

August 12, 1999 - MINUTES

Department of Technology Planning

Virginia Geographic Information Network Division

Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board

Department of Information Technology

Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Richmond Plaza Building

110 S. 7th Street, Richmond, Virginia

Members Present	Honorable John Watkins, Chairman
	Daniel S. Shaffer, Vice Chairman
	W. Page Cockrell
	Kenneth D. Barker
	Ken Anderson
	Jerry Simonoff
	Michael D. Clower
	David Gehr
Designee:	Jean Tingler for Mark R. Kilduff
Members Absent:	The Honorable Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.
	The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
	The Honorable R. Edward Houck
	Kenneth D. Barker
	William C. Cleveland
	Mark R. Kilduff
	Dr. W. Mark Crain
VGIN Staff:	William D. Shinar, VGIN Division Coordinator
	Bob Rike, VGIN Division Assistant Coordinator

The Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 1:10 a.m. by the Honorable John Watkins, Chairman.

The draft minutes of the June 8, 1999 VGIN Advisory Board meeting were approved as presented.

VGIN Coordinator's Report

Bill Shinar reviewed VGIN's activities since the last Advisory Board meeting on June 8, 1999. He listed and commented on meetings, presentations and interviews with state agencies, regional planning districts, user groups, universities and colleges, and other activities.

The acquisition of new computers and furniture for the new VGIN staff is complete. A presentation was made for the Department of Environmental Quality. VGIN continues to work on supporting and participating in COVITS, the Virginia GIS conference, the PDC summer conference, and the scheduling of the four PDC forums. Mr. Shinar also met several times with the Secretary of Technology Upson concerning decision support tools and maps.

Workgroups

Mr. Shinar provided an update of the status of the various workgroups:

The Metadata workgroup continues to work on a draft document. The Local Government workgroup has begun working on draft document. The Geodetic Control Workgroup has completed a draft document, which is being reviewed.

Decision Package Review

Jerry Simonoff talked about the Department of Technology Planning's (DTP) role in reviewing technology related Decision Packages from other state agencies. He added that DTP has advance notice of technology related Decision Packages that are asking \$500,000 or more. Mr. Simonoff concluded by saying that these decision support packages are due September 20, 1999.

New VGIN staff members

Mr. Shinar continued his report by saying that the bulk of the last 2 months has been spent on staff development. Bill then introduced two of the three new VGIN staff member; Bob Rike and Matt Blaes. John Mcgee, also a new staff member was unable to attend the board meeting.

Mr. Blaes briefly discussed the projects and activities he has been working on; the GIS Clearinghouse design, VGIN Web site updates and Internet mapping guidelines and attendance at the annual ESRI users conference.

Local Government Contact Program

Mr. Rike discussed his efforts to make contact with all counties, incorporated cities, and some towns within the Commonwealth. Mr. Rike mentioned that some of the goals of contact program are to help VGIN gain a better understanding of the status of GIS, E911, and the use of spatial information inside each locality. Mr. Rike presented two graphs, one showing the status of the contact program and a second that illustrated some preliminary findings concerning the status of parcel automation within Virginia Cities and Counties.

Joan Tingler offered to share her contact list with VGIN. Mike Clower suggested that VGIN look over a grant list he has compiled to aid in identifying the hardware and software being used by various localities.

Mr. Rike concluded by saying that there has been a dramatic increase in the level of spatial data creation and use compared to the levels indicated by the NSGIC/FGDC Framework Data Survey. Ms. Tingler again offered to share contact information she has compiled about Virginia localities.

Ken Anderson asked about the possibility of sharing the results of the Local Government contact program, possibly on VGIN's web site. Mr. Shinar said that this and other methods of disseminating this information are consistent with the direction that VGIN is headed.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that the results of the Framework Data Survey have been published over the web and he couldn't see why VGIN's results could not be as well.

Mr. Shinar continued the discussion about the Contact program by saying the results to date are preliminary and not suitable for publishing, but that there is a generally positive attitude from those who have been contacted. Mr. Shinar continued by saying that preliminary results show that the percentage of localities working with GIS has gone from around 30% to 60% up to the current 90% since the 1998 Framework Data Survey.

Vice-Chairman, Dan Schaffer suggested that VGIN try to contact private companies and bring them into the process. Mr. Schaffer went on to say that contractors in a way might challenge or compete with VGIN in its attempt to aid localities since the contractors in many cases are the ones who design local GISs.

Mr. Shinar concluded the discussion of the contact program by saying that he hoped that the contact program results will be posted on the VGIN web site in time for the next VGIN advisory board meeting.

Mr. Shinar continued with Coordinators Report by listing some of the other activities that VGIN will be focusing on in the upcoming months. These include contacting other state agencies concerning their GIS related activities, continuing to contact local governments, continuing the development of Workgroup Documents, updating and enhancing the VGIN web page, supporting the fall Virginia GIS conference and participating in the COVITS by making a presentation on web enabled GIS.

Mr. Simonoff noted that COVITS grew out of an idea from the Secretary of Technology.

PDC Forums

Chairman Watkins inquired about the status of contacting the various Planning District Commissions. Mr. Shinar said that planning for a series of four PDC Forums throughout the state is underway. Vice-Chairman Schaffer suggested widening the scope of these meetings to include other groups. Chairman Watkins expressed his concern that there might not be as many people attending these forums as he would like.

Mr. Clower, also expressing this concern, posed the question of why one of these forums is not being held at the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission (NVPDC). Mr. Shinar responded by saying that the NVPDC will participate in the forum to be held at Culpepper. Mr. Clower went on to ask why one the forums are not going to be held in Northern Virginia. Mr. Shinar said that the four locations were chosen in order to provide central meeting locations for all PDCs.

Local Government Grants / Data Development / Satellite Imagery

The discussion then shifted to the use of grants to aid local governments in developing parcel data layers. Mr. Anderson suggested that a grant program should be set up to encourage localities in developing parcel databases. Mr. Anderson then asked what the status of such a program is and why a grants program is not in the current VGIN budget. Mr. Shinar responded that the reason we are here is to discuss these ideas and the VGIN budget. Mr. Anderson stated that he wanted to make sure that there is an opportunity to provide input on these issues. The discussion continued with other suggestions and comments. Vice-Chairman Schaffer asked about the type of geodetic control localities are using. Mr. Schaffer felt that when a local government implements a GIS, the development of planimetric base layers should come first and then a parcel layer. Mr. Clower then suggested that a parcel development program could be incorporated into CBLAD grants. Mr. Schaffer reiterated that the order of GIS development should be control, basemap and then parcels. Mr. Love mentioned that the white paper he has been working on should be helpful for those interested in developing a geodetic monumentation and control network.

public safety as a reason to develop planimetric base layers. Chairman Watkins stated that the Secretary of Technology should help move these ideas along.

The discussion of geodetic control, monumentation and base mapping continued with Mr. Schaffer suggesting that a good way to get GIS started in a local government is to use public safety as a reason to develop planimetric base layers. Chairman Watkins stated that the Secretary of Technology should help move these ideas along.

Mr. Clower then discussed his needs concerning a program to track non-tidal wetlands throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Clower described how Landsat imagery can be used to perform trend analysis of gains and losses of non-tidal wetlands. Mr. Clower then asked Mr. Shinar if VGIN could support this program with data management or analysis. Mr. Shinar responded positively, stating that VGIN is trying to develop partnerships with other agencies.

Chairman Watkins asked if counties and cities are already doing this kind of work. Mr. Clower answered that they are not. Mr. Clower added that even though there is significant GIS work needed to support this project, there isn't enough work to justify a full time position. He then added that he was frustrated with this situation and is trying to figure out a solution. Mr. Shinar said that he will be in contact with Mr. Clower to work out a solution. Mr. Clower finished by saying that he felt the end result of this program would be a permitting system that would allow a case by case method of reviewing projects that impact non-tidal wetlands.

Ms. Tingler asked about the status of statewide satellite imagery. Mr. Shinar hopes that in the near future this issue would be addressed and that the current satellite data needs to be updated. Ms. Tingler then added that the currently used imagery is almost at the 5-year replacement point. Chairman Watkins asked if VGIN and VEDP could partner for projects like this. Both Ms. Tingler and Mr. Shinar responded favorably to this idea.

Mr. Shinar then suggested that VGIN should help provide base layers, commonwealth-wide, allowing state agencies to contribute application specific data.

The discussion about satellite imagery continued with Ms. Tingler describing how her department uses wetlands data. Mr. Anderson asked about how the state currently obtains Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQ) and the status of funding for these photos. There was general agreement that state agencies currently fund their own data gathering projects, which include DOQQs.

The question was asked about the suitability of DOQQs for local government uses.

Mr. Shinar responded that they are not really usable for local governments. Dan responded that DOQQs might be of some use to local governments.

Chairman Watkins suggested that Mr. Shinar and Mr. Simonoff should meet with Ms. Tingler and others to discuss imagery needs. He also added that maybe VGIN could look into the idea of forming a partnership with private companies to sell data. Ken Anderson supports this idea in theory, but that his attitude has changed over time. He considers the

logistical cost of selling data is more trouble than the revenue is worth. Mr. Shaffer added that he supports cost sharing where possible.

Mr. Shinar announced that the Land Records Task Force is interested in a co-meeting on the 7th or 8th of October at the Virginia GIS conference in Abingdon. Mr. Anderson also would like a joint meeting.

Mr. Shinar added that he will try to schedule the next VGIN board meeting for the 7th of October at 3:30pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee. No report.

Standards and Policy Committee. No report.

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 28th, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. in the Richmond Plaza Building (DTP/DIT) Richmond, VA.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

William D. Shinar

VGIN Division Coordinator

Log of Attendees

Scott Crafton CBLAD

R.J. Sebastian James City County

John D. Love Geodetic Consultant

Murali Rao VDOT

Dan Widner VDOT