



*REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 29, 2006
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION*

****MINUTES****

ATTENDEES: Michael Borzick, Canyon County Development Services
Anna Canning, City of Meridian
Norm Holm, City of Nampa
Wendy Howell, City of Middleton
Anne Kawalec, Ada County Assessor's Office
Chad Lynch, Canyon County Assessor's Office
Mike McClenahan, Ada County Development Services
Jenah Thornborrow, City of Garden City
Karan Waters, Ada County Development Services
Ted Vanegas, City of Eagle

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ross Dodge called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Introductions were made of all attendees.

Ross Dodge presented a brief review of the COMPASS standing committees.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Why this Committee?

Ross Dodge explained that RGAC will be a fourth COMPASS standing committee tasked with assembling the mix of transportation and land use geographic information into comparable regional information that can be used for better planning and analysis for Ada and Canyon Counties. This committee is intended to be composed of department leaders who have a vision for planning at the regional level. Those who can help us acquire comparable geographic information for planning across county lines.

What will this Committee do?

The primary focus of this committee will be the following:

- Performance Monitoring Report - Our approach to the Board's instruction will be to analyze our local land use / transportation information over time to determine if we are moving in the direction outlined in ***Communities in Motion***.
- Population Allocation - This Committee will work to develop approved methodology and data sets from which to develop acceptable population allocation numbers.
- Preparation for Census 2010 - This Committee would look at ways to improve our GIS information in an effort to improve our counts for 2010.
- Development of comparable Regional Data Sets and be Advisory to the COMPASS Board on regional GIS issues.

DISCUSSION ITEM

How could this Committee benefit you?

Committee discussion:

- Obtaining a committee member who has both technical and planning/visionary expertise could be difficult.
- The discussion of orthophotography may need to be a subgroup of this Committee and other subcommittees may need to be created for the more technical discussions.
- A valuable role of this Committee could be to foster vertical communication between directors and technical staff and, horizontally between departments.
- In order to mark whether we are meeting ***Communities in Motion*** goals, we need to be able to calculate gross residential density in a shape file.
- Some jurisdictions do not have GIS expertise and there is a need to understand these issues.

Ross Dodge commented that Google Earth is a possibility for some of the smaller cities that do not have GIS expertise. COMPASS staff would be willing to help the smaller jurisdictions get set up with this system.

Eric Adolfsen gave a presentation regarding Goggle Earth.

- Agencies without GIS do not participate on GIS-type committees. This type of meeting would be a good forum to discuss planning needs and how GIS technology could assist in that effort.
- It may be necessary to obtain regional agency data from the Department of Environmental Quality or the Environmental Protection Agency, which may cross jurisdictions.
- There would be a benefit to present data analysis results to this type of regional planning group.

When will the Committee meet?

Ross Dodge stated that this Committee would probably meet on a quarterly basis. With regard to committee membership, the COMPASS Board approves the membership of each standing committee in January. Ross asked for specific names which will be added to the membership roster.

Mike McClenahan commented that in an ideal setting, major GIS representatives from various agencies, whether state or local, should be on the membership roster for this Committee. They would have the technical knowledge and the ability to access funding. It may be difficult to get a committee which is made up of agency directors.

Ross Dodge replied that if necessary, this Committee could consist of both technical and planning staff. It does not need to duplicate the work of other technical committees. The intent is to incorporate GIS technology to understand and accomplish planning issues.

ASSIGNMENTS

The Committee members at this time did not feel prepared to assign specific names for the Committee roster.

Ross Dodge suggested that the attendees communicate this discussion with their respective supervisors to begin the vertical communication.

As a first action item of this Committee, Ross requested a digital copy of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan in order to work toward one regional data set. The attendees agreed to assist in this effort.

NEXT MEETING

Ross Dodge summarized that based on discussions heard, this Committee would be of value but more time is needed to layout groundwork with planning directors.

Ross Dodge stated he would follow-up with the planning directors who were not in attendance in order to assemble a membership roster for the COMPASS Board.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.