

Statewide Parcel Data Project Meeting

10/25/13

National Life Bldg. VTrans Board Room

Present: Dan Currier (CVRPC, VAPDA), Ivan Brown (VCGI), Johnathan Croft (VTrans), Leslie Pelch (VCGI – **Note Taker**), Ryan Cloutier (VTrans), Erica Borneman (DEMHS), Chris Cochran (ACCD), John Adams (ACCD), Jack O’Wril (VT FPR), Gary Smith (VTrans), Jeff Briggs (VT FPR) , Bill Johnson (VT Tax Dept.). Via Phone: Joanna Grossman (VAAFMM) & Erik Engstrom (VTANR)

Based on Leslie’s suggested agenda, the group identified major categories of issues in an effort to organize them and then assign them to a time frame. Here are the major categories.

1. Identify Goals
 - a. Business needs
 - b. Towns needs
2. Program Structure
 - a. Governance
 - b. Funding (fees, property transfer tax, etc.)
 - c. Maintenance (mandate, time frame, system)
3. Technical
 - a. Legal/legislative/statutory
 - b. Data Standard (need to change/update?)
 - c. Data flow from state agency activities back into parcel updates
 - d. Town Boundaries (a longer-term issue)
 - e. Land Records (Karen Horn, VLCT; land records commission?)
4. Research
 - a. Who does what in other states?
 - b. Refine our knowledge of the existing data (UVA and VTrans)
5. Communications/Outreach
 - a. Talk with listers, talk about town needs
 - b. Surveyors, engineers, real estate...

At this point in the discussion, Ryan Cloutier, Plans & Titles Chief from VTrans (Right of Way section) let the group know that after the last meeting he spoke with his superiors about the need to address the issue of parcel data. He asked for **one million dollars** in order to bring all parcel data in VT up to date and up to standard, and they were indeed able to secure that amount of money in order to do this task!

The money is available as of Oct. 1 (past) and the project should conclude in two years (by Sept. 30, 2015). It was noted that this amount is very close to the amount identified by Leslie’s calculations as the amount needed to bring all towns up to date and up to standard.

Leslie also announced that VCGI had received a grant for \$169,000 from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) to do parcel mapping in the northern 6 counties of the state.

Between these two projects, it is possible that we have enough funding to achieve our short-term goals (identified below).

As a result of learning about the VTrans and NBRC money, we realized that we really have two projects, defined by timing:

1. Short term VTrans/NBRC project to bring all parcel data up to date and up to standard

A subset of interested parties will work with VTrans to implement this project: ANR, Tax Dept., RPCs, VCGI. This group will meet more frequently in order to get this project off the ground as soon as possible. The short term goals associated with this project are:

- 1) 100% participation (all towns)
- 2) Data will be up to date and up to standard
- 3) Parcel data and grand list data will be linkable (some percentage threshold will be set)
- 4) A data owner will be identified at the end of the project.
- 5) Legislation will be pursued to create a mandate in order to help ensure 100% participation. Main incentive is money to pay for data update/development. Other incentives will be looked into!

*****Next meeting for this short term group is November 7 at 1 PM** in Conference Room N413 at the National Life Davis Building, which is one floor down from the VTrans Board Room.

2. Long term statewide effort to design a sustainable and funded program to keep parcel data up to date and up to standard (and to improve data, town boundaries, etc. along the way).

This group will continue to meet monthly to explore options and develop a program to ensure that the work accomplished by the short term project is not made irrelevant by time. There is a great deal of motivation within several state agencies to accomplish this goal!

An important component of the long-term effort is collecting information on how other states have dealt with the goal of compiling parcel data and making it more consistent and up to date. Leslie at VCGI will do this before the next meeting.

*****Next meeting for this group is November 22, at 9 AM at National Life.** Leslie has invited the following additional people to participate (most likely via web meeting): **Patrick Santoso** from the University of New Hampshire's Technology Transfer Center (they compile NH parcel data into a "mosaic" in partnership with the Dept of Revenue) and **Neil MacGaffey** from MassGIS (he oversaw the grant program they implemented to create more parcel data that met the state standard). Leslie also invited Mike Smith from Maine, but he is not able to participate that day. She can share the overview of their program and some of his comments to her.