

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MAY 9, 2007
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION



****MINUTES****

ATTENDEES: Nathan Bentley, Ada County Assessor
 Brian Billingsley, City of Caldwell
 Christine Floor, Valley Regional Transit
 Miguel Gaddi, Public Participation Committee
 Norm Holm, City of Nampa
 Wendy Howell, City of Middleton
 Shane Lim, City of Meridian (*for Anna Canning*)
 Chad Lynch, Canyon County Assessor
 Ryan McDaniel, City of Boise (*for Bruce Eggleston*)
 Jenah Thornborrow, City of Garden City
 Bill Vaughan, City of Eagle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bonnie Ford Le-Compte, Canyon County Development Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Adolfsen, COMPASS
 Ross Dodge, COMPASS
 Debbie Winchar, COMPASS

CALL TO ORDER

Ross Dodge called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ross Dodge stated that on the Agenda, Item VII. Other, Next Meeting, the meeting date should be changed to Wednesday, August 15, 2007.

OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Introductions

Introductions were made of all attendees.

Ross briefly reviewed the purpose and goals of RGAC. RGAC was formed to look at Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and how it can be used not as a tool, but as technology for better planning. One of the goals in *Communities in Motion* (CIM) is to coordinate data gathering and dispense better information. A better understanding of how to achieve this goal will come with each RGAC meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve November 29, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Chad Lynch moved and Christine Floor seconded to approve the November 29, 2006 minutes as written. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of Officers

Bill Vaughan nominated Nathan Bentley to serve as RGAC's Chair and Chad Lynch to serve as RGAC's Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. By unanimous consent, Nathan Bentley was elected Chair and Chad Lynch was elected Vice Chair of RGAC for 2007.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Progress to Date

Ross stated that at RGAC's November meeting, he requested a digital copy of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan in order to work toward one regional data set. Ross and Eric presented the result of this effort in a PowerPoint presentation. Ross explained how they merged the various comprehensive plan shape files, retaining the specific coding for each jurisdiction, and added a generalized field as well.

Ross commented that staff is working on a land use transportation model called UPLAN in which this file could be used. Ross asked if Committee members thought they could use a two-county comprehensive plan data layer and if so, how would it be used?

Several committee members responded in the affirmative. Ross noted that Nampa and Meridian could use this information in their open space planning.

Ross explained that upon receipt of the updates, this regional comprehensive plan data layer can be updated on a regular basis.

Ross then described a two-county centerline file, which has been assembled. The centerline file information given by Ada County and Canyon County can also be combined on a regular basis. He asked if this too would be of value.

Discussion:

- Yes. The Sheriff's department could use this kind of information with cities that are trying to cross over county boundaries (i.e., the City of Star is a community of both Ada County and Canyon County).
- The data is maintained separately, which means the two data sets are not exact, and massaging of the data is necessary. In order for the data sets to work together, there has to be some kind of maintenance and quality control on the side of the data provider.
- If the combined data set is being used at the dispatch centers of the two counties, it should be done weekly. If the customers consist of member agencies, it can be done on a monthly basis.
- Have questions been asked with regard to data maintenance as well as error checking, or is this something that will be done by the data steward?

Ross replied that maintenance would be done by the data steward and COMPASS would just be merging the two data sets.

- How does COMPASS inform its member agencies of the data it provides?

Ross replied that COMPASS is currently looking at developing a quarterly CD for distribution to all COMPASS members, which will contain pdf maps, the type of information being presented at this meeting, and information contained on the COMPASS website such as population estimates and forecasts showing the general location of expected growth in population, households, and employment over the next 25 years.

Ross stated the COMPASS Board regularly asks questions regarding the Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan. They want the Plan to be monitored; is land use planning consistent with what has been outlined in CIM? An Annual Performance Monitoring Report will be presented to the Board in September 2007. GIS technology will be used to analyze if decisions are moving in the right direction. Ross reviewed slides containing various land use categories (residential, commercial, and agriculture parcels) for Ada and Canyon Counties.

- Are exempt properties included?

Eric replied that some exempt properties are included. This is still a work in progress. There is overlap in all the layers to some degree. On commercial properties, there are some people who live on their business site. There is no simple division of parcels.

Ross mentioned that one analysis we would like to do on a regional scale, is identify subdivisions that are at a transit supporting density. We can do this for Ada County but the Canyon County subdivision shape file is not built in a manner that allows this analysis. Ross thought that if this is something that the Committee feels is valuable, we could collaborate in order to develop a Canyon County shape file that would do the same thing.

Ross stated another spin-off of CIM is a project in the Unified Planning Work Program and Budget called Major Activity Centers. Major Activity Centers are locally defined and critical for transportation planning. The task this year is to develop a definition of Major Activity Centers such as Boise Air Terminal, regional hospitals, and Boise State University. Another analysis that can be done for Ada County but not Canyon County involves commercial square feet or employment with 400 employees or greater.

Ross reviewed the list of regional geographical information for Ada County and Canyon County. He noted that the list has improved from the last meeting, but it still needs work and we hope this Committee can assist in that effort.

B. How GIS Data is Used

Ross stated this item was presented for discussion to prompt the Committee's thinking of questions being asked by the respective jurisdictions. A goal of this Committee is to help each jurisdiction answer planning questions using GIS technology. What are some the needs being voiced?

Ross asked if the planning directors knew the inventory of buildable lots within their jurisdiction. Several responded that they knew the number of lots, but could not map them.

Ross asked what other questions are being asked at the city council meetings that could be answered using GIS technology.

Discussion:

- A mixed-use combination shape file (i.e., a house and business located on the same parcel of property).
- A streamline way to obtain the density of residential subdivisions in city limits.
- The amount of vacant land inventory that is planned for industrial.

Ryan McDaniel, City of Boise, replied that there is a land value in the County Assessor's file that can be used to determine vacant land by doing a ratio of improvement value to land value. It is fruitful to know the land use ratios for certain areas. Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) profiling has been fairly successful when obtaining population, households, and employment data. A projection can be done to see what an area

would look like in the future The TAZ analysis seeks to provide statements like, "This area will look like that area at some future point."

A comment was made indicating that updated floodplain maps for the two counties would be a critical layer to have.

Ross stated that COMPASS will hire two interns this summer to help collect information. Maybe they can track down flood information.

Jurisdictional Issues

Ross stated it is important to obtain correct counts from the Census for each jurisdiction. For the past several years COMPASS has submitted a Boundaries and Annexation Survey on behalf of Ada County. By submitting the survey digitally the boundaries will eventually become more in alignment and will enhance the accuracy of the Census counts. This may be of interest to Canyon County.

Ross commented that an FY 2007 Orthophotography project has been done for Ada County. Staff has discussed the creation of an FY 2010 Orthophotography project for both Ada and Canyon Counties. Discussion of this item will be placed on the agenda for RGAC's next scheduled meeting.

Ross asked the Committee for input on assignments to move GIS technology forward, such as creating a methodology for obtaining preliminary subdivisions for Canyon County.

Discussion:

- Identify the current mechanisms that are in place and get a better understanding of how to make individual input work together.

Ross asked Brian Billingsley, City of Caldwell and Norm Holm, City of Nampa, to talk to their respective GIS staff regarding preliminaries.

- An educational process should be initiated for smaller cities that are not represented on RGAC, which could use GIS for planning purposes.

Ross replied that it is COMPASS' role to reach out to the member agencies, to help identify their GIS needs, and provide technical support to fix their GIS issues.

OTHER

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 16, 2007, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., at COMPASS.

It was the consensus of the Committee that RGAC meetings would be scheduled every third month.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.