

Vermont Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2016 11:00PM to 12:00PM

In attendance:

- John E. Adams – VCGI
- Dave Metraux – ACCD
- Darwin Thompson – DII
- Peter Telep – ANR
- Greg Boulbol – Natural Resources Board
- Ryan Murphy – ANR
- Erik Engstrom – ANR
- Johnathan Croft – Vtrans
- Dan Currier – VAPDA
- Steph Magnan – Public Service
- Lesley Bean – Vtrans
- Kim Pryor – Public Safety
- Melissa Prindiville – ACCD
- Jenny Bower – VCGI
- Caroline Alves – Agency of Agriculture
- Casey Cleary – DII
- Jeremy McMullen – E911
- Pete Young – Dept. Health

1. VT Open Geodata Portal

- a. As part of the process of creating the new VCGI data portal, 3 standards and 1 guideline were created in accordance with the procedure for adoption of GIS standards. Final drafts of tagging standard, metadata standard, publishing services guidelines, online config standards have incorporated feedback and are ready for approval.
 - i. Motion for approval, seconded
 - ii. Unanimously approved

2. Election of Chair

- a. Nomination of co-chair
 - i. John E. Adams nominated by Erik Engstrom, seconded, accepted nomination
 - ii. Unanimously approved

3. Statewide 'Trails' Data

- a. Greg Boulbol:
 - i. Natural Resources Board is charged with administering Act 250; we're reviewing process by which trails are regulated through this act, and the process by which it is triggered. Collaborative conversations with ANR; vast majority of trails are not within Act 250's jurisdiction and go through a separate process
 - ii. it's been recognized that it's necessary to have good data with respect to existing trails and future trail work. General consensus that this is a need, and that this probably exists in lots of places but hasn't been

turned into a layer yet. Putting it out there – where the data is, what data we have, what data should be collected. A number of people have suggested that I talk to Ryan Knox, – he may end up being a useful person to talk to, but we want to get ball rolling

- b. Johnathan Croft: Sarah Moulton from VTrans and Angus McCuster from E911 will be useful. Important to consider who data steward will be. We've tried to pull data from a range of sources; E911 has a fair amount of data, as do we; there are data quality issues. (Darwin Thompson: important to define what a trail is – what qualifies as a trail?) (John Adams: has this group met recently?) Yes, they've met within the last six months.
- c. Jeremy McMullen: We use this data a lot for emergency response. You can go to our E911 viewer to see how we've broken out the different trail types.
- d. Kim Pryor: Does this include motorized trails?
- e. Greg: This does include motorized trails, as Act 250 defines trails as for recreational use.
- f. Jeremy: We have VAST trails, although this isn't publicly available (edit: isn't it?). We also include trails where we say, we can take a four wheeler up there, etc., but this also isn't publicly available.
- g. Dan Currier: Trailfinder is a good resource, for loading trail data, a lot of RPCs are involved in that, and it's a good resource for data.

4. Public Safety GIS Need

- a. Kim: Public Safety has a fairly substantial GIS need, especially when it comes to the Emergency Operation Center; we have needs within fire safety, police, more recently search and rescue. So, we have a lot of needs, and server infrastructure for GIS. That infrastructure was put together in collaboration with a staff member and VCGI. This went to the wayside, so since then we've essentially managed our GIS infrastructure by not touching it, with the idea that by touching it we might break it. After ignoring it for a while, I got together some people to see what we could do. Our need is basically so large at this point, encompassing mapping, application, GIS data, so when we put out an RFP, we received feedback that either it was such an expensive project tackle, or we'd be charged hourly. Since then we've received requests to use some of our infrastructure, but we're leery of letting others using it if we're not able to fix or manage it. We'd love to have input in how to shore up what we have, how to support our users. For example, our search and rescue person is desperate for some sort of mapping, and we don't have the ability to respond to that need. We have no one who can do GIS. I don't need anyone to call us and say they'll take it over for us, but I'm just putting this all out there..
- b. Dan Currier: ArcGIS software is key – we stopped using disasterLAN software. You should know, at one point there was a sub-committee of this group called the Emergency Relief working group. If it would help to have a committee to come work with you, we might be able to put that together. That might help you understand your need, your focus, etc.
- c. Kim: That sounds great - we don't have the leadership capacity to even take that group right now, so while that would be nice, we should probably collect

data first, identify our needs and do research first to figure out exactly what those needs are.

- d. Pete Young: I wanted to share the experience of the Health Department – we were in your situation a few years ago, also in a pinch of not being able to create/justify a position. The way they got around it is that I came on as a contractor around 30 hrs/wk, and that was the limit, covering their needs and slowly building up a lot of success stories that we were using to justify a new position. I ended up being able to apply for and get that position, but for a while it was an ad-hoc period, where we were justifying and building up rationale for a position.
- e. Steph: Maybe you can coordinate, work within existing contracts.
- f. Erik Engstrom: I think we all have suggestions going forward with maintaining your infrastructure and building new capacity, but we'd need to do that with someone. We're all willing to help, we just need to know what we need to help you with and we need someone who knows GIS to work with.
- g. Kim: We're trying to create a position for the fall, working with VCGI; hopefully this goes through so we can at least have a point person.
- h. John Adams: VCGI is working with DPS leadership in getting a position over at DPS – if anyone is interested in being kept in the loop, please let me know.

5. VT Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program

- a. Standards and guidelines
 - i. John Adams: A draft was sent out – however, we've identified several changes that need to be made, including the addition of an intersection table for inactive parcels.
 - ii. Johnathan Croft: we need to make sure with our contractors that everything is congruent.
 - iii. John Adams: We will make the revisions to the standards and guidelines and send to the EGC for electronic approval

6. Ortho Buy-Up Options for State Agencies and RPCs

- a. John: There is an option for state Agencies to buy up to 15 cm from 30cm – contract has various options for impervious surfaces, planimetrics, so we're drafting a contract and that will be sent to the EGC. An informational packet has some good information about what's available, as well
- b. Melissa: How do we inform RPCs, various agencies, and acquire that data once it's bought up?
- c. John: This is in the informational packet – where the areas that are being bought up are, and we wanted to reach out to municipalities to make sure that they knew that before we reached out to the RPCs
- d. Dan: This happened last year, I think CCRPC bought up the entire county from the previous series; so it's nice to know what's already covered with 15cm. We're already covered with some towns; to be honest this conversation should have happened last year
- e. Melissa: With the planimetrics, is this being identified as an important buy-up?
- f. Dan: It's being offered... not a lot of interest, though

- g. John: That part is not time-sensitive, though, may be captured afterwards, not like flights

7. VCGI & EGC Strategic Plans

- a. John: We're looking at updating the VCGI strategic plan, and felt that it made sense to update the EGC plan concurrently. Recognizing that people don't want a sort of onerous process, I'm willing to take the lead on this – it'd be nice if a few people could volunteer to be part of a strategic workgroup, so I could just bug a few people about it – goal to have a completed draft by year end – and that the next two meetings would have this take up a significant part of the agenda. Any thoughts?
- b. Group: Sounds good.
- c. John: Just to be clear, this process of updating the strategic plan, to have a draft by the end of the year – can we have agreement on that? Is anyone opposed?
- d. Group: (no opposition) (Melissa, Erik, David and Steph volunteered to help out)

8. Other business?

- a. Johnathan: I had a whole bunch of lidar in my hand yesterday! Windham County. Moving forward with other areas – Connecticut River valley, etc.
- b. [Something about tacos and an anonymous, heavenward LIDAR supplication]
- c. Motion to adjourn!