

# Meeting Notes

Texas Shared Technology Services  
Geographic Information Systems Solution Group Meeting  
January 29, 2019 • 2:30PM – 4:00PM

W.P. Clements Building, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
300 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
DIR Congress Conference Room

Meeting Chair            Richard Wade (TWDB/TNRIS)  
Co-Chair                 Ed Kelly (DIR)

Participants             **(Attendees in Bold)**  
**Raj Nadkarni (TCEQ), Scot Friedman (GLO),** Monica Watt (CSEC), **Vonda Payne (CSEC), Felicia Retiz, Gayla Mullins, Ilyanna Kadich (TWDB/TNRIS),** Chris Bardash (TxDOT), **Travis Scruggs (TxDOT),** Jeremy Rogers (TxDOT), **Jeremy Nobles (TPWD),** Michelle Swindle, Bobby Bruner (Atos), **Michael Kersey (DIR),** Michelle Valek (THC), Laura Rojas; Susan Seet (CSEC), Jodie Erickson (DIR), Chad Lersch (DIR), Dave Ballinger (DIR), Jennifer Neutzler (DIR), **Jennifer Kirby (TCEQ),** Michael Chamberlain (TxDOT), Burhan Girgin, Terese Shade (DIR), Lorie Ramirez (DIR), **Carrie Davie (Capgemini), Dan Otto (DIR)**

Conference Number     1-877-873-8018    Access Code: 3298261

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**Welcome and Introductions** (Richard Wade)

**Agenda:**

- Discuss and set priorities for 2019 (Group Discussion)

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**Strategic Mapping Program** (Richard Wade)

- TNRIS will be requesting funding for the program (\$3M for biennium)
  - Has not had funding since 2011
  - Agency executives plan to appeal for support of program by providing instances of the program's usefulness and to provide an understanding of how important funding is if/when in contact with the legislature or sponsors
    - Outline/Cheat Sheet will be drafted and provided as a model for Agencies to use



# Meeting Notes

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## Parcel Project Update – 254 Counties (Ilyana Kadich)

- 94 counties of parcels acquired and soon to have on-line
  - Website page launched with status map with the ability to download parcels
    - Back-end configuration being worked so there may be slight changes in the near future
- Result of state-wide Introduction/Initiatives Letter to chief appraisers and address authorities sent out in November
  - New data provided (appraisal districts or their 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors) is from November/December timeframe
    - Meta-data format
    - Data is 'as-is' – no standardizations at this time
- Other 160 counties are still trickling in and work continues with 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors (1/2 of state works with 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors) – confident re: getting data more frequently
  - Cost is still unknown but should not be prohibitive
  - Majority should be able to be acquired easily
  - Some counties still only have 'paper' data to provide
  - Some counties do their own
- AppGeo Report provided approximately 212 counties are digital
  - Recommendation to turn paper into digital
  - Get the 'low-hanging fruit' first
    - Possibly work to get a grant funded by the board for those interested in turning these into GIS
    - Talk to vendor for low-cost software solutions to train locals on their systems and/or introduce new tools
- Use-Case for data collected
  - Effort is a continuous collection of data where the frequency of refresh will be based on the county's technology situation
    - Clearing House – single location where evergreen data can be accessed
      - What are consumers going to do with it? Legal aspects examples (TCEQ):
        - Water: surface water rights-who owns property and how to access
        - Oil/Gas: whose property do you have to access to get to a well; one location to find counties that have shale land ownership
        - Permitting: accurate outline/fence line of parcel or tract to determine who gets property rights; splitting property for tax deductions
  - House Appropriations Committee meeting
    - Questions about why TRNIS is going through this effort and is the money being spent correctly
      - Uses: Emergency response and recovery; animal health (contamination/quarantine) and which parcels affected; efficiency in managing of agencies; determine how much land do agencies own; right of ways-working internally to resolve and have the information readily available; insurance purposes: (tornado/hurricane/disaster/dam safety & notification); firefighting notifications; neighbor notifications; bring general awareness to the table



# Meeting Notes

- Potential damage for private industry
  - Having dataset available to the general public: be mindful of 3<sup>rd</sup> party Vendors selling data
    - Appraisal districts and/or commercial entities will still be needed for current and more detailed data requests
  - Legislative Bill introduced to disclose sales data reported to appraisal districts
- TCEQ \$100K Grant for Parcel Project
  - Ideas for the \$100K + \$60K (existing funds)
    - Supplement and accelerate current parcel effort
      - Assessing and collaborating with non-GIS offices
    - Develop a class (grant or funded by board) for appraisal district GIS professionals
      - Continuing education: what does it mean to use GIS; learn vocabulary/ nomenclature to enable effective communication with 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor
    - Partner with ACC to get interns to work on project (request for a certain schema, scrubbing data, etc.)
    - Work with specialized vendor for mineral rights data (TCEQ)
      - TCEQ designated as a low priority
        - Having comprehensive data across the board in a consistent one-stop location with points of contact is the priority
          - Goal would be to refresh quarterly
    - Obtain a licensed commercial product for a 1-2 year period (reassess at time of renewal) to fill in the blanks while working in parallel with appraisal districts or 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors
      - Only for state agencies for state agency use – not available to public
      - Interest in use via a mobile app – boundary locations (search and zoom); to only show boundaries and should not be downloadable
        - Anticipating increased customer interest/demand
      - Option: Not having commercial data on-site but to be able to ‘serve’ it (access via cloud, etc.)
        - Coastal areas & thoroughfares may be an issue
      - Need to do due diligence for what is needed to be able to negotiate with commercial vendor
        - Will consume most of the budget (~65%)
- Strategic Mapping Account – there is a Plan A and a Plan B
  - Even if it were highly optimistic about whether it goes through the Legislature or not, there is an internal option that will do everything the group wants Strategic Mapping to do
    - Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - should have some type of account
  - Statement of Work – scope needs to be reset
    - TCEQ to initiate the contract



# Meeting Notes

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## Coastal Imagery Discussion (Gayla Mullins)

- Google was behind on some areas and they had an imagery expert at TNDRI who was provided a map of needed images and some progress is being made
  - Jasper, Wharton and an area by New Mexico are now in the service
  - Working on the list that hasn't been flown since 2014
  - Additionally, flown another list of blocks that are now in the service
  - A new list has been generated and 2015 list will be compiled next
  - Concerns over Google's expediency in flying over
- Cost estimates: there should be no surprises for Sept 1 bill – will keep same flat fee for regional and local agencies
- TCEQ Question: What are the ways in which we can reclassify areas that should be flown on a yearly basis?
  - Population shifts/Massive changes (Corpus Christi and the Valley)
    - Opportunity to make a case to provide Google reasons why fly-overs are needed more often or to move service to a Tier 2 or Tier 1 rate
      - Liquid natural gas plants
      - SpaceX
      - Raj (TCEQ) will put together a case to present to Google
    - Hexagon (Randy) can provide proposal as a possible alternative to Google and willing to come talk to the group
      - 60cm vs 30cm issue
        - What customers are currently accustomed to
        - Increased resolution prevents issues like split counties
        - What is the cost for 6-inch across the board?
        - A 'consistent piece' is required to take advantage of any competition
        - NAIP – late this year, started in September and finishing now
          - Concerns re: reliability on NAIP to provide consistent imagery
            - Possibly use our own acquisition for a 'shot in time' using funding for Strategic Mapping (2020/2021 timeframe) to get a consistent view
            - Esri partnering with another company to provide a similar product as Hexagon
        - Hexagon can do a simultaneous capture of Lidar and imagery
  - Google has a contract with Bexar County appraisal district to fly every year
    - If we paid more or added on while they are there?
    - Or request from a vendor (not just Google) a consistent 3-year product? Will require money, but it will be consistent per a contract
    - Galveston, Orange and Freeport areas are also in need
  - Group has a good picture of how often they update
    - Put together map of all the areas with update frequency information
  - Group agrees to meet with Hexagon (February) prior to the Google (March) meeting
- November GIS Solutions Meeting re: extending imagery 9 nautical miles seaward results



# Meeting Notes

- Google did not respond favorably
- Fugro – provided cost estimates
  - Possibly use Fugro's offshore oil well database information to pinpoint locations – cost?
- May have \$200K available in the budget
- Scot provided action item result: there are 3392 offshore structures (209 in the Gulf and 3183 in bays and rivers and 224 derelict vessels)
- Texas Tech (Natural Resources Department) joined the program as a State Agency
  - Currently universities join as a department and as a state agency (tiers)
    - Offered the Universities that if two departments join, then the whole university would have access to it (would not be available to students)
      - Have reached out to Texas Forest Services, Dell Medical School, UT System, Texas A&M – currently no takers

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## 2019 Priorities (Group)

- Poll Results – Overwhelming response was to have the authoritative data looked at again
  - Repository: Back-end should be finished in the next couple of weeks and currently working the front-end search engine that will access the back-end
    - Approximate 6 month timeframe: July 2019 estimated completion
  - How do you designate an authoritative dataset?
    - Define terminology: 'customer', 'aggregate', 'authoritative for GIS data', etc.
    - Define 'authoritative source'
    - Set up process and standards
    - Set up restrictions: business need = statutes
    - Set expectations
  - Suggested definition: 'authoritative' is designated as the publisher of the data.
    - Issue: Every agency has their own version of authoritative data and there is not a centralized authority to drive it
      - Data is duplicated but how kept and maintained is different per agency
    - Question: Who is the authority on county lines?
      - Unclear: shared responsibilities between GLO, TXDOT, TWDB with varying results
    - Suggest a disclaimer on website noting appraisal district data but also have a link to each district
    - Travis (TXDOT) earlier suggested that whoever publishes it is the authenticated owner of the data
      - DIR example: Contract data comes from vendors but once it is published on agency site, DIR is perceived as the data owner
      - Legal may need to get involved to address complexities
    - 9-1-1 / PSAP- Public Safety Answering Points is coming across boundary issues
      - Successful calls depend on good topology
    - Question: Is it possible to survey county lines? Yes
      - Williamson/Travis County boundary was in debate



# Meeting Notes

- Quote to survey that boundary line: \$1 million+
- There will never be an authoritative county boundary dataset
  - Current misconception: Strategic Mapping boundaries on TNRIS site are the authoritative dataset
- Recommendation: Getting the data back to each appraisal district
  - Get with Legal group to come up with a disclaimer that the data goes back to appraisal districts to avoid being misidentified as the 'authoritative data/source' and that county boundaries are graphical representations in order to protect the state
  - Discussion of what this role is will develop into and determined in the legislature
- There should be two classes of data: Authoritative and Non-Authoritative
  - Define classes in order to progress and move forward with this effort
- TNRIS - Words (State Level) to define and how to manage:
  - Master Data
  - Master Data Management
  - Publishers
  - System of Record
  - Authority

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## Next Agenda and Action Items

### Action Items:

Owner	Description
Richard Wade	Provide Outline/Cheat Sheet for Agencies to use as a model
Raj Nadkarni	(TCEQ) will put together a case to present to Google to reclassify areas that should be flown on a yearly basis
Gayla Mullins	Put together map of all the areas with imagery update frequency information
Group	Define how to designate an 'authoritative' dataset and other key words in order to effectively and consistently manage the data

**Next Meeting:** February 26, 2019

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** Authoritative Data; Brief Introduction to Storage and Dissemination of larger datasets (aerial imagery/elevation data); Higher Classification of Lidar; Pulling data into the ODP (Open Data Portal); Elevation (monuments gone / dams changing)

