

**Agreement Number
04HQAG0183**

Final Report

Prepared By

Arkansas Geographic Information Office



Report Prepared by

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Project Narrative:

The Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) along with the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department (ACD) is heading up a State wide initiative to develop a digital cadastre for the State of Arkansas. Using one time available funding from ACD, each County Assessor office was reimbursed for the purchase of hardware and GIS software to accomplish this task. The AGIO is providing initial and on-going training for the development of the digital data. With the funding received

through the CAP program a collaborative meeting was held November, 17-18, 2004 to facilitate coordination between the local County Assessor's offices and the AGIO. There were 52 attendees, representing over 35 Counties. Pictured at right are CAMP'ers in the computer training lab at CAMP-Camp. Prior to the meeting the only direct line of communication was between the AGIO and the County offices itself. After the CAMP Camp meeting coordination between the Counties themselves has elevated enormously. The speed with which the cadastral data is being developed has almost doubled. Prior to the CAMP-Camp meeting there were three Counties that had successfully completed Phase I of the CAMP program. Within five months after the meeting seven completed Phase I and several others were nearly completed. By 2006 sixteen counties have completed Phase I and their parcel point data is published and accessible through the state GIS data clearinghouse.



The increased interest following the CAMP-Camp meeting resulted in those counties to progress on to Phase II of the program. Three of those counties have completed Phase II, developing their parcel polygons and they are waiting to be published in the State GIS data clearinghouse. Along with the meeting that was held, a private List Serve has been implemented to enable communication between the County offices themselves. Much of the inter-county collaboration takes place on this List Serve and would not have been possible without the funding provided by the CAP program.

Follow up actions included meeting specifically with groups of counties in Phase I to provide additional training and technical support. This activity has been repeated numerous times with groups of three to four counties meeting at the Arkansas Geographic Information Office for more training. Pictured at right is Richie Pierce training mappers from Sebastian County.



Since the grant project a number of County Assessors took keen interest in the program on a statewide basis and are planning a mapping

specific component to their annual fall and spring conferences. The increased use of the data and understanding its capabilities have led to further coordination between county offices. In one county the Assessor Office and mapper worked with the E-911 coordinator to cross-reference E-911 addresses against the parcel point database. The result was both databases were improved by rooting out errors in each.

In other cases we understand that cadastral mappers from adjoining counties traveled to their neighboring county to exchange adjoining data and share solutions to similar problems. In general the entire group developed a common recognition that training is a constant challenge that needs to be addressed. Overall following this grant project the coordination between the counties and the AGIO has improved; county to county coordination has improved as well. Long term relationships have been developed and these are leading to an increased use of the data and systems for tax administration.

Next Steps

Both the AGIO and ACD plan to continue support for the County Assessor Mapping Program. Since the first statewide meeting a second statewide education and training program was held through state and regional sponsorship. The group photo at right was taken of the CAMPers at the second CAMP-Camp. Plans are underway to bring this



group together each year for updated training and coordination activities. Continual training remains the number one challenge for this program due to staff attrition in the county offices. One area of improvement that state officials are studying is how to improve the compensation package for county employees trained in GIS work so that they can be retained.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

What are the program strengths and weaknesses?

One of the strengths of the CAP program is the peer review process. We believe the review of proposals by peers who have walked a mile in our shoes leads to an increased odds of receiving a grant. The other strength of the program is the ease of administration for the grant itself. The reporting and logistics are not burdensome nor time consuming.

Where does the program make a difference?

We would strongly encourage the FGDC consider the institution building category again. This grant award allowed us to bring together a group that might not have come together on its own for several years. A number of the program participants made positive comments on the program. This gave us the opportunity to explain to them the significance of their data development efforts and how their data will be rolled up into a statewide publication and eventually a national data set.

They now have a better understanding of the state's spatial data infrastructure and National Spatial Data Infrastructure as well. The comment below was received following CAMP-Camp from the Columbia County Mapper.

Hey guys!

I sent an e-mail the day after camp-camp but it didn't go through--sorry about that. I just want to say that I really enjoyed camp-camp. I've learned a lot and can see where this mapping project is going. HATS OFF TO YA!!!!

Have a great day,

Voyles Martin, Columbia County

Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?

Yes. The funding received under this category allowed the agency to provide services that were not previously budget within the agency operating budget. Even a small grant such as this made a big impact.

What would you recommend doing differently?

I have no recommendation on this topic.

Are there factors that are missing or need to consider that were missed?

For future grants in this category I believe it would be very important for all applicants to involve their state coordinating entity to the maximum degree possible. This will increase the success of the Fifty States initiative and lends strength to the state coordinating entity. Linking applicants to their state coordinating entity benefits both ends.

Are there program management concerns that need to be addressed? Time frame?

I have no recommendation on this topic.

If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?

From a program standpoint for our grant we would have done more preliminary notice about the program to our county participants. This would have given more time for counties to plan ahead and send their personnel to the program.