Nevada State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Meeting Notes

May 16, 2012
Location: Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall
5111 Boulder Highway
Las Vegas, Nevada 895122

The open meeting was held in conjunction with the 22nd Annual Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS) 2012 State Conference in Reno, Nevada.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Mauldin, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG), 775-682-8759, mauldin@unr.edu or Jon Price, NBMG, jprice@unr.edu.

3:30 PM, MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Opening remarks and welcome, Nevada State Mapping Advisory Committee by Jon Price (NBMG), Committee Chair.

The Governor of Nevada established the State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) to advise the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on state priorities for map products and to inform map users about the status of mapping programs and the availability of map products. In its early years SMAC advised the USGS on priorities for completion of 1:24,000-scale, 7.5-minute topographic maps throughout the state. With all these maps having been printed by about 1990 and with development of digital maps and Geographic Information Systems, SMAC evolved. The USGS no longer explicitly seeks the advice of the state with regard to its mapping priorities but does request input from bureaus within the U.S. Department of Interior. SMAC now serves as a forum for discussion and review of state, local, and federal agency and private sector priorities for mapping.

Membership in SMAC and its subcommittees is open to anyone interested in mapping in Nevada. Participants have included representatives of numerous local, state, and federal agencies, community colleges and universities, and the private sector.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS

Geologic Mapping Subcommittee
Jon Price explained that the SMAC Geologic Mapping Subcommittee usually meets in August to discuss geologic map coverages that may be proposed for federal mapping funds from the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. Jon gave an update on the current geologic maps in progress under this program:

South Eureka – Mining focus. Jon noted that Nevada will hit 200 million ounces of gold in June.
Desert Peak – Geothermal focus. Jon noted the potential for more electricity generation from this area.
Westgate – Geothermal and earthquake focus. Jon noted that Nevada is the third most seismically active state.
Wabuska – Another geothermal focus.

Many GIS conversions of geologic maps are also in progress and will be made available on the NBMG website (http://www.nbmg.unr.edu).

Jon explained that no southern Nevada geologic mapping is currently being done under the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. Instead, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funds are being used for geologic mapping in Clark County. Jon listed the maps that are nearing completion under the BLM project:

Gass Peak SW quadrangle
Jean quadrangle
Ute quadrangle
Devils Throat quadrangle
Whitney Pocket quadrangle
Searchlight quadrangle

Jon mentioned that an announcement will be sent out prior to the August 2012 SMAC Geologic Mapping Subcommittee meeting, which will take place at NBMG.

USGS Data Projects

Carol Ostergren (Nevada State Liaison, U.S. Geological Survey) provided an update on the historical topographic maps, U.S. Topo maps, and NAIP:

Historical topo maps - A rescan of every historical topographic map has been completed and they are available in GeoPDF format. They were scanned at a higher resolution and are being converted to TIFFs, which should be available nationwide.

U.S. Topo maps - The old beta maps have been retired, and they are releasing new versions. No PLSS was included on this release but will be included in the next release.

NAIP – 1-meter NAIP is on schedule for 2013. There is no required state cost share.

Strategic and Business Planning/2012 CAP Grant

Earlier this year SMAC participated in the proposal process for a 2012 FGDC NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant. A group of SMAC members and NGIS Board members organized a working group to collaborate on a Category 4 proposal for *Business Plan Creation for Statewide Parcel Data and Enhanced Elevation Data for Nevada*, which was successfully awarded for $39,268.32. Luke Opperman, Holly Smith and Jeff Hardcastle all provided background information regarding this effort as a prelude to the 2012 CAP grant panel session at the conference the following day.

Luke Opperman (NV Division of Water Resources) presented slides and background information about what sparked his individual effort to track down LiDAR data in the state. Luke's slides illustrated areas where more cooperation between agencies could have resulted in funds spent more efficiently and emphasized a need for a coalition to monitor datasets. Luke has maintained the inventory that was started at the 2011 SMAC meeting, which includes contact information for various LiDAR datasets in the State. Luke suggested OpenTopography.org as one option for storage and sharing of the LiDAR data due to its ease of use, but emphasized that a decision of this sort would be part of the planning process through the grant-funded business plan development.

Carol Ostergren added that they have also been looking at elevation needs for Nevada and identified five functional areas where LiDAR is most needed. She expressed that requirements gathering is just a first step.

Jon Price expressed that it is very desirable to keep "no state match" in as long as possible on the Federal projects, given the large percentage of public lands in Nevada.

It was further discussed that the group will continue to define specifications such as where the repository will be. It also agreed that the UNR Keck Library needs to be involved for input since in the past they have been a repository for other GIS layers; however, with unlimited amounts of large data such as LiDAR, they may not have the means to store or manage it, but should certainly be in the decision process.

Holly Smith (NV State Lands) and **Jeff Hardcastle (NV State Demographer)** provided background information and issues concerning parcel needs. Jeff talked about his experience with parcel databases and standards requirements to take into consideration. Both Holly and Jeff emphasized that it is important to flush out all the stakeholders and various agencies input on needs.

Jon Price added as an aside that NBMG is involved in an earthquake hazards project that deals with collecting information from various assessors' offices. He expressed that it was difficult to collect the information and mentioned issues that surfaced about what could be shared with the public in the NBMG report. It was Jon's understanding that because it was already available through the assessors' offices it would be ok to use in the report. Jeff added that opinions varied by county about what should be made available.

Open Discussion and Comments

It was asked if DoIT was involved in NGIS and explained that they don't participate but are open to working with the GIS organizations.

Jon Price noted that NBMG has an extensive collection of historical air photos and has long-term plans to make them available digitally on the web.

Bill Stone (National Geodetic Survey) provided an update on geodetic developments. The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is currently implementing several changes to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the nation's system of latitude, longitude, elevation, and related geodetic quantities. In September 2011, updated geodetic coordinates were published for stations in the national network of GPS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). New coordinates for the passive network (monumented control stations) in the NSRS will be published by the end of June 2012. These new coordinates - for both the CORS and passive networks - are referenced to a new realization of the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), specified "NAD83 (2011) epoch 2010.00." A new geoid model - GEOID12 - designed to relate these new NAD83 ellipsoid heights with the North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88) will be released along with the new coordinates for the passive network. In addition, transformation tools allowing users to convert between all existing NAD83 realizations are under development and will soon be published. These tools will support the incorporation of historical/legacy spatial data into the latest, most modern national reference framework available. By approximately 2022, NGS anticipates replacing NAD83 and NAVD88 with the next generation of a national reference system. For more information on all of these topics, visit: geodesy.noaa.gov .

5:00 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Mauldin, Executive Secretary for SMAC
Nevada State Mapping Advisory Committee Web Site: http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/smac/smac.htm