided in this subchapter.

(2)(A) Agreements will be interagency service agreements and are exempt from the provisions of the Arkansas Procurement Law, § 19-11-201 et seq., and regulations.

(B) Further, these agreements will not be considered professional services or consulting service contracts.

(l)(1) The board is authorized to contract with the department to support the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure and to provide framework data and metadata for geographic information systems development to the public.

(2) The department will maintain the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure and may utilize existing repositories as appropriate.

(m) The board, the State Geographic Information Coordinator, the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, and the Director of the Department of Information Systems or the director's designee shall submit an annual maintenance plan and budget for geographic information systems and geodata services relating to the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure.

(n) As directed by the board, the Arkansas Geographic Information Office will coordinate framework data development and maintenance, provide technical processing of data sets, evaluate adherence to state-approved mapping standards, and work with both state and federal spatial data stakeholders on statewide projects.

History. Acts 1995, No. 1259, § 4; 1997, No. 914, § 29; 2001, No. 1250, § 4.
15-21-505. [Repealed.]