

EGC Parcel Workgroup Meeting

6/17/14

National Life Building, Montpelier

Present: Johnathan Croft, VTrans; Gary Smith, VTrans; Leslie Pelch, VCGI; Jack O'Wrill, FPR; John Adams, ACCD; Nina Safavi, VTrans; Ivan Brown, VCGI; Dan Currier, CVRPC; Bill Tobin, Tax Dept.

We discussed the flurry of emails that happened the previous week via the Tax Dept.'s listers email group (Act 60). Someone sent an email letting others know about state's plan to "take over tax mapping" which led to denunciations of the idea as well as questions about why they hadn't heard about it earlier. Some people did speak up to say they had heard about it and a few even supported the idea of digital parcel data. At the same time, Leslie received inquiries from participants in the NBRC parcel mapping grant program as to why they should participate if the state was about to swoop in and do everything anyway? Leslie and Jim Knapp (Tax Dept.) eventually responded to the emails with an attempt to clarify what is actually being discussed and the fact that it is very much only a discussion so far. No responses to that email, as far as we know.

Nina reported that the VTrans RFP for an ROI (re: digital parcel data) and parcel program report will be closing by end of June. She will let us know if any decisions are likely to be made before our next meeting. We may skip the next meeting if there will not be any new information from VTrans. They probably won't pick a company until end of August. She also said that AppGeo is working on finishing digitization of ROW plans (and georeferencing them). Nina has identified towns participating in the NBRC grant program as priorities. VTrans is waiting for results of the ROI and report before making decisions about using the money set aside for parcel mapping.

Bill Tobin is a district advisor for the Tax Dept. and he described why he is interested in the issue of statewide parcels and how he does or can use better digital parcel data. In particular, he has to analyze towns' TIF district submissions (tax increment financing).

John pointed out that the Auditor's office might be interested in joining the statewide parcel data group.

We had a discussion about the issue of the Tax Dept. requiring towns to lump together adjacent parcels with the same owner and treat them as single parcels in the grand list. Bill says that towns receive \$9.50 per parcel. Bill agrees that this policy makes it more difficult for towns to manage their grand list information and appraisal software. He worries that it may also lower the towns' CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) due to a tendency to appraise adjacent parcels with the same owner as a single parcel. Bill offered to research this issue.

Leslie agreed that she should get back to her effort to tally which contractors work in which towns.

We discussed what sort of public outreach activities we should engage in. Ideas that popped up are:

- Invite all towns to participate in an informational webinar.

- Do a presentation to Tax Dept. district advisors.
- Create a flyer for consultants that summarizes what is being discussed.
- Use email list serves to get out information:
 - RPCs – email clerks
 - VLCT – selectboards
 - Muninet
 - Listers email – tax dept.
 - VGIS-L
 - Local roads (VTrans)
 - VRWA – water utilities
 - Foresters – FPR
 - Surveyors
 - Realtors – John will send contact
 - RDCs – Chamber of Commerce – ask John for contact
 - Homebuilders/General Contractors Assoc.
 - Mayor’s Coalition – John

Internal Outreach

- Legislature
 - Certain committees, like transportation
 - Bob Krebs, others?
- Agency/Dept. Heads

Leslie will synthesize into a plan and send it out to the group.

Message to Towns:

- The state is not taking over
- The statewide parcel group includes nonprofits and municipal representatives
- What are the goals?
- What are the benefits to towns and the state (improving accuracy and equity)
- What are the unknowns?
- Tell how they can send ideas and help make the data useful to them as well
- Connection to town boundaries
- Connection to emergency management, Irene, damage assessment
- Current use – easier to do application process
- Do a survey, collect their opinions
- Provide link to the standards

Issues that need to be addressed/fleshed out:

- ROI for ACCD programs
 - Historic Preservation
 - Designated areas
 - Tax Credits, etc.
- DEMHS – preliminary damage assessment related to federal funding for infrastructure rebuilding
- Economic Resiliency (program VTrans is participating in)