

EGC Parcel Workgroup Meeting

3/18/14

VTrans Board Room

Present: Johnathan Croft, VTrans; Leslie Pelch, VCGI; Ivan Brown, VCGI; Jack O'Wrill, FPR; Dan Currier, CVRPC; Jim Knapp, VT Dept. of Taxes; Erik Engstrom, ANR; John Adams, ACCD; Melissa Prindiville, ACCD; Nina Safavi, VTrans.

Leslie suggested that the group should focus on what our action plan is for the next 6 months (or a little more) given that that is the time period necessary for VTrans to do RFP process, choose contractor to do ROI and Parcel Maintenance Report, and then have contractor actually perform work. There was a little discussion about how exactly the reports will feed into our process. Although they will definitely inform our understanding of the issues and may guide us in terms of what mechanisms are likely to be most useful in data maintenance and funding, we will not plan to simply wait for the results of the report.

John asked if members of the workgroup can review the RFP VTrans has put together. Nina said she would send out a copy via email.

Johnathan indicated that the workgroup should continue to identify benefits, technical specifications, and potential pitfalls related to both the parcel data upgrade and maintenance activities. He pointed out that a new use of parcel data has recently become relevant to VTrans: *economic resiliency analysis*.

Melissa asked Leslie to give a status report on the VCGI NBRC Northern VT Parcel Data Project:

- 19 towns applied for funds
- 14 are going to receive funds totally about \$160,000
- Funds will be used to upgrade or create GIS parcel data to meet state standard plus additional specs EGC Parcel Workgroup has identified.
- Lesson learned: managing each town individually would be way too labor intensive for a statewide effort because each town's situation is so different.

What can we work on over the next 6 months while waiting for VTrans ROI/Maintenance Report to be completed?

1. Update GIS Parcel Data Standard to reflect additional specs identified by this group.
2. Identify additional partners – VSLS...
3. Identify potential legislative sponsors – Bob Krebs....
4. Continue to investigate funding mechanisms for long-term maintenance of data
5. Continue to talk with partners about their potential to contribute to initial upgrade costs (along with VCGI and VTrans)
6. Improve existing parcel data by pursuing the following:
 - a. Draft form/letter that indicates a town's desire to have their mapping contractor do some combination of the following (or maybe just start with providing data to VCGI with metadata?):

- i. Create FGDC-compliant metadata
 - ii. Ensure that GIS Parcel Data adheres to GIS Parcel Data Standard
 - iii. Provide a copy of said parcel data and metadata to VCGI each time it is updated.
 - iv. Link attribute data with grand list
- b. Identify towns that have already made link between parcel data and grand list – Dan and Leslie will contact all RPCs to ask for this info.
- 7. Familiarize ourselves with the grand list data in order to identify any issues related to linking it to parcel attributes
- 8. Investigate need/likelihood to pass legislation requiring submission of map with all subdivisions/wastewater permits?
- 9. Ask VLCT to survey towns about their attitudes toward various of our ideas
- 10. Cross Tab towns that have subdivision bylaws, zoning bylaws, see which have nothing – John Adams (and then he will make a map!)

Other ideas/info discussed

Russian parcel data – all available for viewing on one website (conclusion – we need a totalitarian state)

Johnathan Croft tried to link parcel data available to grand list data, but was able to do so for less than half. Dan and Leslie will contact RPCs to identify towns that have already made this link, pass more data along to Johnathan.

John pointed out that we need to refine our purpose/message so that we are communicating clearly, not being misinterpreted, not setting off alarm bells! Leslie will work on a one-pager again.

Funding:

Any chance we can access some of the Property Transfer Tax money that is not being given to entities statutorily identified as PTT funds recipients?

Jim points out that UVA has some temporary funds that are specifically provided to help them transition to a voluntary digital form. If that funding were extended a year it could be used to start the data maintenance program.

Jim also told us that the legislature MAY audit the UVA program, in which case there may be money available to support that effort. It would make sense to use some of that to create/update parcels to aid that effort. It would also make sense to design a pilot the first year to compare effectiveness of live visit to property as a method of auditing, vs. computer based digital audit using orthophotos and parcel data.

Jim pointed out that the legislature did pass a law that requires towns to include exempt properties in their grand list and to give them values (at least insurance replacement value). This would be helpful to us when we try to link grand list to parcel data.

John says that Lawrence Miller is very supportive of this effort and would be willing to serve as a champion.

Once Education funding issue is addressed, the record maintenance fee might be a funding mechanism. Increase that fee by \$1 and target that money to parcel maintenance.

Dan suggests a methodology for various agency's contribution to a parcel maintenance fund. Each agency pays a per parcel fee for parcels they deal with directly:

- VTrans: any that touch state or federal highway ROW
- ACCD – Designated areas (downtowns, growth centers etc.)
- FPR – UVA properties
- Agriculture – UVA properties
- ANR – bordering ANR owned land
- Perhaps others?

For our next meeting:

- Leslie will put together a plan based on ideas captured at 3/8/14 meeting
- Dan and Leslie will contact RPCs to ask them to identify which towns have already dealt with join of parcel data and grand list. Perhaps will ask RPCs to pass along that data to Johnathan Croft.
- Johnathan will do a demonstration of linking parcel and grand list data and we will all have a chance to look at and ask questions about grand list, in order to better understand it.