MAPPS – USGS LIAISON MEETING

March 20, 2007
9:00 – 11:30 am

Hyatt Regency – Capital Hill
400 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC

Pat Olson and Stan Ponce, Co-Chairs
(Note, Mr. Ponce was not present at this meeting)

The meeting started at approximately 9:00 am with welcoming comments by Pat Olson. Following welcoming comments all attendees present introduced themselves. The meeting then began with the following topic:

Update on the National Geospatial Program Office (NGPO) lead by Bill Carswell.

Bill used a power point presentation when presenting his topics. He also provided hand outs of this power point presentation to all attendees. (Please refer to these documents).

NGPO Components include:

- Federal Geographic Data Committee
- The National Map
- National Atlas
- Partnership Coordination (35 Liaisons) NGPO goal is to have a representative in very state.
- Geospatial One-Stop
- National Geospatial Technical Operations
- Emergency Operations (Load and serve imagery rapidly)
- Center for excellence for Geographic Information Sciences (71 proposals submitted, 9 selected).

Enterprise Information Budget Activity (see hand out)

FY07 National Geospatial Program ($68.6M) (see hand out)

Geospatial Coordination (see hand out)

The following discussion occurred about supporting Emergency Operations:

- The Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC) is the contract vehicle the USGS will use to help support FEMA activities. USGS would like to do a table top exercise on emergency response. It was stated that the contractor base must also be mobilized in the event of a disaster thus the private sector should be included in the table top exercise. The USGS will do this exercise soon and will consider including contractors.
- EROS - Request for Information (RFI). Need info from private sector on sensor technology to support emergency response.

- The FEMA and the USGS have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place. FEMA can now issue a task order to the USGS for geospatial products and services and the USGS can, in turn, write a task order to contractors under contract. It was asked if the MOU was exclusive to Hurricanes; what about other emergencies such as fires, etc.? The response from the USGS was that the MOU and GPSC can be used for any President declared emergency. FEMA will use the USGS for high resolution imagery (USGS One Stop is a source for this) and the EROS will provide satellite imagery. If the USGS can not provide the requested products or services in-house, they will go to the GPSC first. The MOU will provide clarity on the FEMA – USGS relationship.

- It was asked what the Geospatial Products and Service requirements are for a hurricane vs. other disasters. The response was that the Government has compiled a Matrix of Requirements that range from standard geospatial products and services to exotic geospatial products and services. A discussed occurred about the importance of contractors pre-positioning their assets and thus need to see the Matrix to better understand the specifications. It was noted that the MOU provides for “lots of flexibility”.

Geospatial Integration, (see hand out). Note, this is the biggest component

Partnership Implementation, (see hand out). Note this budget is $7.5M

USGS National Orthoimagery Program (see hand out).

FY 2006 Orthoimagery Acquisition (see hand out). Note, there is no USGS contribution here.

FY 2007 Orthoimagery Acquisition (see hand out). Note, The USGS stated that they have a business plan for Orthoimagery.

USGS National Elevation Program (see hand out).

The following discussion occurred about populating the National Elevation Dataset through partnerships:

- It was stated that the goal of the USGS is to complete the 10 meter National Elevation Dataset this fiscal year and then concentrate on the 3 meter dataset working through partnerships. It was asked if the USGS has a business plan for securing elevation data in the country. The response was that the USGS is currently in the process of developing this plan but it is not now available.

- Elevation Generation was discussed (see hand out) and it was stated that numbers can change. The 2007 effort was impacted by the recent Continuing Resolution (CR). The 2007 effort includes a USGS contribution of $2.7M plus an In-House effort. This effort involves QC and putting the data into a database. The USGS is currently moving to a stewardship mode. It was discussed that several projects are being developed and are coming together working with partners with no duplication of efforts. OMB is reviewing this program. The GPSC is a contract vehicle that can be used to support this effort.

- USGS noticed a big interest in LiDAR data.

Urban area orthoimagery and elevation projects (see hand out). Note, there was some discussion about contractors providing the USGS with their flight schedules.

State Orthoimagery and Elevation Projects (see hand out)
DHS/NGA/USGS Interaction (see hand out). It was noted that there are two members per agency and that there are three sub groups, i.e., Partnerships, Information and Data Acquisition. These agencies are working together.

There was some discussion about a Geographic Information Response Team (GIRT) to help insure internal coordination between agencies and to minimize and duplication. When USGS stands up the GRIT, NOAA is included. It was stressed that agencies must work together.

Update on the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center by Kari Craun, Director, NGTOC

Please refer to the Power Point Presentation Kari used when presenting her topics.

NGTOC A-76 Status and Schedule

- Kari briefed the attendees on the status and schedule of the NGTOC A-76. She stated that she anticipates the solicitation being issued by the Government on or about March 26, 2007. A proposal conference will occur in late April or early May. Proposals are due late May. The technical evaluation / cost comparison should be completed early June and the Awards made October 31, 2007. There will be a phase in from November 1 to March 28, 2008 and the contract should start on March 31, 2008. These milestones are depicted on the slides in her power point presentation.

- There was discussion that if there was a request by the Forest Service for orthoimagery, is there a process in place to determine if that is A-76 or GPSC. Kari stated that GPSC Part 36 will cover the ortho request. She went on to say that what is out of scope for A-76 should be clear. In response to further questions, Kari stated that all work currently going through the GPSC will continue to do so including LiDAR acquisition and LiDAR processing. However, she stated that there may be some overlap between A-76 and GPSC.

GPCS Part 36 Contracts – Status of singing

Kari stated that 4 out of 5 contractors are now under a signed contract.

GPSC Part 15 – Status and schedule


Commercial Remote Sensing Data Contract – airborne (this is an IDIQ commercial items contract – a re-complete – Status and schedule. (see Kari’s slides)

- Kari noted that the USGS will use the most appropriate vehicle (Part 36, Part 15 or the Commercial Remote Sensing Contract) to get what the USGS needs.

- It was stated that Tim Saultz is the COR assigned this contract.

- It was stated that there is a emphasis on LiDAR acquisition and that will fall under Part 36.
• It was stated that the USGS has an internal document that was given to internal staff explaining to them how to access the various contact vehicles. There was some discussion about using the USGS web site to advertise contact vehicles. Further, there was some discussion about other Federal and State agencies may not know about these contract vehicles.

• It was asked if there were any discussion about modifications to the dollar amounts in these contact vehicles. It was stated that the USGS is still working on this. A comment was make that one good size LiDAR task order could max out the cap for a firm. It was then asked if the USGS could increase the cap of the various contract vehicles and what MAPPS can do to help the USGS with this? The response was that the contracts have already been let and that it was anticipated that there would be restrictions to increasing the funding at this time. There was some discussion about inquiring if other government agencies have increased the cap of contact vehicles post award. USGS may need a president to follow before doing this. One member indicated that the COE has done this.

Please reference Kari’s power point presentation for the following topics:

• FY07 Budget Plans
• FY08 Budget Plans
• FY08 USGS National Geospatial Program President’s Budget

Update on the Land Remote Sensing Program (Greg Snyder)

Greg commenced to brief the attendees on the following topics:

Proposed CRSSP project cuts in the President’s ’08 budget

• The land remote sensing program is to acquire and manage moderate resolution range imagery. The President’s 2008 budget has been decreased by $850,000 which resulted in a cut to Commercial Remote Sensing. The results of this cut may result in loss of staff, loss of data acquisition and could shut down the CRSSP. In response to a question, it was stated that the Land Remote Sensing Program has responded to MAPPS suggestions for process improvement. One suggestion was to work with other agencies to improve emergency response. The LRSP is currently working with FEMA on this.

Planned re-compete of the Commercial Remote Sensing Satellite Data Contracts

• This re-compete is similar to what is currently in place. Synopsis will be out in a couple of weeks. There is a quick turn-around required for data request. Watch the FedBizOpps over the next few weeks. There will be a combination of new collect and off the shelf.

RFI for Landsat Data Alternatives to mitigate a potential data gap

• The Landsat system is aging. It should be out of fuel in +/- 2010. May have to look for alternatives of moderate resolution imagery. Need twice annual global coverage with similar spectral bands.

Outcomes of the National LiDAR workshop sponsored by USGS-EDC

• Need better elevation for the Nation for flood mapping and other things.
• Image resolution, accuracy and standards are common denominators
• National LiDAR collect can be more than bare earth. Point cloud data can give lots of information. Let’s not limit data to bare earth. Use point cloud data.
• No consistency with current data sets. Need standards.
• Need follow up meeting in Summer

**Geospatial One Stop (Ron Dollison)**

Ron used a power point presentation to present his topic.

• [www.geodata.gov](http://www.geodata.gov) = National archive of holding of data sets. One can search the “what” and the “where”. The goals is a have a portal tool where it is easy to find data, reduce duplication, be an authoritative data source, access federal, state and local datasets, be interoperable.

• There are new enhancements underway that are soon to be released. “What” is similar to a Google search. “Where” is a GIS search. added search enhancements will have search results fit area of interest dependent on zoom and scale functions. The goal is to make geospatial information earlier to find. Other viewer improvements are coming such as linking viewer with metadata. There are plans to add 3D viewer and to be able to search by data type such as imagery or LiDAR. They are currently harvesting NDOP, NDEP, CRSSP/CIDR. They will feature authoritative data source being a place to list key resources but it is hard to determine which key feature to place. The portal has 53,000 visits per month.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am**