

Subcommittee Meeting Notes

1/07/02

Attending: Dean, Tom B, Dan L, Chuck P, Scott J, George, Cy, Ed, Roger, Shelby, Doug, John

1. Definitions: George passed out definitions and we reviewed them a bit.
2. Statutes: Dean handed out a summary of statutes that involve mapping.
3. OSBEELS Cases: John presented a summary of the two OSBEELS cases. The first case from the Columbia Gorge was not really a GIS case but examined boundary definitions and responsibilities for setting boundaries. The second case from the Rogue Valley identified many of the issues regarding GPS equipment to obtain utility inventory. This case did not really resolve any issues. ?
4. WEB Page: Cy will host the WEB page. It will be public. The WEB page will contain all information from the group. Dean will provide Cy with PDFs of all information collected so far. The page will include

A Mission Statement

A Summary of Issues

A List of Participants

Meeting Notes – PDFs of meeting notes

Job Descriptions – PDFs of all job descriptions

Definitions – Survey definitions and statute summaries

Links – Links to other pages and supporting documents

Supporting Documents – Any documents the group finds that will help examine the issues

5. Job Description Discussion: We briefly discussed the job descriptions again. Scott Jackson and Tom Brateng came to represent the cartographers and handed out the cartography job description. The GIS folks are still working on their description. It is critical that they finish it soon.
6. Examples: Doug handed out a case example from photogrammetry. We decided to use this as an example case because it would be simple and Doug had actually prepared. The following is a short summary of the case.

Photogrammetry Example: Under contract, a photogrammetry firm creates an aerial photo product and 2' foot contours. Ground control for the flight is set by a registered land surveyor. Aerial photos are taken with additional ground control obtained by a GPS receiver in the aircraft. Photogrammetry professionals prepare a digital terrain model (DTM), create orthophotos and generate 2' contour lines.

The information is passed to the city. The city passes the information on to the county GIS folks, who use it to generate steep slopes for the planner, who uses it to

identify if an owner can build on the property. The planner tells the owner that the slope is based on our best available information and that they are free to hire a surveyor to ensure accuracy.

Discussion: We had a long discussion on this issue. In general the group seem to agree that: a) Based on ORS, the photogrammetry firm is not surveying. b) The county is not surveying as they are just presenting/displaying the contour information in a different format. c) The public is at risk, but the planner has given a disclaimer. However, if it is not marked as steep and the planner makes no statement, and if the planner is wrong, we were not sure of the liability. (Dean will check into this). d) However, under OSBEELS rules, the photogrammetry firm is practicing surveying as creating topography from observations is surveying. e) It was a surprise to the photogrammetry community that OSBEELS had made this ruling without involving them more. The reason there have been no complaints filed is that the photogrammetry firms in the state have licensed surveyors and engineers on staff and the survey community has a professional understanding with this community.

7. More Issues: The previous discussion evolved into further discussions about issues involving overlap. They appeared to be:

Topography – Photogrammetry has concerns that OSBEELS established a rule regarding topography and did not appear to involve their profession.

Harm – We really want to ensure that the public is not harmed when GIS professionals integrate information from a wide variety of sources. This issue can be improved upon by clearly defining good metadata, consistent disclaimers, educated staff, etc.

Referential Position – Presentation of referential positions are not as big a concern to the survey community. An example of this is a section line displayed on an assessor's map.

Authoritative Position – One of the primary issues facing the surveyors is their concern that non-surveyors are going out in the field and through observation are making authoritative statements about where features are, and providing this to others outside of your organization (i.e.: selling it).

8. What to do: The group decided that a) The case study was very educational and pretty quickly got to the important issues that the group needs to resolve. b) There are many examples and permutations of them, and it will be difficult to come up with enough cases to address all the issues at hand. c) A summary of GIS activities that is acceptable to surveyors already exists. We should examine the proposed amendments presented by the national subcommittee to see if the summary already accomplishes what we are trying to do.

9. Next Meeting:

- GIS folks must finish their job description. Dean will get the other job descriptions to Cy.
- Dean will get all information collected to date converted to PDF sent to Cy to include on the WEB.
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- George will send a digital copy of the definitions to Cy.
- Doug will send copies of the model law report out.
- Everyone will review the model law report and be prepared to discuss it.