Mr. Fleming began the meeting by recapping the liaison committee’s charge. It is imperative that we as a group are to continue to solidify our relationship with the USDA by exchanging ideas.

Mr. Bethel presented and covered several topics via PowerPoint. He first reviewed the southern CA, Montana, and Idaho forest fire detection program. He next discussed the PSU project which is in its last year of the three contract cycle. It will be re-bid next year and currently the contractors are performing well.

The Geospatial Service and Technology Center was reviewed. This contract was let early this year and the RFP has closed and is about to be awarded. The incumbents were Titan and Photo Science (via G&O). There about 60 task orders amounting to $9 million.

The next item Mr. Bethel discussed was the NAIP contract. The RFP is going to be released on March 31st. He said that the NAIP contract is 10 times bigger than NAPP and he made some general comparison between the two programs such as leaf-on vs. leaf-off. The NAIP program works with the CLU projects and the CLU is similar to the census as to knowing owner of the land, type of crop group, parcels/tract division and such. He covered the cost of last year versus their budgeted numbers, which for the one meter they were under budget while the 2 meter they were slightly over the estimated budget. Actual 1m average was $12.10 per square mile versus a budgeted $20 and actual 2m was $9.92 per square mile versus a budgeted $8.00. They experienced some internal metadata issues but now the contractor will handle this phase of the project. There was discussion on the cost to perform the project.

The project will consist of some states being flown with CIR in addition to color and once a county has been flown delivery will be in 30 days. The criteria for the contract includes tone balance, metadata required for compressed county mosaics, flight planning, one year product warranty, electronic progress reports, and alternative acquisition methods such as digital cameras. The budget ranges from $11 million to $19 million. The data would be resold.

There was extensive discussion on the payment schedule. The current structure is 60% paid upon 100% of acquisition or end of flying, 30% upon
delivery of data, and 10% payment after inspection. Compared to previous contracts this is an improvement. The committee concluded that the contractor would like to see progress payments on a monthly basis and not be subjected to the 10% withholding given the contractors commitment of product warranty. Larry Deibert and Craig Molander will submit a proposal to Glenn and Geoff about modifying this in the contact. We realized that time is of the essence and it may be difficult to change this at this late date.

It was discussed that in the proposals or during negotiation that adjoining states could be flown continuously to reduce duplication. The final map should be ready but it could change by next week.