

**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS DIVISION GIS USER GROUP (OPGISUG) MTG.
10 APRIL, 2001, 0800-1600, DE CONFERENCE RM., CESAM**

ATTENDEES:

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Host:			
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OP User Group Meeting Agenda

10 April, 2001

DE Conference Rm. 2nd Flr.

- 0800 – 0830 Introduction - Jim Walker OP-A
- 0830 – 0915 Round-Robin Discussion. Each member is asked to briefly state the status of their project's GIS.
- 0915 – 0930 Break
- 0930- 1000 Open discussion on actions and direction of OP GIS - hosted by Hal Gates, OP-J
- 1000 – 1030 Adopting a standard for GIS. – Hal Gates, OP-J
- 1030 – 1100 Open forum for key issues by Project - hosted by Hal Gates, OP-J
- 1100 – 1130 Demonstration of GIS Products and custom applications. – Mark Penton, OP-J
- 1130 – 1200 Enterprise GIS - Doug McArthur, OP-T
- 1200 – 1300 Lunch Break
- 1300 – 1330 Imagery Products and Selection - Lynn Hardegree, OP-J
- 1330 – 1345 War Stories of building a Project level GIS - Don Morgan, OP-ACLS
- 1345 – 1400 Break (brief tour of OP-J office for those interested)
- 1400 - 1430 Regulatory GIS - Jim McEnery, OP-SP
- 1430 – 1530 Strategic Implementation Plan Workshop – hosted by Hal Gates, OP-J
- 1530 – 1600 Out brief - Jim Walker, Hal Gates

The meeting started with a Greeting from Jim Walker and a discussion on the purpose for the formulation of the Operations Division GIS User Group (OPGISUG). Jim discussed topics as mentioned below:

- Gave an overview of what we are trying to do. To form a group composed of a member from each Site Office to share information, adopt common standards, support each other in establishing and maintaining their respective Project GIS.
- Trying to gage what's out there and what we need help with to get GIS implemented at each Site Office.
- What decisions need to be made? Where to go to get funding, etc.
- Staffing and classification problems?
- Managers of the Operations Division agreed that GIS was going to become a full time position once we get going. Resources should be defined in the Project Strategic Implementation Plan.
- There is going to be a flood of request for GIS use.
- Physical Science is the best for hiring GIS co-op help. Jim is working to get jobs descriptions defined.
- This meeting is an opportunity to gage where we are as well as were we are going.

The next segment was an opportunity for each member to state the status of their Site Office GIS. The following are comments by each participating member:

OP-AC-JW: photos, shoreline, and boundaries
OP-AC-WFG: just starting
OP-AL: just starting
OP-BA: flown nav. channel -> web-based tool
OP-CA: just starting, flown master plan
OP-CO: Unix, Wildlife mitigation, and lots of data
OP-GE: Just starting
OP-GW: DMSMART
OP-OL: ground zero
OP-SL: lots of data, locals ahead, aerials from others
OP-S: Unix, Digital Quads
OP-WP: data collected, real prop.

Jack: (OP-OL)

- Came because he didn't know where to go with his project
- Here to listen to see what would be beneficial to his project
- No software
- Ranger knows a little about GIS
- He would like to attend some GIS classes
- At ground zero with his project, looking for direction and guidance

Don:

- Problem was they had nothing to work on, so they forgot everything that they had learned after the seminars and classes
- Thinks that Jack's group should get data to work on before starting the classes

Buck:

- Thinks that you should be able to get the people to release the data so that you can practice on it

David:

- Has no programs
- Has been to a few courses (ESRI)
- Learned enough to apply it to his project
- Needs someone to work on the project
- Has goals, but needs a way to get them accomplished
- Needs a way to pull it all together

Hal:

- Is your data digital?

David:

- No
- He was shown a few things, and not impressed, so decided no to go with digital

Fred:

- Needs a way to identify what's out there
- How do we find it

Hal:

- There are links out there allowing you to go to one central place such as a data clearing house. They are sponsored by Fed./State/Local/Private/Universities and businesses.
- OP-J is creating a link to resources and support information on the OP-J intranet web page. The link [OPGISUG] is accessible at <http://opjgis> This link will serve as the groups primary resource and communication link.

Mark P.

- Question comes up a lot
- A lot of clearing houses in place
- Setting one up at Stennis, in 2002
- Believes we need a cleaning house for us
- Has some ideas
- Has been talked about by OP-J

Jim McEnery:

- The best place to look for data in specific areas is at Universities

Tony:

- Tenn-Tom Waterway
- Using Unix platform
- Has a co-op doing GIS
- Using ArcView and ArcInfo
- Set up in 1991, that's why they are using Unix

Mark P.:

- Described some disadvantages of Unix
- Suggest to Tony he needs to make decisions about hardware and software
- Most all users are using ESRI
- Marrying to a vender is not a bad thing because that vender is not going to mess up all of its clients
- Says that Tony's technology is getting obsolete, so he may need to consider change.

Fred:

- Have you coordinated with the district on your project?

Tony:

- No

Fred:

- We need a coordinator, so that everyone knows what the District would like.

Jeff:

- That is the main goal of this user group

Tony:

- Talked about advantages and disadvantages of MARIS (data resource)

Jim McEnery:

- MARIS has a users group

Jim Walker:

- Need to get surveys, etc. brought into GIS
- We are the group to start making these decisions
- Don't wait to be told what to do
- Use the group meetings to establish the Corps standards

Tony:

- We have to get control of the project first

Hal:

- Getting standardization and control is the key to success at FO's and District.

Tony:

- The SDS meeting really helped him out
- Standards do give latitude.

Buck:

- Feels that it is imperative for them to get a handle on their real estate in the GIS database.
- Thinks it will be helpful to Rangers
- Has ordered IKONOS satellite imagery of WFG/Andrews Lock boundary area.
- Has ordered and received some of the 1"=200' vector base maps for his GIS.
-

Hal:

- Described IKONOS satellite imagery briefly to group.
- \$165 per square mile for 1M pixel resolution with 4M horizontal positional accuracy.

Tony:

- Thinks we should come to a cooperative agreement to buy imagery

Buck:

- We can give information away to share within COE if we buy IKONOS as a group.

Don:

- Seminole started GIS prior to ArcView.
- Made decisions in the early 90's
- Purchased ArcInfo
- Answered their questions on a need to know basis
- It all depends on how much money you have to spend as to what can be implemented.

Jim:

- Regulatory- also running ArcInfo on both Unix and WinNT

Paul Molla: (OP-CA)

- No data in GIS format
- Need to move to the latest technology
- Needs a boundary line accuracy mapping system

Fred:

- Has flown both rivers
- Has photos
- Ultimate goal is to place the whole river system on the web, so people can go to see depictions of the river system
- Integrated hydro survey
- Wants to get it to the public through the world wide web.

Steve Reid: (OP-GW)

- Doesn't have GIS
- Looking at DMSMART
- Wants a new way to look at surveys
- Has aerial photos
- Has some people taking courses
- Trying to get a good vision of where they are headed

Darrel Stone: (OP-SL)

- What are the standards?
- He has everything in correct form and is ready to go
- Has nothing in standards
- Has nothing to put it all together

Bo:

- Most of my stuff is in place
- GPS in place
- Trying to coral all information into the product
- Has digital photos
- Has a co-op
- Management isn't getting all they want out of the GIS

Key Issues Identified by the Group:

Satellite Imagery vs conventional controlled Photography

Inventory

RE Surveys

Data Sources

Unix vs. NT for operating platforms.

ORACLE vs. Access for relational databases.

ESRI vs. Open Source for GIS platform

Slide Show by Hal Gates: Direction for OP-GIS and discussion on Adopting Standards.

Jack:

- Is there someone that you can call for basic info? Yes

Call Hal or others who have invested time and money into this.

- Hal explains how important it is to adopt and maintain standards for Project GIS. Standards can be integrated in as time and funding permits.

Mark Seitz:

- What utilities can I use from other offices?

Hal:

Any of developed custom applications can be utilized on another ESRI platform. They will require varying degrees of editing to link to another Projects data. There is no magic button to get an application to automatically sense your data. Standard data structure could minimize the process.

Fred:

- If a server exists, then we can get data that someone else already has.

Steve:

- Does TEC have imagery that we can get?

Hal:

- They have been very poor to respond to inquiries about imagery data. (non-responsive)

Mark P.:

- OGETA – 15 county Consortium centered around the Atlanta, Ga. area formed a partnership, private company flies every so often with pretty good accuracy, their goal is to have enough customers to fly every year.

Hal Gates started discussion on Key Issues by Project

- Asked Group what their key issues were?
- What Business Functions were important to their project?
- What functions would they consider tracking/analyzing in a GIS.

Jim Walker entered Key Issues, Project Status and Business Functions into a spreadsheet. Asked Hal to refine and disseminate to the group some time after meeting. Will be used to compile Implementation Plan. **Action OP-J**

Mark Pennon's Presentation: Internet Map Serving (IMS)

- GIS on the Intranet, not accessible by the public yet
- Assignment was to make it web based. Will be completing early-summer.
- IMS, ArcIMS, came out middle of last year, good product, going to get even better

- OPJGIS- name of the server that brings up the web page
- Web page designed and kept up by Rose Dopsovic
- The web page is not a live link yet
- Go to Map Room link
- Opjgis/maproom/bwt/viewer.htm

Doug McArthur's Presentation:

- ArcSDE
- Everyone received a handout describing his presentation
- ArcSDE allows multiple users
- SDE= Spatial Database Engine
- Helps to maintain base-maps, find out specific needs, connect to the database
- Will be deployed at District first as a front-end to an Enterprise level GIS Server.
- Will be accessible by all offices. Can host Project specific data sets for sharing.

Lynn Hardegree's Presentation: Imagery Products and Selection

Don Morgan's Presentation: War Stories of Building a Project Level GIS

BREAK

Jim McEnery's Presentation: Regulatory GIS

HAL GATES: STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WORKSHOP

- Discussed Key components needed to be captured in Implementation Plan
- Straw Man Implementation Plan (Guide) to be E-mailed to group by COB Friday.
- Publish an online newsletter for local, state and federal government that lists all data sets available for the benefit of everyone. OP-J will coordinate. **Action**

JIM WALKER: STANDARDS FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Are hand held GPS units accurate enough? A GIS is only as good as the data within.
- Should a standard be set for accuracy specification?

Jeff:

- Recommends using a differential GPS with its +/- meter horizontal accuracy for GIS
- Stand Alone GPS unit, ~\$600
- Differential GPS unit, ~\$3000 with positional accuracy
- Should ESRI or Camp Lejeune be consulted for their standards in GPS data collection?
Yes (OP-J) **Action**

Hal:

- Should we specify an accuracy specification? Yes (OP-J will coordinate.) **Action**

JIM WALKER: GIS Software, ESRI products for everyone? Yes by general consensus.
Action Group

Mark Penton:

- All offices should be running the same version.
- When developing for applications, it's less cumbersome if everyone is on the same version.

Jeff:

- Consult master service agreement with ESRI.
- ESRI will soon be at Stennis and available for training and tech support
- There will be a Corps of Engineers Day at the ESRI User Conference in July

Hal:

- Updated GDT Dynamap Set 2000 (TIGER files) are here!
- Data will soon be available for MS, AL, FL, GA
- Data will also be available on a website in the near future **Action OP-J**

Jeff:

- Should future projects needing imagery obtain images from IKONOS?
- Should this be a standard?

JIM/HAL: Next meeting

- Should we change the structure of the meeting to 2 – ½ days with a start time of 1:00pm first day, ending at noon the second? Yes, **Action Group**
- Next meeting May 16 & 17 begin 1300 the 16th and adjourn at noon on 17th.
- The goal for the group is to have a Strategic Implementation Plan by each project to Elevate to the Steering Committee at the May meeting. **Action Group**