

**NEW HAMPSHIRE GIS CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE (NHGCC)
MAY 8, 2002 MEETING
Concord, NH**

Draft Meeting Notes (6-14-02)

The New Hampshire GIS Conservation Collaborative convened on May 8, 2002 for its biennial meeting. Bruce Pardoe, Trustee of the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves. Bruce explained that the principal purpose of today's meeting is to review the work plans that have been prepared over the past several months by the various NHGCC working groups. These plans are intended to lay out in much greater detail what it will take to implement the various components of the NHGCC vision over the next several years. The individual plans developed by Working Groups will in turn be combined into a master document – the NHGCC Work Plan. Preparation of the larger document is expected to take place during the summer and early fall, in time for discussion and approval at our next NHGCC meeting. Ann Fowler Wallace explained that the Data Development/Community and Youth Working Group formed at our last meeting has not yet met for a number of reasons. Because NHGCC has a lot on its plate with our current working groups, Ann and Bruce recommended that we defer the work of this group until a later time.

The vast bulk of the May 8th meeting entailed review and discussion of the individual working group plans, most of which had been sent out to participants in advance of the meeting. What follows are notes of that discussion for the following six working groups: Data Development/State Agencies, Data Development/Wildlife Data Layer, Advocacy and Funding, Education and Training, Web-based Geospatial Technology (GST) Access, and GIS Service Providers.

DATA DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP: STATE AGENCIES
Ken Gallager, Chair

GIS Coordinator:

- where person sits could help with some of agency concerns @ position
- now thinking person would be housed @UNH at GRANIT

Difference NH GIS Advisory Committee & NHGCC?

- NHGCC is focused on conservation and land use issues
- The GIS Advisory Committee is focused on a broader set of issues related to GIS, it is for any state GIS activity, a broad umbrella group within state agencies that allows different folks to work together

Data Layers:

- Large base map 1:5000
- Vector data
- DEM: topo map
- Address layers: already underway and budgeted
 - DOT & 911
- Municipal boundaries- GPS'd → State effort to do this
 - 2 staff at DOT to survey
- Property Boundaries→ GRANIT- working on standards for parcel data layer
 - probably no state money for parcel data

- Code enforcement officers- another opportunity
 - hope towns migrate to standards over time
 - barriers: small towns don't have resources
 - nice to have statewide coordinator and stds.
 - need to be ready with stds
 - need to show towns incentives to do parcel maps/data development.
- State MD has entire state parcel maps digitized, this is updated every 2 weeks
 - VT was incentive state \$- with time/deadline
 - Be sensitive to how difficult to do at local level. Just getting the data layer will not do it. Towns don't see the benefits of digitizing. Need to build education for towns into parcel mapping process. What resources will it take?
 - Timing of project priorities can change if greater interest on one project or more resources become available
 - Parcel data stds in draft at GRANIT

Historic LU Data Sets:

- Population increases 1950-2020: FS & TNC
- Really looking forward to this
- Can be very powerful tool

Wildlife Data Layers:

- Largely predictive project in Pisquataqua (Lamprey River) with FS & F&G
 - Plants and plant communities could be approached in predictive fashion, expand to this later
 - Aquatic habitats large gap
 - Not lot @ WQ in documents – DES initiative re water quality
 - Need to focus on soil data layer completion
 - Subset of vector data: bldg footprints and tree lines
 - Cultural resources
 - Unfragmented habitats - bring together habitat layers and developed lands data
 - Look at complexes of communities, much smaller number (250 plant communities)
- Another gap: large scale soils data (system to incorporate soils data being collected in a number of ways)
 - high intensity soil surveys- soil scientists
 - not state doing this layer
 - take advantage of existing survey work
 - well driller reporting as model
 - could do same thing with wetlands
 - reporting requirement archived somewhere
 - need greater municipal coordination for data

WILDLIFE DATA LAYER WORKING GROUP

Darrel Covell, Chair

- Wildlife observation layer - add to Phase II of Conservation Lands Viewer
“Zoomable map of state” with more info on wildlife and habitat
- Species profile maps by town - available on web site
- Help keep up to date. Update software -- Biotics
- Monthly updates Rev 2 viewer
- Also enable to track non-rare/endangered/special concern wildlife (Bear/Deer)
- In future could extend to plants and natural communities
- NHI delivers data regularly to GRANIT
 - cannot release- rare plant data
 - committee reviewing data
- Authorized users can submit data to web site
F&G would review → Lionel→Biotics →GRANIT/Web
- Occurrences vs. wildlife habitat
 - incorporate habitat predictive modeling down road
- Next Projects?
 - see how this work goes
 - ASNH interested town efforts- focused on data management issue for NHGCC with MIDP working conceptual model (Green infrastructure)
 - take municipality demo - using GIS data @ build-out

Q? Couple of pilot communities ready to try integrating conservation and land-use data

- 1) Wildlife incorporated into planning/zoning-- need to do conceptual work to determine what it means.
 - Reaching point where GIS effort needs to interface with other efforts- wildlife efforts, smart growth activities
 - Don't mix info with application
 - Larger user groups are municipalities- land use application
 - We are all believers- need to make case for why important, why needed
 - we need some case examples and demonstrations
 - need to build the demand

ADVOCACY AND FUNDING WORKING GROUP

Bruce Pardoe, Chair

- UNH GIS Day- possible forum for fair/exhibition
- User end- traveling exhibit:
 - MA Mtg. LT Conference
 - OSP conference Other Venues
 - Eventually use folks from these meetings as lobbyists/advocates for GIS support
- How much more work required of Working Groups?
Need to develop marketing materials, hire consultant
- Service provider work plan completed for fall NHGCC meeting
- Biennial budgeting starts this January for July 2004

- Engage key legislators to sit on NHGIS steering committee & Congressional staff
- Federal Money- are there ways to influence RFP's
- Community Character Act
- Framing case around/to include:
 - info needs of communities have to deal with growth
 - help frame compelling need

Ideas for Consultant:

Mary Brown- Former senator & gubernatorial candidate NHWF

EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKING GROUP

Nancy Lambert, Chair

- GTTRC:
- Mobile classroom
 - GIS educational consortium/coalition (college level) has already had a meeting

Action Plan:

- Awareness training- web based
- Applications based training
 - help get to end point with technology
- Data-specific training
- Expand GPS training → Simpler, cheaper ways to create maps

How to use GRANIT website for education?

- Degree of skepticism how helpful website can be
- Doesn't see lot of teaching over website
- Virtual trainings based on final constraints
 - better/more general topics
- Advanced users web training good
 - not for newcomers
 - value being in same room with peers

Needs for viewers vs. users?

- Where to go to get the map
- Advocates really look @ training needs→ be more strategic
- Training program for agency manager level- not doing this now
- Data training available to both populations
- Managerial course can really affect our advocacy goals
 - could do with one program- advantages if can do over web
- Focus now on ARC viewers and users
- Cooperation between trainers and GIS coordinator will happen
- Better refining what is available for managers and planners

User Group:

- NH ARC View user group
 - (Think about presentation on Community Viz for Oct.)
- GIS user list serv
 - do this for GPS community as well

- \$1.6 MM budget submitted to University Admin.
 - beyond just conservation GIS
 - includes grant programs for other programs in state:
 - BTC
 - Keene State
 - Dartmouth
 - Plymouth State
- CTR Educ Tech. → AW Mellon Foundation \$
- Need to develop more capacity with in university itself
- How broaden our view education and training outside UNH?
- Can support by increasing awareness and training at high school level
- Kevin Shyne trying to get DOE to buy into K-12 level
- ME- laptop initiative with GIS
- Some of GIS training programs much better focusing on applications
- Use training to model applications- useful to course recipient
- Some cases workshop or internet model not appropriate, but presentation and demo could be useful to towns likely to embrace GIS → Role for RPC's?
 - GAP- coordinate for consistent message, can be tailored

WEB-BASED GST ACCESS WORKING GROUP

Fay Rubin, Chair

- Expand to fully functional web site
 - Step 1: Site design phase with consultant
 - can't keep adding links
 - think about education and marketing to end users up front
 - like web developer on staff first
 - 20 to 25,000 ASAP
- Functionality would be useful:
 - Order large map could be printed? → Svc. provider side things
- Site could be portal for that service
 - (on Dan's work plan)- have to figure out how it would work
 - new output device - not lots of \$
- Tools develop. - dependent on outreach/educational funding
 - also to get agencies contributing data
- Dream Team
 - add another person
 - 2 web developers
 - online mapping
 - all other tools
 - 1 FT resource person (Content developer)
- How to promote to end users?
 - no marketing \$ → or education and training \$
 - add to education and training budget
- Cooperative Extension does currently on ad hoc basis
- Look at different markets/audiences
- Concern making available lot of data without interpretation
- Lots of uses for site beyond creating maps

- job listings
- tools/standards
- possibility of white paper about GST on web site
- Explore using as portal for delivering large map products
 - as simple as here's list of svc. providers
 - can generate maps (click on this button X)
- Question: security of site?
 - not connected to live data (copy)
 - firewalls at University, CSRC

SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKING GROUP

Dan Sundquist, Chair

- Convene group to talk about the work plan
- Forum to discuss methodologies
- Need collaborative effort to pool knowledge and methodologies
- Obvious coordination with other groups
- Ongoing, iterative process

Goals: uniform approach, uniform maps

- Lamprey River Project (2 watersheds)
 - JPNHF
 - TNC
 - NHFG
 - ASNA
 - ERP
- How to find right service providers for needs?
 - Group should look at this question.
- Certification could have negative effect on private firms
- This group focus: where providers/places can turn, help point people certain direction
- What is current capacity?
 - lot of underutilized capacity
 - RPC's important source
 - needs some dialog about conservation GIS
 - need dialog/education about what this means in terms of smart growth, land conservation
- Where to direct top 3 areas of need?
 - put money into collaborative process
 - needs facilitation, there are lot of players and facets
- RPC: Future LU analysis key in communities
 - Opportunities for GIS tools
 - Agencies not all on same page
 - not reinvent process
 - not constantly generating simple maps
 - more coordination RPA's about land use layers- uniform approach
 - digital ortho photos starting point
 - need to train GIS staff at RPC's - retention, knowledge

- GIS not funded at RPC's directly
 - Linda has formed municipal GIS working group- not funded
 - Most use targeted bloc grant \$ for GIS
 - Focus on something like Biomap project (but broader)
 - Will give blueprint in state
 - All have own biases (TNC, ASNH, FS)
 - only just now being woven together
 - Biomap project underway in NH MA- \$1MM - 1 year
 - DRED, FG involved
 - critical produce as unbiased as possible
 - concern not follow MA model
 - did not assoc. stewardship to maps
 - more ½ lands to be protected without definition of protected levels
 - associate LU and protection levels
 - Needs to be funded project - somebody needs to do work
 - Opportunity to build conservation GIS into community planning and GIS work
 - more than just inventory
 - NRI manual a start but not "systems" approach
 - scale of planning going up dramatically
 - parcels → landscape scale → state/regional focus
 - Why not create suite of critical maps for communities?
 - not make volunteers figure it out
 - too much time info → not enough on land protection
 - Delivering set of core maps could be very valuable
 - marketing and awareness-building
 - RPC's could deliver
- imap \$750K

Other Issues?

The group discussed the idea of regional land trust's playing a larger role in statewide GIS strategy. Nancy Lambert said she was not sure it is reasonable to think land trusts can play this role broadly. Might be better role for GIS service providers. The Pardoe Grant to Upper Valley Land Trust gets at this objective. Brad Anderson noted that if his efforts are successful, Moose Mountain will be more typical of an organization with GIS capability.

NHGCC is on cusp of implementation, and we need time to process all this material. The group was intrigued with the possibility of linking with the smart growth folks (the Smart Growth Partnership group convened by NHCF). Need to think about a time frame to move forward. The NH Minimum Impact Development Partnership may be a logical place to pilot some sites with GIS.

Regarding Working Group membership: Gioia is happy to join the Advocacy and Funding Working Group. Cliff and Brad will join the Service Provider group.

Next Steps:

The group decided that our next meeting should be scheduled for the end of September or early October. The agenda would include: 1) updates, 2) review of draft documents (called for in work plans), 3) planning for funder briefing in January 2003.

The Working Groups will finalize the draft work plans with Working Group chairs to get in revisions to work plans by June 30th:

- Ken almost set
 - Nancy by July 1
 - Fay- OK
 - Darrel- incorporate Dan's info on wildlife habitat
 - More discussion about the Service Provider working group
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- For the next meeting we will aim to produce an overall document that includes a master work plan and budget. At our fall meeting, we will review the draft master document, as well as what has happened to date. We want to be sure the draft document is reviewed by NHGCC before we take it to the broader GIS world.