

Statewide Parcel Data Workgroup Meeting Notes

6/16/15

National Life 5th Floor Board Room, 1:30 – 3:00

Present: Leslie Pelch, VCGI; Johnathan Croft, VTrans; Nina Safavi, VTrans; Ryan Cloutier, VTrans; Melissa Prindiville, ACCD; John Adams, ACCD; Dan Currier, CVRPC (VAPDA); Ivan Brown, VCGI.

Agenda

1. We will discuss the draft versions of the ROI and Parcel Lifecycle reports
 - a. Vtrans will report on whether they plan to ask for more analysis
 - b. We will all discuss our thoughts about the information in the reports

2. We will start planning our Next Steps related to:
 - a. Choosing a program structure, funding ideas, etc.
 - b. Communicating with our senior management about this effort in order to solicit their ideas and support
 - c. Identifying Agency champions, partners for proposing legislation
 - d. Laying out steps to draft needed legislation

Notes:

Nina said that VTrans folks are ready to have a meeting with their executive staff (Secretary, Dept. Secretary and section heads) to present an overview of the statewide parcels project and see what they think about moving forward. They will solicit input and ideas about the program ideas that are being discussed, in particular funding sources for ongoing maintenance and political feasibility of various program ideas.

John shared that DHCD has had some internal meetings about the maintenance plan, specifically a state-centric model that would involve towns being legislatively required to submit deed changes and subdivision plats. Also would authorize increase in recording fees to pay for extra effort. He also described an information management task that they do: collecting bylaw change notifications from towns. They have found that it requires little or no outreach – towns are good about sending in the information (they are mandated to do so).

Nina said that they have asked AppGeo to go back and do additional analysis to estimate cost of a state-centric maintenance program. John offered that perhaps they (DHCD) do a mock-pilot with a few towns where they ask those towns how many parcel line or SPAN changes they have had in a given amount of time, then pretend to actually make those changes and determine how much time effort is involved. Then multiply that out to estimate total cost for state over a year.

Johnathan points out that their Town Highway update system is an example of a state-based data collection and maintenance system. He described it as quite labor intensive and requiring a fair amount of reminding/outreach on the part of his staff. Leslie will ask Johnathan and also Jeremy McMullen of E911 (which also works with towns to collect geospatial information updates) to estimate the FTEs required to do tasks associated with communicating with towns and managing the data collected. If they can report the volume of changes they deal with, we may be able to scale their examples appropriately in order to use them as proxies for a parcel system (?).

Ryan asked a somewhat provocative/tongue in cheek question: why not just go to the town office and research the data ourselves? Why involve the town officials in the process? This question prompted Johnathan to ask: who is this data for? Just the state agencies who want to use it? Most (although perhaps not all) of the participants in the meeting felt that it

was important to define the data audience more broadly rather than narrowly to state agencies. There is certainly value to a much wider group of entities from towns to nonprofits to businesses. Perhaps we need to determine whether there is value in the following:

- Increasing municipal knowledge of and capacity to use geospatial data and technology (thereby increasing buy-in for the parcel data update process).
- Increasing municipalities (and the public's) appreciation and respect for what state agencies do (through positive interactions with a state program and the benefits they enjoy as a result).
- Involving/supporting the private sector mapping community.

Dan pointed out that VAPDA definitely puts value on towns having a positive experience and becoming more knowledgeable about geospatial technology/data.

We need to find out whether other agencies (beyond VTrans) will be able to contribute financially to the initial effort to create/update all town parcel data to meet the standard.

We need to work on identifying and quantifying potential costs. Leslie needs to update her spreadsheet to see whether/how it has changed.

We need to re-engage the following Statewide Parcel Workgroup participants, ask them if they are willing to communicate with their senior management, and gather their input on the program ideas:

- Agency of Natural Resources
- VT League of Cities and Towns
- Dept of Taxes (PVR)
- VT Association of Listers and Assessors
- VT Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association
- Dept. of Public Safety
- State Auditor's Office
- Agency of Administration
- Agency of Agr.?
- Dept. of Health?

Next Steps:

- Put together simple presentation about parcel data, incorporating results of the ROI, that can be used by stakeholders when talking with senior management. Should also include some of the "moving parts" we are trying to make decisions about so that we can get their feedback: funding, basic program structure (totally within state or not), legislative changes.
- Consider getting into the VTrans/ANR/DHCD senior management monthly meeting sometime in the next few months.
- Try to come up with reasonable and defensible estimate of parcel boundary + SPAN changes (all would need to be dealt with by a parcel program employee). Leslie will see if analysis of the grand list can help with this.
- Melissa will help Leslie start to apply formal Project Management practices to this "project."
- Leslie will solicit input from group about FY 2016 meeting time – still Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30? Or another day/time?