



**COMPASS**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
of Southwest Idaho

# REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 23, 2008 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Community Planning Association

**Notice:** This packet contains only the documents listed with an asterisk (\*) in the agenda. The entire packet, including all attachments is available at

<http://www.compassidaho.org/documents/people/rgac/agenda102308.pdf>. The online document requires Adobe Acrobat to read it; COMPASS' homepage <http://www.compassidaho.org> contains a free download link if you need a copy. The online document includes bookmarks at the left of the screen that are named to correspond to agenda items that have attachments. Clicking on a bookmark will take you directly to the named document.

## \*\*AGENDA\*\*

### I. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

1:30

### II. OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:35

A. *Introductions*

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

1:40

\*A. *Approve July 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes*

\*B. *2009 Calendar of Meetings*

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

1:45

A. *2009 NAIP Funding Recommendation* *Ross Dodge*  
Staff will review status of the 2009 National Agricultural Imagery Project (NAIP) and request a recommendation to the COMPASS Board for funding.

### V. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1:55

A. *Ortho-Photography Update* *Ross Dodge*  
Staff will review status of 2010 Ortho project.

2:00

\*B. *Data Request Update* *Ross Dodge*  
Staff will review progress made in collecting data since the last meeting.

2:20

\*C. *RGAC Membership Revision* *Ross Dodge*  
Last month the committee had a lengthy discussion on it's role in regional planning. Staff will present a report on a possible restructuring of the committee.

### VI. OTHER

2:50

A. *New Business or Announcements*

B. *Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2009, 1:30 p.m., at COMPASS.*

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

3:00

\*Enclosures

*Times are approximate. Agenda is subject to change.*

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*REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE*  
*JULY 24, 2008*  
*COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

*ATTENDEES:* Nathan Bentley, Ada County Information Technology, *Chair*  
Brian Billingsley, City of Caldwell, *Vice Chair*  
Mike Bruse, Canyon County Assessor's Office  
Chris Duncan, City of Eagle  
Bruce Eggleston, City of Boise  
Tina Fenske, City of Garden City (*for Jenah Thornborrow*)  
Norm Holm, City of Nampa  
Leon Jensen, Canyon County Development Services  
Shane Lim, City of Meridian (*for Anna Canning*)

*MEMBERS ABSENT:* Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit  
Miguel Gaddi, Public Participation Committee  
Wendy Howell, City of Middleton

*OTHERS PRESENT:* Eric Adolfson, COMPASS  
Ross Dodge, COMPASS  
Carl Miller, COMPASS  
Pete Wessel, City of McCall  
Debbie Winchar, COMPASS

*CALL TO ORDER*

Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

*AGENDA ADDITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS*

None.

*OPEN DISCUSSION*

A. Introductions were made of all attendees.

*CONSENT AGENDA*

A. *Approve April 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes*

*Tina Fenske moved and Mike Bruse seconded to approve the April 24, 2008 meeting minutes as written. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.*

## *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS*

### *A. Ortho-Photography Update*

Ross Dodge presented an update of 2009 National Agricultural Imagery Project (NAIP); the Farm Service Administration (FSA) collection of aerial photography for agricultural purposes. Ross proposed that \$10,000 be used from the ortho enterprise fund to go towards this project. In return, updated imagery will be received for the surrounding seven counties. The flight will be flown in summer 2009 with leaf-on. This Committee will make a recommendation to the COMPASS Board at some future date.

Chair Bentley stated that Ada County submitted a budget request to support the project. It would be beneficial for each county to submit their support. Chair Bentley suggested that an action item to request the COMPASS Board's approval of this partnership funding be added to RGAC's next meeting agenda.

Ross also presented an update on the 2010 Regional Ortho Project. Ross stated that since the last RGAC meeting, a 2010 ortho meeting was scheduled to see if the local participants could fund the project based on certain cost assumptions. Notes from that meeting were included in the RGAC packet and it looks as if the project can move forward. Ross cautioned that the decision was based on cost assumptions and not actual cost figures. A subcommittee has since met to develop the Request for Proposal (RFP). Once the RFP goes out and a response is received from vendors, there will be actual dollar costs to work with. At that time a final determination will be made to see if the project can move forward. If it cannot, there will still be time for a plan "B."

Ross reminded RGAC members to update their respective staff/co-workers as this project moves forward.

### *B. Review UPlan Land Use Model*

Carl Miller presented a review UPlan; a GIS based land use model and displayed a couple maps. Carl stated that UPlan has a critical role in the next Long-Range Transportation Plan which begins in two years. It's all part of growth allocation which ties into travel demand. UPlan is a GIS based model that identifies areas that encourage or discourage growth. It is used by several other metropolitan planning organizations in the country and integrates with the transportation demand model.

Carl then explained how the model worked using the maps reflecting model runs. The results on the map and analysis are based on "weights" assigned to the data and are only as good as the data that is put into the model. Accurate GIS information is critical to successful UPlan runs.

#### *Discussion:*

- Issues regarding Planned Communities, overlapping polygons, and raster grid resolution were discussed.

Ross Dodge stated that an over-riding message of this land use model is the importance of obtaining quality regional GIS data across the two-county area, which was the reason for originally forming RGAC.

### *C. Discuss RGAC's Role in Regional Planning*

Ross explained that COMPASS may be taking on *Blueprint for Good Growth* (BGG) consortium committees. Ross provided background on BGG's mission which is to coordinate land use and transportation ordinances. Internally, COMPASS staff has discussed all the standing committees to ensure we are not duplicating work for ourselves or member agency staff. Ross reviewed the four COMPASS

standing committees and RGAC's original mission to facilitate the collection of regional geographic data for projects such as:

- The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRP): The last LRP was done by a consultant with resulting data being delivered in a "black box." Results were questioned but could not be changed without additional cost. The new LRP is going to be done in-house so that member jurisdictions can have more input.
- Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO): To monitor the accumulated effects of development along a given corridor that must consider cross county mobility.
- Regional Traffic Studies: COMPASS passes data received on to consultants; are we distributing the latest information, or do we always have to ask for an update first?

Ross requested the Committee's input regarding RGAC's progress over the past year and their vision of RGAC's role in the future in light of these regional geographic issues.

*Discussion:*

- The CD of Regional data has not been used; it hasn't yet fit a business need with members.
- A mechanism for obtaining regular updates was discussed.
- Canyon County has information on a server but they don't want to put everything out there if it's not being used. It would be better if they knew what COMPASS needed.
- Comprehensive plan data should be sent to COMPASS whenever it's updated.
- The planning staff from each respective agency needs direction on what kind of data COMPASS is requesting.

Ross commented that COMPASS is working on the Performance Monitoring Report (PMR). The PMR report will contain data from the respective jurisdictions: number of acres of park land, miles of bike lanes, off-road paths, units within a quarter mile of transit, etc. All the jurisdictions have many different data layers. Ross asked if RGAC is the mechanism for obtaining this type of information.

*Discussion:*

- There is a lot of information being developed from all agencies and they can't guess what COMPASS wants or needs. COMPASS needs to supply a "wish list" of data needs.
- Infrastructure issues were discussed with sewer and water layers not on the table for distribution.

Ross replied that at a previous meeting, a list was submitted to the Committee of the two-county data that has already been given to COMPASS. A request for each member's data list was made, but only four responses were received. Ross was not sure how the group wanted to proceed in opening the data pipeline.

- It would help to know what COMPASS is doing with the data supplied by each agency. COMPASS does a lot of analysis that the Cities don't, so it would be better to know what went into the analysis.

- A possible role for RGAC would be the coordination of land use planning data: using the model to critique the regional data and see how it interacts with other components, and keeping track of all this information and monitoring on-the-ground results.

Carl Miller stated that on August 20, 2008 he will be doing just that; COMPASS staff will set up small workgroups with member agency staff that participate on the Demographic Advisory Committee, Regional Technical Advisory Committee, and the Regional Geographic Advisory Committee. These small workgroups will be requested to critique this data and provide a more in-depth discussion of how UPlan allocates growth; and address individual jurisdiction's concerns, questions and comments.

- Decision makers need to understand the value of geographic data and what it can do and why it's important to trust us with the data. They need to realize how some decisions regarding data exchange hamper our ability to do our job. Policies need to be put in place so the model runs can be more accurate. Maybe this Committee needs to make a recommendation to decision makers while standing together and being the champions within their respective jurisdictions.

Ross commented that that is the reason RGAC was formed which is why it is made up of planning directors who can work within their respective spheres of influence and create procedures that when the data layers are updated, the data is automatically sent out.

- Does COMPASS have the infrastructure to accept this information in a replicated environment and automated manner? Canyon and Ada Counties have the capability to replicate data to various agencies.

Ross replied that going with the lowest technical common denominator is a must because some of the smaller cities are not set up for that type of live data set replication and their information is also important.

- The counties cannot distribute other cities' information because they are not the originator of the data.
- RGAC could be productive in offering a "straw man" policy that allows the sharing of data outside of the originating agency which would become a resource for the whole county.
- It has to be project driven. What does the model need? Would RGAC interact as a review to produce the data set for the model or be support in that effort? RGAC needs to work together to formulate a regional plan if that is the project.

Ross asked who sat on other COMPASS committees and if this Committee duplicated or complimented the other committees.

- RGAC members did not see duplication with other committees.
- Timing of changes to comprehensive plans and the frequency of updating data was discussed.
- This Committee is made up of technicians and planners. Some planners do not oversee our respective GIS technicians and do not dictate their work flow. That makes some of what we're talking about difficult to accomplish. Does this Committee have the right make-up?

Ross asked members to voice their needs. Is there something staff can do to assist in accomplishing planning level tasks?

Eric Adolfson commented that COMPASS staff is considering using UPlan for running subareas with a finer grain of information; to be able to take a variety of comprehensive plans and run the model in a smaller city level, for example. Eric asked if this is information the members could use.

Ross asked if the Committee has the right personnel.

- It depends in the agency; it differs from one agency to another.
- The project driven approach is a good idea. However, if there are many projects it drains resources. I don't know all the projects staff is working on, but I do know that if staff tells me what information is needed, it can then be supplied.
- The counties are not a problem, maybe the problem with data flow is with the individual cities, which gets back to the notion that it depends on the agency.
- RGAC needs to know what COMPASS is looking for; perhaps there needs to be a change in what is being presented to this Committee – it should be project driven and then put into place the tools necessary to make sure COMPASS continuously obtains the information needed.

Chair Bentley stated that a summary of this discussion confirms that RGAC is viable to continue.

*OTHER*

*A. New Business/Announcements*

Pete Wessel introduced himself from the City of McCall's GIS department.

*B. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2008, 1:30 p.m., at COMPASS.*

*ADJOURNMENT*

*There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.*

*COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
RGAC 2009 MEETING CALENDAR*

<i>MEETING DATE/TIME</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>TENTATIVE ITEMS</i>
January 22, 2009	COMPASS 1:30 -3:00am	2010 Ortho Project 2009 Census BAS EOY data collection for Performance Monitoring Report (PMR)
April 23, 2009	COMPASS 1:30-3:00pm	2010 Ortho Project PMR data/analysis Preparation Regional Clearinghouse
July 23, 2009	COMPASS 1:30-3:00pm	2010 Ortho Project Regional Data Replication
October 22, 2009	COMPASS 1:30-3:00pm	2010 Ortho Project COMPASS Board Education

RGAC Data Request List			Phase I
Agency	Data Layer	Latest Date of Data we have	Update Frequency
<u>Kuna</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Jun-03	As updated
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Kuna School District info (school sites & enrollment boundaries)		Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)	Jun-06	Annually
<u>Garden City</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Dec-06	As updated
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)	Apr-06	Annually
<u>Meridian</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Apr-08	As updated
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)	Jan-05	Annually
<u>Eagle</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Jun-07	As updated
	Foothills no growth area		Annually
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)	Apr-07	Annually
<u>Boise</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Oct-05	As updated
	Foothills no growth area		Annually
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	Jun-07	Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
<u>Caldwell</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Jun-08	As updated
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Preliminary Subdiv shapefile		Monthly
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)		Annually
	Zoning		Monthly
<u>Nampa</u>			
	Comprehensive Plan	Jan-07	As updated
	Historical		Annually
	Parks	?	Annually
	Sewer Service Areas (see email for explanation)		One-Time
	Urban Renewal Area (URA)		Annually
	Zoning		Monthly
<b>Legend</b>			
Not Available	Urban Renewal Area (URA)		Annually
Received / Will Send	Vacant Land		Annually
No Response	Zoning		Monthly
Already had the latest			
Will Check into Availability			



**COMPASS**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
of Southwest Idaho

## MEMORANDUM

*TO:* Regional Geographic Advisory Committee

*FROM:* Ross Dodge, Principal Planner

*DATE:* October 15, 2008

*RE:* RGAC Membership Revision

*ACTION REQUESTED:*

Discussion. This is a follow-up to the last meeting.

*BACKGROUND:*

The mission of this committee is to be a forum to promote the compatibility of regional data for planning and analysis across county boundaries. RGAC was originally composed of Planning Directors for three reasons:

1. To create a decision level rather than technical level GIS committee
2. To use GIS technology in improving regional planning issues
3. To facilitate the exchange of data

RGAC's role in Regional Planning was discussed at the July 2008 RGAC meeting. It was concluded that the committee served a valuable role in its mission of acquiring comparable regional data. However, it was also suggested that the committee might function better with different personnel at the table; those with better access to, and understanding of, GIS technology/data.

*STATUS:*

An exercise in data collection since the last meeting gave evidence to this notion. It appears the committee could better accomplish the mission if it were composed of Managers who oversee the GIS function within respective member agencies; GIS professionals with oversight on policy and/or technical issues who can facilitate the direction of GIS technology and advocate for regional data.

Committee membership has to be confirmed by December 2008 in order to be approved by the COMPASS Board at their January 2009 meeting. This is the last formal meeting of the RGAC for 2008. Staff requests that committee members work within their respective jurisdiction to facilitate a change in committee personnel. The attached list identifies tentative personnel who could serve this purpose but of course, committee selection is up to the respective member agency.

Attachment (1)

pc: 860 – Geographic Information System Maintenance

RD:dwt:\FY09\800\820\RGAC\RGAC\_role\_102308.doc

*Regional Geographic Advisory Committee*  
(RGAC)

Members of the Regional Geographic Advisory Committee are key staff or otherwise qualified representatives of COMPASS' member agencies, having an interest in developing comparable regional geographic data sets. Appointments were made by members through a verbal notice.

Each member of the committee has an equal voting weight. The mission of the Regional Geographic Advisory Committee is to be a coordinated body of GIS professionals providing a forum to promote the compatibility and expansion of data for analysis purposes.

<i>Member Agency</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Ada County Information Technology	Nathan Bentley		1
Ada County Assessors	Anne Kawalec		1
Canyon County Assessors	Mike Bruse		1
Canyon County Development Services	Leon Jensen	TBD	1
City of Boise	Jim Hetherington	Bruce Eggleston	1
City of Caldwell	Dave Marston	Brian Billingsley	1
City of Eagle	Bill Vaughan	Chris Duncan	1
City of Garden City	Tina Fenski	Jenah Thornborrow	1
City of Kuna	Mike Borzick		1
City of Meridian	Gary Shane Lim		1
City of Nampa	Rod Collins	Norm Holm	1
Ada County Highway District	Chuck Spencer		1
Nampa Highway District	Todd Milich		1
ITD	Mark Wasdahl		
Public Participation Committee	Miguel Gaddi		1
<i>Ex officio Member</i>	<i>Participants</i>		
COMPASS	Eric Adolfson		N/A
COMPASS	Ross Dodge		N/A

Other agencies and members may be added as needed.