

Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee

Subcommittee of the Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)

Meeting Minutes: July 16, 2020

(Approved September 17, 2020)

The July 16, 2020 meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Council – Executive Committee (IGC-EC) was held at 10 am (Mountain) via Webex/teleconference.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Wilma Robertson, Dept. of Water Resources (*CHAIR*)
Mike Woodford, Information Technology Services
Carolina Valderrama-Echavarria, US Census
Jan Cunningham, Esri
Sydney Lewis, Transportation Department
Bruce Godfrey, University of Idaho
Betty Conces, Kootenai County
Cyndi Andersen, Bannock County
Kelly Green, Blaine County
Keith Weber, ISU GIS Center
Jerry Korol, NRCS
Pam Bond, City of Boise
Shane Lim, Suez Water
Stewart Ward, Dioptra Geomatics

Members Absent:

Laurie Ames, Nez Perce Tribe
Tom Carlson, USGS

Others Present:

Margie Wilkins, Dept. of Water Resources
Corey King, Gooding County
Gail Jorgenson, ACHD
Sara Bernisdarfer, Dept. of Health & Welfare
Robert Witmer, USDA
Angie Schmidt, Dept. of Fish & Game
Jet Johnstone, Transportation Department
Greg Wallingford, Transportation Department
Linda Davis, Dept. of Water Resources
Mathew Syphus, LHTAC
Randy Kemp, Commission for Libraries
Angela Vander Pas, City of Lewiston
Kevin Jones, Tax Commission
Jeff Servatius, Tax Commission
Derrick Race, Digline, Inc.
Heather Studley, Bannock County
Josh Enterkine, Boise State University
J. Graham
Luke Kilcup, Lobby Idaho
Erin Seaman, Information Technology Services

WELCOME

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10 am (Mountain). Ms. Seaman called the roll.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, and Mr. Weber seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020 Meeting, as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Green moved, and Ms. Andersen seconded a motion to amend the order of the agenda to move the TWG update agenda item to the beginning of the meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

TWG UPDATE

GEODETIC CONTROL – Mr. Weber reported that he was recently notified by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) that NATRF 2022, in part due to the pandemic, has been delayed and likely won't roll out until 2024 or perhaps 2025. He noted that Idaho is well positioned to adopt this regardless of when it rolls out.

In other news, Mr. Weber announced that ISU, in coordination with the Idaho Transportation Department, is hiring a new geodetic coordinator. The person hired into the position will be working at ISU at the GIS Center.

IGC-EC REFRESHER

GIS STRATEGIC PLAN – Chair Robertson gave a brief overview of the state GIS plan, which was spearheaded by Mr. Weber, Mr. Godfrey, Ms. Bond, and Ms. Philips, and approved by the Idaho Technology Authority (ITA) in 2016. She also discussed the current governance structure of the Idaho Technology Authority (ITA), of which the IGC-EC is a subcommittee.

Chair Robertson is seeking volunteers for working groups to create actionable steps or answer some specific question for each of the four strategic plan goals and their stated objectives. She and Mr. Woodford will participate on each of working group. She will be scheduling working group meetings soon and would like to have each group present an update at the September IGC-EC meeting.

The following individuals volunteered for the **Goal 1 Working Group**: Ms. Bond, Mr. Godfrey, and Ms. Cunningham. The stated goal is: **“We need to have a robust geospatial data clearinghouse for sharing current and historical TIM framework and other authoritative data layers.”**

For **Goal 2 (“Provide the best available statewide TIM framework data layers”)**, Chair Robertson noted that although there are a number of currently active technical working groups (TWGs), there are still some that have been inactive for a period of time. She asked the committee members to review the Idaho Data Framework and associated TWGs to confirm that information on leadership of the data frame themes is current. She discussed the importance of getting the data frame layers through an official process to become official TIM (The Idaho Map) layers, followed by the development of a standard and stewardship plan for each layer.

The following individuals volunteered for the **Goal 3 Working Group**: Mr. Weber, Ms. Bond, and Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria. The stated goal is: **“Improve geospatial data quality.”** Chair Robertson suggested that this group could look at ways to educate and train users on proper metadata and available tools and encourage compliance with state GIS policies. Mr. Weber suggested a series of brief “tech talks,” and Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria suggested reaching out to the STEM Action Center.

The following individuals volunteered for the **Goal 4 Working Group**: Mr. Jones, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Green. The stated goal is: **“Improve delivery and accessibility of GIS services and information.”**

GIS WEBSITE – Chair Robertson reported that she and Mr. Woodford now have access to the <https://gis.idaho.gov/> website and will be making some updates to bring the site current. They will be reaching out to the various TWG chairs to update the data theme pages as well.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHIEF DATA / GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Chair Robertson introduced Mike Woodford, the new state Geospatial Information Officer.

Mr. Woodford gave an overview of his educational and professional backgrounds, noting that he started his career with the federal government as an oceanographer for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), working with ocean and great lakes pollution data, more specifically datasets. Over the years he has also worked with GIS-type data and location-based data. For the last 25 years he has worked in the private sector.

Mr. Woodford’s goal for the position is to provide and show the value of data to the agencies ITS supports, as well as the public, and he believes GIS is one of the most useful and interesting tools for people to use, providing context and with many ways to correlate it. He looks forward to working with the committee and its members and will be working closely with Chair Robertson to build a unified and collaborative environment.

CENSUS 2020 UPDATE

Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria reported on the status of the 2020 census, which is currently underway. The deadline for self-responses has been extended to October 31, while the deadline for group quarters responses is September 3. Idaho is the first state in the western region sending enumerators out into the field to do non-response follow-up (NRFU), which will run for seven weeks, and will follow social distancing protocols. Due to the pandemic, the Census Bureau will be sending out an additional mailer to hopefully drive the response rate up, and is currently doing mobile questionnaire assistants (MQA) at grocery stores, gas stations, and in some cases libraries, throughout the state in locations with low response rates. More information can be found at <https://2020census.gov/>.

In response to a question Ms. Valderrama-Echavarria explained that per U.S. Code Titles 13 and 26 relating to privacy, data is only available at the tract level.

ITA REPORT

Chair Robertson gave an update on the most recent ITA meeting, which was held on June 3, 2020. She noted that the Ethics and Conduct policy was approved by the committee. Approved ITA meeting minutes can be found at: <https://ita.idaho.gov/the-ita/#meetings>

OTHER BUSINESS

BI-ANNUAL IDAHO GEOSPATIAL COUNCIL (IGC) MEETING – Chair Robertson briefly gave an overview of the IGC for those unfamiliar, noting that the IGC typically meets bi-annually in the spring and fall, but due to the pandemic there was no IGC meeting in the spring. Planning for the fall meeting will begin shortly, and anyone interested may join. Ms. Green and Ms. Davis agreed to help in planning the fall meeting, and it was noted that the NW GIS Conference, scheduled for October, could be an option for co-hosting the IGC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am. The next meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2020.



Erin Seaman, Governor's Office of IT Services (ITS)