VOLUME TWO, ISSUE 3

I TEAM CONNECTIONS

MAY 2003

Collaboration and coordination are essential to organize the production, stewardship and exchange of data in a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. I-Teams and other information consortia supply some of the tools necessary to collaborate and coordinate. Collaboration and coordination cannot occur without communication. We need to keep all members of our national I-Team network informed and connected. Hence, ***I-Team Connections****. In these pages you will find news and information to help connect you to what is happening in Washington, DC and in state and local venues across the nation.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DELAWARE I-TEAM MEETS WITH JACK DANGERMOND

The Delaware Spatial Data Implementation Team (I-Team) held a special meeting on April 29 at the Delaware GIS 2003 Conference to discuss its vision with ESRI President and Founder Jack Dangermond. Participants in the meeting included I-Team members and invited guests including two Delaware State Cabinet Secretaries, and other leaders in state and local government.

> "You are building a new kind of enterprise information system, a nervous system for the State and a framework for human decision making and action"
>
> Jack Dangermond

The conference theme was "A Vision For Tomorrow." In his keynote presentation earlier that morning, Mr. Dangermond indicated that the creation of a spatial data infrastructure requires planning, a system architecture, standardized data sets, a network of collaborators, a policy framework for sharing, leadership, and the technology for deployment. Mr. Dangermond told the I-Team "your challenge is to develop an enterprise GIS system for the State in which everything statewide operates as an organism through information. That is the vision. To succeed you need leadership, executive support, and a plan."

I-Team participants engaged in a lively discussion with Mr. Dangermond. They focused on data content standards, data stewardship, the policy planning process, and implementation. Delaware has completed its first generation spatial data infrastructure. The I-Team is implementing its second generation framework in accordance with the I-Team Annual Report submitted to Governor Ruth Ann Minner in February.

Mr. Dangermond emphasized the importance of the strategic planning that the I-Team is doing. "The planning process educates the parties. There is no right way or wrong way. You need to hold the policy meetings. It is very important".

Mr. Dangermond suggested that the I-Teams's next step should be the adoption of common data content standards. I-Team members working on a fusion of county cadastral data and State road attributes professed a special need for such standards. Delaware is pursuing a stewardship partnership between

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counties and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). Counties will produce and maintain parcel data and the location of road centerlines. DelDOT will produce and maintain attributes to integrate with the location data.

The I-Team is entering into Letters of Agreement with data stewards, establishing policies and processes for the stewardship and distribution of data. Such agreements have been entered into with Kent and Sussex Counties for the stewardship of parcel data, and with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for hydrologic data.

Mr. Dangermond praised the State geospatial community for its DataMIL, calling it a prototype of a future in which loosely-coupled web services dynamically integrate distributed GIS data and services into a new model of collaboration and communication, Metadata is crucial for this process, since it is a metadata or catalogue server that will link data producers and users through a portal like Google. The DataMIL can help build a Delaware GIS community, linking together all existing investments and embedding services within services.

> "The planning process educates the parties. There is no right way or wrong way. You need to hold the policy meetings. It is very important."
>
> Jack Dangermond

Mr. Dangermond wondered where the DataMil will find a home. He opined that this is an essential policy issue with respect to an SDI generally, whether at the State or national level. "Where in the State government is it going to live? Some entity has to own the infrastructure," said Mr. Dangermond. " It has to be crosscutting. Who has responsibility for the standards, metadata, and other elements of the infrastructure?" Thomas Jarrett, Chief Information Officer for the State of Delaware and Secretary of the Dept. of Technology and Information, who attended the I-Team meeting, acknowledged the significance of this issue and the reluctance of State organizations to take on such a cross-cutting task given the nature of the annual appropriations process and the uncertain course of future resources and funding.

Mr. Dangermond recommended that the I-Team thinks in terms of transactions and mission -critical business functions. Just as bar codes automatically update supermarket inventory databases, tax assessments, land recordings, surveys, zoning and other everyday transactions can update distributed framework databases. "Think of it as update grams going from one agency to another and from one level of government to another," said Mr. Dangermond. The I-Team session concluded with Mr. Dangermond's observation that "Web services, XML, SOAP and other tech-

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ACTION AROUND THE STATES

American Samoa

Plans to obtain an Executive Order from the Governor endorsing the American Samoa Strategic Plan are on hold. The island's Governor died in early April from a massive heart attack suffered on an airplane flight to Hawaii. The Lt. Governor has assumed the office. He was the keynote speaker at American Samoa's GIS day on March 12 and was the person who originally suggested the Executive Order. Hopes are high on the island that he will endorse the plan and issue the Executive Order.

Delaware

The Delaware Spatial Data Implementation Team (I-Team) held a special meeting on April 29 as part of the Delaware GIS Conference.

ESRI President and Founder Jack Dangermond attended the I-Team meeting. I-Team members exchanged ideas with Mr. Dangermond, who was the Keynote Speaker at the conference. Other leaders in state and local government also attended.

T he I-Team has signed Memoranda of Understanding with two of Delaware's three counties (Kent and Sussex) outlining the cooperative approach the I-Team and each county plan to take to en-

(Continued from page 2)

nology will tie all computers, software systems, and databases together, enabling a fusion of data and a leveraging of spatial data investments to improve the quality of life in Delaware. You are building a new kind of enterprise information system, a nervous system for the State and a framework for human decision and action."

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL PUBLISHES REVIEW OF *THE NATIONAL MAP*

The Mapping Science Committee (MSC) of the National Research Council of the National Academies has published a review of and recommendations concerning the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concept of *The National Map.* The committee that conducted the review briefed the full MSC and USGS officials as part of a two-day forum on geospatial initiatives held recently in Washington, D.C.

The MSC recommended a two-tier organizational structure that is analogous to a "blanket" and "quilt". The blanket would be a consistent, seamless, National Atlas of Framework layers at a common scale of 1:12,000 or 1:24,000. Essentially an enhancement of the existing National Atlas, the data in the map/atlas would be public domain and served through the Geospatial One-Stop portal and other existing and future gateway sites. USGS would be responsible for maintaining and updating the data in the National Atlas.

The quilt would be *The National Map,* a patchwork of local, state, tribal, and private sector data with varied scale, source, accuracy, spatial extent, ownership models, and thematic content. It would serve users needing integrated larger-scale data, and implement many of the key ideas that the USGS has proposed for *The National Map*: best available data, voluntary contributions, highly distributed data maintained by local providers, shared metadata, and a mixture of public and private domain data. Private companies would be able to contribute data that would remain proprietary with publicly accessible metadata for emergencies and disasters.

The National Atlas blanket covers holes in *The National Map* quilt. At the same time, pieces of the quilt continuously would update and replace portions of the blanket. Over time, pieces of the quilt would replace most, if not all, of the blanket.

USGS would be responsible for quality control, accuracy assessment, and validation of the local government or private sector data. Local producers would be responsible for storage and archiving. USGS would assemble and integrate local, state, tribal, and private sector contributions, providing its "seal of approval" for the data to be included in the National Map and National Atlas.

According to the MSC report, success will depend on many factors beyond the control of USGS and require extraordinary coordination. USGS will need to adapt itself to a new role as coordinator and dedicate itself to the building of partnerships. Partners will need incentives and resources. The MSC recommended that USGS use the current *The National Map* pilots as organizational and management prototypes. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) should have a guiding role. The committee recommended that USGS should circulate an implementation plan to FGDC members and partners for comment as soon as possible.

The complete report may be accessed at www.nap.edu/catalog/10606.html.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

sure that the county's cadastral data is integrated with spatial data from state agencies and other county governments. The Kent County agreement was signed April 25 by the chair of the I-Team, the Kent County Planning Director, and the Kent County GIS Supervisor. The I-Team expects enter into a similar agreement with New Castle County shortly.

Georgia

The GIS Coordinating Committee of the Georgia Technology Authority met April 16. Topics included a statewide needs assessment and plan for imagery, and a work plan for the cadastral theme. Special time was set aside for a discussion on coordinating the upcoming Geospatial One-Stop Survey being submitted to all local governments by Public technology, Inc. (PTI) with similar surveys by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the I-Team.

Louisiana

The Louisiana GIS Council met April 17.

Maine

The committee on Digital Parcel Standards has met three times. It has nearly concluded work on the spatial and attribute standards for parcel data accepted into the Maine Geolibrary.

PTI WILL BEGIN TO DISTRIBUTE GEOSPATIAL ONE-STOP SURVEY

Public Technology, Inc. (PTI) will begin distribution of the Geospatial One-Stop national Survey to local governments on or about May 1 with a mailing to senior elected officials of cities and counties across the nation. Delayed for several months pending Paperwork Reduction Act approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the long anticipated survey may be a landmark event in efforts to build a National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Local governments will be able to complete the survey on-line. The survey will identify the geospatial framework data local governments currently collect and maintain. It also aims to identify the data sets local governments would be willing to share with other government units, and the general terms and conditions which they would like to see established to facilitate such sharing.

PTI began testing the online survey with a pilot group of 80 cities and counties during the latter part of April. Thirty of the early testers are included on the list of 133 Large Urban Areas for Homeland Security. Others are suburban or rural. In a webcast conference call on April 21, New York City representatives were able complete the survey in about one hour.

PTI authored the survey with the input from an advisory group of more than 30 city and county GIS leaders over a period of several months. The International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) provided the technical design. The survey has the support of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC) and National Association of CIOs (NASCIO).

The management of Geospatial One-Stop hopes the survey will become an on-line resource for local communities. Survey participants will be able to access that resource through the Geospatial One-Stop portal. City and county respondents will have access to the survey, definitions, discussion forum, web casts, and other resource information.

Participants will also benefit from the ongoing nature of the online survey instrument. Local communities will be able to update and maintain their responses online. "We do not see this as a one-time survey," said Hank Garie, executive Director of Geospatial One-Stop. "Rather, we see it being a dynamic online, real-time process enabling local governments to share their existing and planned data activities with the rest of the geospatial community responses as a normal part of daily business practices."

There was much discussion of the PTI survey at the recent NSGIC mid-year conference. State and local governments long have expressed concern about multiple surveys from Federal agencies covering the same or similar data activities and directed at the same state and local officials. Hopes are high for the PTI survey to help coordinate future Federal survey activity. "The PTI survey presents an opportunity to eliminate survey duplication and redundancy," commented Rick Miller, Kansas Chief Technology Officer and NSGIC Past President. Current NSGIC President Gene Trobia added, "Hopefully, the PTI survey will be the last survey ever done." Recognizing that several States and I-Teams are engaged in conducting or have recently completed similar surveys, PTI announced that it intends to eliminate any duplication by incorporating the results of those efforts and pre-populating the Geospatial One-Stop survey with the State and I-Team responses.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

Conflation has been completed on several watersheds as part of the NHD High resolution enhancement project.

Support continues to municipalities engaged in readdressing for Enhanced 911 and developing associated street centerline data. Maine GIS is working with about 10 municipalities per week. When the data is completed, it is prepared for release on the Maine GIS web site and delivered to the MEGIS data center for ongoing maintenance.

The Data Subcommittee met on April 24 to examine issues with the existing statewide elevation layer

such as: poor registration when compared to other Maine 1:24,000 scale data, and incorrect elevation and attributes along the Canadian border.

Minnesota

As you all know, S.F. 981 was heard yesterday in the Senate Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Budget Division chaired by Sen. Dallas Sams. It is very crucial now that the Bill be included in the committee's omnibus bill, which is going to be ready by Thursday April 24. Between now and Thursday April 24, please contact Sen. Dallas Sams and the members of the Senate Environment, Ag. & Econ.

TECHNOLOGY **ADVANCES**

INTEROPERABILITY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE OGC QUARTERLY MEETING *BY DOUG NEBERT*

The Open GIS Consortium (OGC) held the 45th Meeting of its Technical and Planning Committees in Orleans, France, April 7-11.

The French agency, BRGM, was the host. It is taking the lead in adopting ISO and OGC technologies to provide web map services for France through a system called INFO-TERRE (http://infoterre.brgm.fr/). BRGM is the rough equivalent to the USGS geologic and water resource discipline areas. Its expertise is in basic geology, hydrogeology, and mineral resources assessment and development, applied both in France and other parts of the world, especially Africa.

The First European Symposium on Geographic Data Interoperability was incorporated into the meetings. It promoted the application of ISO standards and OGC specifications within Europe. It is the first effort within France to discuss geospatial interoperability. There were nearly 200 participants, including representatives from industry, academia, and all levels of government. Presentations were on Interoperability in Europe and France, supporting natural hazards, earth sciences, and e-government. The introductory presentation is at http://www.brgm.fr/JEIDG/jeidgA.htm.

BRGM gave a presentation on the Africa GIS Project for Sustainable Development. Using French foreign assistance funds (no EU partners yet), it recently has begun a multi-year program to assist in the mapping of geology and mineral information for 10 countries in Africa -- 7 in West Africa, 3 in East Africa. The plan is to work with the host countries to develop local geologic information and expertise, prepare and publish digital and paper map information, and provide 22 workshops at two host centers to be established in Dar es Salaam and Ouagadougou. The workshops will be on thematic data design, metadata, and related topics.

Several working groups focused attention on the state of services description within the OGC. No clear resolution has developed from discussions on how to harmonize services discovery between the 'special cases' of geospatial applications and emerging Web Services community technologies that are still not mature. A topic that emerged from the sessions is the need for a cross-cutting group to address the common issues and approaches of query languages within the OGC to assure consistency in all implementation specs.

There was much interest in Catalog Services specification draft version 2.0. There is great support for a form of catalog search over HTTP instead of Z39.50, and this will constitute the major revision to the specification. Proposals were received for new UML diagrams to describe both session-based and "stateless" connections to the catalog in order to support more web style access. Discussions on conformance testing included a proposal for a formal "Application Profile" to declare all the variables necessary to subset a specific service for a community of application. Such a profile could be written, for example, to characterize the NSDI and its use of a specific protocol, metadata format, sample records, and queries, in order to tighten tests of interoperability.

Another noteworthy presentation was on the Conformance Testing and Interoperability Environment (CTIE) that has been coordinated by Northrup Grumman. Using a web-based service hosted at www.opengroup.org, Web Services can be tested based on specific "assertions" with definitions and sample data. An objective test can be run. Hundreds of assertions have been prepared with test data that can be uploaded into software systems and remotely tested for conformance. It will enable users to test claims of "OGC Conformant" products. It also presents an opportunity to start listing and publishing assertions in future versions of the specifications as part of the standardization process.

Doug Nebert is Clearinghouse Coordinator, Federal Geographic Data Committee.

TECHNOLOGY is accelerating at a pace that is almost too rapid for most to absorb. It presents great opportunities and great challenges. The Technology Advisory Group (TAG) exists to help I-Teams and the geospatial community identify and address technology opportunities and challenges through open dialogue with members of the OpenGIS Consortium (OGC).

Local and State needs and perceptions (opportunity or challenge?) are often quite different from those of vendors or the Federal government. The TAG gives **Technology Advisory Group** I-Teams direct access at no cost to OGC members working at the cutting edge of technology to advance interoperability and location based services. In return, OGC and its members understand the needs and challenges of local and State I-Team members.

MORE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

OGC DEMONSTRATION CONCLUDES FIRST CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PILOT PROJECT

The Open GIS Consortium (OGC) concluded the first pilot project of the its Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative's (CIPI-1) at the end of March with a demonstration in Windsor, Ontario. The demonstration highlighted new interoperable specifications involving emergency notification systems and illustrated a vision of intergovernmental data sharing for the future. The pilot involved participating communities on both sides of the US/Canadian border in Michigan and Ontario.

If you took a walk outside in your city or town, and detected a suspicious odor, perhaps caused by a leaking chemical, how would local, state or provincial, and federal responders share information to be sure there was no threat to public safety? The Open GIS Consortium used this realistic threat scenario involving local, state, provincial and federal players from both sides of the border to demonstrate the technology and rewards of geospatial cooperation

The challenges of bringing all the players that will one day be involved in such events to the table are numerous. Key players must understand the vision and the technology that allow the sharing of data and services that CIPI-1, and other initiatives, promise. The good news is that once at the table, participants at all levels can more rapidly find solutions to better enable communities to cooperatively address important issues of mutual interest.

Sponsors and participants contributed data. The sponsors were GeoConnections, led by Natural Resources Canada (NRC), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and General Dynamics - Advanced Information Systems. Participants included the City of Windsor, the Province of Ontario, and the Centre for Topographic Information Sherbrooke (CTIS), Wayne State University, City of Detroit Police Department, Wayne County, and Michigan Center for Geographic Information. Navigation Technologies and GlobeXplorer also contributed data..

Attendees at the demonstration were able to experience the work normally done behind the scenes to create interoperable systems. USGS, NRC and the State of Michigan set up Internet-based mapping servers at different locations (Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Ottawa, Canada and Detroit, Michigan). Data were brought together, from different hardware platforms - from mainframes to cell phones - using software from a wide variety of vendors. Participants played various roles in the demonstration, such as a mapping specialist at an emergency response center with access to powerful computers, a police officer at the scene of the leak with a PDA, or a journalist trying to get emergency information to local residents.

The importance of this type of work cannot be overestimated. CIPI-1 illustrated how real data from distributed servers across multiple vendor products can be brought together to solve a real problem. While interoperability makes this possible, the significant benefits of a coordinated multi-community response were evident. Finally, the experience of this initiative helped OGC members identify and develop new interfaces for alert messaging, address data access requirements, and develop important extensions to existing OpenGIS® specifications.

Though this effort revolved around infrastructure protection and emergency response, its lessons extend to the many business lines and applications that demand the sharing of spatial data and services. Any government department can benefit from linking with peers in a neighboring geography or those at other levels in the governmental hierarchy. The work of CIPI-1 drives that home.

For more information on CIPI, please contact Ron Fresne, Interoperability Program Manager, rfresne@opengis.org.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

Devmt. Budget Division and urge them to include S.F. 981 in the Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Omnibus Bill.

On the House side the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance committee is finalizing their omnibus bill. But H.F. 1325 has not been heard and therefore will not be included in the House omnibus bill. We hope it will be heard before the deadline, April 29, and make it on its own.

Therefore the priority now is to contact Sen. Dallas Sams and his committee first, and then Rep. Ozment second.

Nebraska

The next Nebraska I-Team meeting will be on May 12, 2003 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. It will be held in conjunction with the 2003 Nebraska GIS Symposium.

Nebraska's biannual I-Team meetings give the broader Nebraska GIS user community the opportunity to share geospatial data needs and plans in order to further facilitate cooperation and collaboration. The I-Team invites the entire geospatial data user community to attend and participate.

The agenda will focus on the sharing of geospatial data development plans

MORE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

WEB FEATURE SERVICE SPECIFICATION PASSES

The big news in recent months on the OpenGIS® Specification front is that Web Feature Service Specification (WFS) was approved. While it's easy to lump all the specifications that have the term "Web Service" in them together, it's important to understand the differences. Web Map Service (WMS), the first of OGC's Web specifications, is currently implemented in more than 60 software packages. Those are only the ones that have been identified to OGC; there are likely many more. WMS allows a WMS client to access multiple servers that implement the specification and ask about what data is available, ask for attributes of the data and ask for a "picture" (a JPG, GIF or PNG) of the data If the client taps into more than one server, the servers create the pictures using the same scale and coordinate system so they automatically overlay. WMS is a powerful and relatively easy way for Web client and server software from different vendors, on different hardware platforms, using different data formats, to work together.

WFS is the new kid on the block; only 30 products implement this specification. But, considering what it can do, that's likely to change quickly. WFS takes data sharing one step further by allowing the editing of features on a server, according to the instructions (or queries) issued by a client. And, as in WMS, it does not matter which vendor's software is used on the client or server side, what platform it's on, or what data type is used behind the scenes. WFS works closely with GML, its data "carrier." For many, WFS opens up the possibility of doing "traditional" GIS work in a distributed environment, that is, editing and updating data, without the typical restriction of using vendor X's editor with vendor X's data format in the same location. If the client and server software both support WFS, and they are on the Web, it just works.

Web Feature Service in Action

One of the first organizations to jump on the WFS bandwagon is the Geography Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. In the Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative Phase 2 (CIPI-2), the Geography Division of the U.S. Census Bureau is working with participants on the WebBAS system to allow Web-based update of geospatial features by state, county, local, municipal and/or tribal governments as a partial replacement for the current paper-based Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). A second part focuses on distributing TIGER® data using WFS and GML.

The BAS is currently a paper-based survey that consists of map sheets, 12 forms, 8 letters, 2 postcards, and 12 inserts. The geography division hopes to increase the number of participants in the BAS, improve the response rate, reduce cost, and make additional update options available to participating governments. Making TIGER available in an open format can only increase both its usefulness and its availability.

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ACTION AROUND THE STATES

and needs. Participants will discuss the findings and recommendations of the recently conducted Nebraska Land Records Modernization Study.

The I-Team will begin to discuss the items it should consider as it Updates the 2002 Nebraska GIS Strategic I-Team Plan. The plan is available online at: http://www.calmit.unl.edu/gis/Annl Rpt & I-Team Plan_2002.pdf

The 2003 Nebraska GIS Symposium is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 13-15, following the I-Team meeting. Additional information about the Symposium is also available online at:

http://www.calmit.unl.edu/nebgis2003/

The GIS Steering Committee will meet at the Cornhusker Hotel on May 15, after the closing of the Symposium.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania was able to acquire aerial photography

MORE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

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News from the Interoperability Program

- Geospatial One-Stop Transportation Pilot (GOS-TP)

A UML to GML Application Schema tool is now working and generating useful GML Application Schemas from UML Models. Road Transportation has been tested thus far and others are expected by the time you read this article. The goal is to find a practical way to share data held in different data models.

- Conformance & Interoperability Testing & Evaluation Initiative (CITE)

The design of the Conformance Testing Engine has been finalized and the engine is under development. Test Scripts for WMS, WFS, SLD and GML are under development and drafts are complete. The Initiative will lay out tests suites for several existing specifications the groundwork for tests of future ones.

- Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative (CIPI)

The two nodes under development in CIPI-1 Phase 1 are nearly complete. Engineering work on Emergency Notification Services is moving ahead. A demonstration of the results of Phase 1 is scheduled for March 27th, in the Detroit/Windsor area. I-Team members are most welcome. See details at: http://www.opengis.org/pressrm/pressrelease/20030305_CIPI11and2_PR.htm.

CIPI-2, mentioned above, is moving along. An internal online demo of WebBAS is scheduled for March 31. A live demonstration of both WebBAS and WebTIGER is scheduled at the Census Bureau on April 15.

A New Resource for I-Teams

At the most recent OGC meeting the Technical and Planning Committees voted to adopt the OGC Reference Model (ORM) and to make the document public. The ORM provides a model for the OpenGIS framework for geospatial software, services and data interoperability. It is also a roadmap to the current OpenGIS adopted specification baseline. This may be a helpful document for those considering OpenGIS implementations. The ORM will be a living document, maintained and updated by the OGC as new specifications emerge to expand the growing architecture of interoperability for geoprocessing and location-based services. Look for it at www.opengis.org.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

for ten counties in south central Pennsylvania in accordance with I-Teams plans for this fiscal year.

Texas

Place Holder for material from Mike Ouimet.

These are tough budget times. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) which houses TNRIS, announced in mid-April that it is reallocating to non-TNRIS purposes approximately $750,000 appropriated by the legislature to maintain and build on StratMap. TWDB has redirected the TNRIS Internet Section to internal TWDB programs. This will reduce the amount of support TNRIS will be able to give to other state, local and Federal agencies and jurisdictions.

CEG FACILITATES DISCUSSION AT NSGIC CONFERENCE

The Council for Excellence in Government attended the 2003 NSGIC Midyear Conference which was held in Denver, Colorado on March 28-30, 2003. Dave McClure, Vice President for e-Government at the Council facilitated four sessions concentrating on State Priorities of Federal Partnerships, Homeland Security Priorities, establishing a State Coordination Model and a discussion on NSGIC and its Partners.

The Friday afternoon session concentrated on State Priorities of Federal Partnerships. During that discussion, several themes emerged, including the need for good recognition techniques for redundancy and opportunity for budgetary leveraging; the possibility of reinstituting the position of an OMB GIS coordinator; a mechanism for vertical and horizontal coordination; define a good integration model that includes best practices and milestones; and the possibility of establishing a federal liaison position at the state level to better communicate with the central federal agencies.

Dave McClure, Vice President for e-Government at the Council facilitated four sessions concentrating on State Priorities of Federal Partnerships, Homeland Security Priorities, establishing a State Coordination Model and a discussion on NSGIC and its Partners.

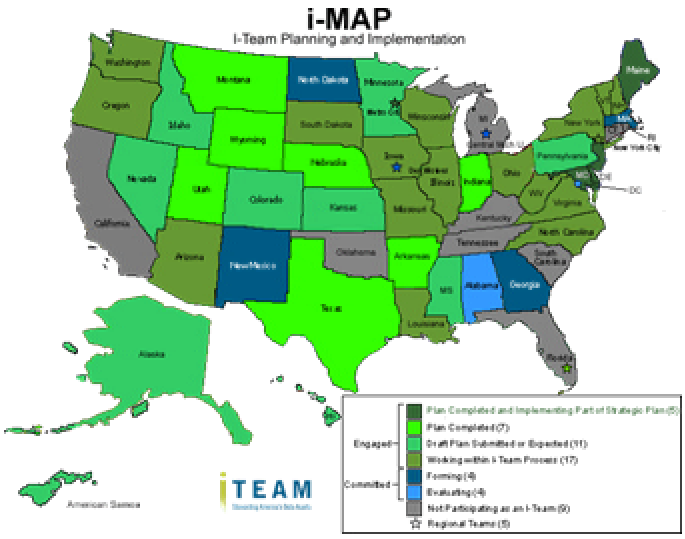
There were two sessions on Saturday: The morning session concentrated on homeland security priorities for states. The discussion concentrated on how states can best delineate their roles and responsibilities so that they can work best with the federal government. Several themes were mentioned that included a better cross-agency, inter-level sharing of best practices on homeland security efforts, a strategy for collaboration among the three levels of government and the insertion of a GIS component to the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security. The afternoon session dealt with a proposed statewide coordination model.

The Sunday session wrapped things up by elaborating on ways that geo data use and development can be achieved by fostering a dialogue with decision makers at all three levels as well as how to best invigorate interest in productive, collaborative geographic data collection, maintenance and use. Finally, the NSGIC leadership announced that it is moving forward with a White Paper that will build constituency for the use of geographic information and specify the roles and responsibilities that NSGIC should have.

ENHANCED I-TEAM RESOURCES NOW ONLINE

Have you been to the website for the Federal Geographic Data Committee recently? If so, have you checked out the new I-Team web pages within that site? Take a look at http://www.fgdc.gov/I-Team.

On the new and improved I-Team website you will find lots of new and informative links and resources. The I-Teams page contains information on the concept of an I-Team, with links to resources of how I-Team have been active around the United States. I-Plans links to the plans and draft plans of states, localities, and theme-based teams. The I-Team Process page outlines the process by which I teams form, meet, and it outlines the commitments I-Teams make. Collaborative Activities details other initiatives with which I-Teams can engage and links to the websites for those initiatives. The Technology Advisory Group page discusses the role and function of the TAG and provides links to TAG meeting minutes and other documentation.



Finally, the Map page reveals the status of every state in the I-Team process, classifying states at different levels of commitment and engagement.

In the Library section of the website you can download and link to agreements within states, articles about I-Teams, background material about I-Teams, Financing the NSDI, I-Plans, legislation, executive orders, and other official documents, newsletters, other media, PowerPoint presentations, publications, reports, studies, papers and guidebooks, and surveys and inventories. Also on the website, you can also download all previous issues of *I-Team Connections* , and log into workspaces for I-Teams, the TAG, and Geospatial One Stop.

Geospatial One Stop Portal Design Team Meetings

Friday Mornings

9:30 a. m. to 12:30 p.m. ET

To attend by telephone or in person contact:

Jeff de La Beaujardiere at 301.286.1569 or jeff2002@sunrise.gsfc.nasa.gov

OMB/ FGDC GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION INITIATIVE

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