Meeting Notes

Texas Shared Technology Services
Geographic Information Systems Solution Group Meeting
September 4, 2019 ● 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Texas Department of Information Resources
Wm. P. Clements Building – 13th Floor
Conference Room #4 (The Congress Room)

Meeting Chair	**Richard Wade (TWDB/TNRIS)**
Co-Chair	**Ed Kelly (DIR)**
Participants	**(Attendees in Bold)**

Raj Nadkarni (TCEQ), Scot Friedman (GLO), Monica Watt (CSEC), Felicia Retiz (TNRIS), **Gayla Mullins (TNRIS), Chris Bardash (TxDOT), Travis Scruggs (TxDOT), Ilyanna Kadich (TNRIS),** Jeremy Rogers (TxDOT), **Jeremy Nobles (TPWD),** Michael Kersey (DIR), **Susan Seet (CSEC), Jodie Erickson (DIR),** Jennifer Neutzler (DIR), **Jennifer Kirby (TCEQ),** Michael Chamberlain (TxDOT), Burhan Girgin, **Terese Shade (DIR)**, Lorie Ramirez (DIR), Carrie Davie (Capgemini), **Brooks Myers (DIR),** Greg Smithhart (UT), Kate Fite (DIR), **Mark Howard (DIR),** John Barton (TxDOT), Stephanie Harris (DIR), Kelly Parker (DIR), Jonathan Martin (TxDOT), John Andrade (DIR), **Tammy Kyle (Texas Open Data Portal), Michelle Valek (THC), Monica Watt (CSEC), Mary Ann Smither (Capgemini)**

Conference Number: 1-877-873-8018   Access Code: 3298261

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Welcome and Introductions (Richard Wade)

Agenda:
- Parcel Standardization Project – (Ilyanna Kadich-TWDB)
- Imagery for Texas Update – (Richard Wade/Gayla Mullins-TWDB/TNRIS)
- Open Discussion (Group)

Parcel Standardization Project (Ilyanna Kadich - TWDB)
- TNRIS website / Programs / Land Parcels
  - Offers everything that has to do with updates to this program including Address Points
  - Land Parcels
    - Status: 232 of 253 appraisals district datasets standardized into a common schema

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- Handful (5) are not GIS file types
    - Have been working on standardization internally and with AppGeo
- Data Hub – provides the ability to distribute and/or download data
    - Included in downloaded zipped file
        - File Geo Database
        - Shape file
        - Metadata .xml file
        - Conversion file – provides information regarding what fields from the source data were converted into what fields of the standard schema data
    - Data can be ordered
    - TNRIS can be contacted if there are any questions about the data
    - Ongoing plans to do a deeper dive of the information provided on the website and update as needed
    - Link to the statewide parcel study extension
        - Program began in 2016 with the Texas GIO Report
        - Recently completed an extension of the parcel study
            - Identifies which counties do not have GIS data
                - Contacted these counties to determine where they are in the process
            - Obtained recommendations from AppGeo
                - How to move forward with the conversion
                    - Categorized each instance based on level of effort
                - How to move these categories forward
                - How keep program moving forward successfully
        - Approximately 20 counties currently have new data posted
            - Remaining existing data is now in the same standardized schema
            - If data is 'missing' or 'null', it is because it was not received from the data source
                - Will be working on providing a specific request for each CAD
        - **QUESTION:** Are the remaining counties those that were identified as manual and in need of digitization?
            - Yes
            - More counties were further along in the process than initially estimated
                - Only 6 will not be available
                - Others will be available to the GIS group as a licensed product
                - 15 counties are in the process of being converted with a vendor
            - Purchased a licensed product (Data Tree) from First American
                - Approximately 25 counties will be available for state and local use only because of the licensed product
                    - Working with TNRIS to determine how to distribute
            - Some are just not available at all (including from First American)
            - Access to license will not via another method (not this website) and will be password protected
    - One of the most downloaded datasets currently: 3500 dataset downloads from the beginning of June to the end of July

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- Impressive progress has been made from initial project start
- **QUESTION:** What were the contributions that resulted in a successful model?
    - Getting a position that we ensure the work got done and getting funding from GLO and TCEQ
    - This was identified as a critical need
    - County appraisal districts being receptive
        - CADs are reaching out and Ilyanna is currently set to speak to a group
    - Meticulous nature of border counties is a good selling point for collaborating
        - Booth at the Texas Association of Assessing Officers Conference: can compare surrounding county data
            - Glenn Hagar (Texas Comptroller) introduction and to let him know that group is working with his staff
    - Seeds have been planted and now the timing and industry transparency all played a part in its success
    - Data is not perfect, but the quality will only improve going forward which will assist with obtaining funds to promote forward progress
        - Maintenance: giving counties guidance for improvement of source information via training, tips, etc.
            - Working on videos to put on website to explain what a county's data does for the state and what the state does for a county with quality data
        - Open data portal: data is more powerful when combined with other sources that are also on that portal
    - **QUESTION:** When do you anticipate getting documentation for the videos and questions because does not foresee completing by the September 20th deadline, but maybe mid to end of October? This is the beginning of the fiscal year and most management will not see this as a priority
    - **QUESTION:** Does the Summer 2020 date for the service seem likely?
        - Yes, it seems likely if not sooner – important to have this service because it will available to not only state agencies but to any government agency in Texas
    - **QUESTION:** Do anticipate putting data in both TRNIS and Imagery services locations?
        - Some data should only be available to state agencies and not the public
- Grant Option:
    - Handful of counties (statewide parcel) that still need to be converted and are graded based on levels of difficulty
        - Funding could help move some of this effort along
            - What is level of effort and how much does that cost?
                - Looking at the cost for the 5 counties to put together a grant program (ESRI is on board) to provide funding for software and potential hardware to help get that developed with the understanding that the data comes back to the state
- Address Point – Completion of the next update will be in next few weeks on the website and the DataHub and will send the national address database

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- **COMMENT:** (TxDOT) Quickly looked at downloaded imagery dataset and indicated it was a solid result
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Capture value statements which can then create a stories to take back to the legislature and how it benefits the state in order to sell and re-sell this service
  - o If information can be quantified re: cost or time/cost savings, that would be key
  - o Send to Ilyanna Kadich
- Thank you to Ilyanna Kadich for a job well done and look forward to next iteration and the building of relationships with the locals to be able to open all the data up

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Imagery for Texas Update (Richard Wade/Gayla Mullins – TWDB/TNRIS)
- Discussion regarding topic that may be considered 'Confidential' and how to handle it in this forum
  - o Agenda item was postponed until after upcoming business announcement by a vendor
- ROM Pricing information was passed out to group in attendance
  - o Pricing estimates were gathered a while ago and were based on generally available published pricing
- Gayla will work with TxDOT to solidify some of the estimated pricing (internally vs 3rd party)
  - o One page slick to be given to executives to serve as a conversation starter
    - ▪ For executives to use to speak to heads of agencies
    - ▪ Seeking to determine whether other agencies are interested and if they could use this type of service
    - ▪ If more details or updates are needed, get with Gayla Mullins
    - ▪ **RECOMMENDATION (regarding the one page slick):**
      - Usage Perspective: identify where the 'hotspots' are – where the most downloadable areas would be more advantageous then show the estimated cost comparison
      - Cost Perspective: numbers can show potential costs or percentage per year
      - Split costs out by function to give an 'apples to apples' comparison
        - o Flying own imagery
        - o Processing own imagery
        - o Hybrid: fly ourselves and third party processing
        - o Google has provided a turnkey solution
      - Need to be able to articulate information so that executives see the benefit
      - Comparison of the benefits vs the risks of 'doing it yourself'
  - o LAR will preferably include a one-time startup cost so we need to determine what is needed for the on-going program costs after start up
  - o Separating imagery from the processing will allow the presentation to highlight the added benefit of the State-run option which is the capacity for extra imagery flights of specific areas (offshore rigs or disaster areas) if needed to address the special needs of select agencies and to do so on a marginal additional cost basis
  - o TxDOT would need capital budget authority and at least 2-3 FTEs would have to reside at TxDOT
- Creation of a Workgroup to study this service offering in detail to keep this progressing
  - o TNRIS would want to get legislative approval
  - o Need an ongoing run rate comparison

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- o The approach should be based on and presented on straight costs rather than the depreciation costs shown in previous presentations
- o Google is charging 'X', and after a couple years this program cost will be 'Y'
  - However, the benefits of in-house are:
    - Fly 'at will'
    - Public domain
    - Faster plane / seasonal collection (leaf on/off)
    - Emergency management
    - Can estimate in-house costs/Predictability
      - o Don't know the future costs of 3rd party vendors
      - o Don't know the future state of 3rd party vendors
    - Existing TxDOT on-going pilot training requirements and trained maintenance staff
    - Other hidden benefits, e.g. infrastructure
    - Need to include assumptions/caveats
- o **QUESTION:** Where would the FTEs reside?
  - Currently allocated for TxDOT
    - TxDOT currently has photogrammetry department and flight services section
    - Current statute that states aircraft reside at TxDOT
  - Regarding the proposed scheduler/coordinator position, it seems like TRNIS would be the appropriate agency for this resource as the central coordinator/neutral party
  - TxDOT to re-work the one-page slick to high level apples to apples comparison for 1st year/2nd year costs along with key benefits and risks
    - To provide data comparison beyond two years, possibly apply additional 15-20% yearly estimate for vendor cost increases
    - Technology constantly changing and costs could increase or decrease, so two years could be good enough
- o Discussion regarding public-funded data vs. cost recovery mode
  - Appropriated project vs. how worked under the DCS umbrella
  - Cost recovery could still apply for agency-specific flight requests
    - Scope of the aircraft mission determines cost recovery
    - Any request should go through the Scheduler
      - o Set of clear rules/governance/protocols for conflict resolution will be needed under the State-run option
    - Scheduler should determine if GIS group should be engaged
- o **QUESTION:** Can data be sold back to private entities?
  - Some agencies can and do (Health Agencies, Vital Statistics, etc.)
- Work Group: Details to be fleshed-out and come up with a plan to determine how this could work and will get back with the group
  - o Send Felicia a designated representative to be a part of the Work Group
- Request for publicly available market price to process a 100x100 block of raw imagery for budgeting purposes

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Open Discussion (Group)
- New members/subscribers
  - Michelle Valek with the Texas Historical Commission (THC)
  - Texas Tech
  - City of Buda
  - Houston Parks Board

Next Agenda and Action Items

Action Items:

Owner	Description
GIS Group	Parcel Project - Capture value statements which can then create a stories to take back to the legislature and send to Ilyanna Kadich
GIS Group	Texas Imagery – Send any updates/questions for one-page slick to Gayla Mullins
TxDOT	Texas Imagery - Re-work the one-page slick to show a high level apples to apples comparison for 1st year/2nd year costs along with key benefits and risks
Richard Wade / GIS Group	Texas Imagery - Start a Work Group to flesh out details of the program and come up with a plan; send the name of an agency representative to be a part of this group
Gayla Mullins	Texas Imagery – Request for a public market processing cost for 100x100 block of raw imagery

Next Meeting: October 2, 2019 at 2PM

Next Meeting Agenda Items: