Oregon Geographic Information Council

Policy Issues

Data stewardship – Having a single agency take on the role of data steward for a shared data set, ensuring that data from various sources is regularly ingested to maintain the data set on behalf of the enterprise. [HH]

Sustainable funding/budget – Establishing a source of funding for the enterprise GIS program that is sustainable over time, with a budget sufficient to allow appropriate levels of support for all aspects of enterprise coordination. [HH]

Collaborative funding mechanisms – There are many ways to enable collaborative funding of projects and programs, but effort is usually required to determine what tools or mechanisms are available in an organization, as well as in getting the tools or mechanisms in place. Good relationships with procurement, budgeting, and accounting professionals in the organization are a requirement. [HH]

Governance – Setting up and maintaining the organizational structure that determines how decisions are made about all the various aspects of the GIS enterprise, when those decisions are made, what decisions need to be made, and how those decisions are carried out. This is very important for an enterprise approach, where there is usually no existing precedent for such a governance structure. [H]

Data sharing – Three key impediments that government agencies cite for reluctance to share data: liability/risk, privacy/confidentiality, funding. Legislation needed to deal with issues at all levels. [H]

Data standards – Content and exchange standards are critical for reducing duplicated effort and cost. [H]

Enterprise license agreements (Esri, Pictometry, Bentley, Here, etc.) – Important role for enterprise GIS coordination office to enable enterprise license agreements for various useful tools, including software and commercial data sets. [H]

Purchase/use of commercial data – There are valid uses of commercially produced data, but decisions should be made carefully about how and when to use such data sets, particularly related to maintenance of the data and the use of such data for official purposes. [H]

Role of GIS in IT and business enterprise – Important to recognize and take advantage of opportunities to expand the use of GIS in the IT and business enterprise. [M]

Enterprise GIS architecture – Important to develop, document, and maintain the GIS architecture for the enterprise, indicating how all the various technical elements fit together to accomplish their purpose (software, hardware, network, applications, services, databases, etc.) [M]

GIS personnel classifications – Lack of GIS classifications results in GIS jobs in multiple classifications across government (IT, planner, cartographer, natural resource analyst, etc.), with vastly different position descriptions, levels of pay, and responsibilities. [M]

Communication protocols/strategy – The larger the enterprise, and the more varied the organizations included, the more challenging effective communications becomes. Having a communications plan with carefully thought out protocols and strategies is essential. [L]

Training plan – Should have a training plan for internal staff, as well as for GIS professionals across the enterprise. L

Business case/ROI study – Key element justifying sustainable funding/budget. Stronger if the case is based on ROI that has already accrued due to past use of GIS. Could include citing other programs in similar jurisdictions that have measured ROI they have accrued.

Procurement (QBS, etc.) – Procurement processes are a necessary part of the GIS world, as they are for any IT area. It's important to understand which processes are necessary in various situations, and have good relationships with the procurement professionals in the organization.

Listserv rules, etiquette, protocols – Listservs are an important means of communication between GIS professionals across the enterprise (where everyone is not in the same organization). Rules, etiquette and protocols for listservs should be established and documented to prevent abuse and problems.

Software standard – Establishing a standard enterprise software platform provides economic and technology benefits. Providing support for a primary platform is easier and less costly than supporting multiple platforms (same reason IT often standardizes on a single desktop platform, like Microsoft Office). A single platform enables enterprise license agreements that provide great cost savings. **

Professional certification – Endorsing a certification program for GIS professionals (such as GISCI's GISP program) is important to ensure that GIS practitioners in the organization are recognized as competent. Should make GIS certification at least a desirable trait in job announcements, if not a requirement. **

Map disclaimers (print/digital) – Important to agree on a standard disclaimer and implementation of that disclaimer across the enterprise, for hard copy and digital representations. **

GIS & surveying distinction – This is an ongoing issue that has been resolved in Oregon and West Virginia through the adoption in statute of the NCEES Model Law and Rules. But in many other jurisdictions, laws continue to be proposed that would cause anyone collecting data using GIS/GPS tools to be a licensed land surveyor. Proactive communication between GIS and surveying professionals is needed.**

** Substantially complete

OGIC prioritization

HH – Highest priority

H – High priority

M – Medium priority

L – Lower priority