

Approved: 02/09/2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Burgess at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Rep. Louis Ruiz - Excused

All Committee staff was present.

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Geringer, ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.)
Former Wyoming Governor and Legislator

Ivan Weichert
Kansas GIS Director

Ken Nelson
Manager, Kansas Data Access & Support Center

Others in attendance:
See attached list.

Former Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer, Ivan Weichert, and Ken Nelson attended to give a presentation on GIS, Geographic Information System.

Mr. Geringer introduced himself and gave some background. He is an engineering graduate from Kansas State University, worked for the space program, power plant, production in agriculture, former Wyoming Legislator, former Wyoming Governor and now represents ESRI.

Mr. Geringer provided a Powerpoint presentation ([Attachment 1](#)). While serving as a state legislator and as governor in Wyoming, it became apparent there was a need for better information systems through place-based information. At the state level, agencies were contending with each other on whose data was correct in their separate reports. Mr. Geringer noted that ESRI currently has an enterprise license agreement with the State of Kansas which is not being fully utilized. He has visited with Governor Brownback about state data and how it could be more helpful to the Governor and Legislature. It is felt more data needs to be available

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when a bill is introduced as to who is affected, where, and what information or resources will be needed to make it work. Mr. Geringer noted there is a book written by a former California legislator, H. L. Richardson, entitled "What Makes You Think We Read the Bill." This is an indication that data in a useable, concise form is needed.

The public has an increasing presence on the Web and an increasing desire for information. The public wants transparency and accountability. GIS helps resolve this by presenting current data based on geographical location. An example given was potential water availability and supply conflicts by year 2025 in the Western United States.

Mr. Geringer added that we have been inundated with digital information, and the vision is to use information through a framework to integrate information from all agencies. Accessing each other's data is key.

Mr. Geringer summarized that GIS uses geography to advance the business of the Legislature. GIS uses the power of place to support decision makers and the power of GIS to integrate data from various sources. GIS could provide research for a bill, provide a better way to draft the bill, or substitute a bill and give background. GIS could be used as a framework for strategic thinking.

Ivan Weichert serves as the Geographical Information Systems Director for Kansas. He reported that he serves to coordinate cost savings at many different levels---cities, counties, state and federal government agencies. The key to provide cost savings is to have good data for accessing and making sure everyone can obtain the data. Concerning the enterprise license agreement, Mr. Weichert noted software is expensive. In February, 2011, the GIS enterprise license was established and during the first year, a savings of \$100,000 in making purchases was realized. He added that we still have data in separate "silos" but the Kansas clearinghouse has served Kansas well in integrating data. Any geographic data is widely used for the success of Kansas. Mr. Weichert added that he would like to see the Legislature support the adoption of GIS across the state.

Ken Nelson was next to address the Committee with the use of slides ([Attachment 2 and 3](#)). Mr. Nelson is Manager of the Kansas Data Access and Support Center. He has worked with the

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Department of Revenue on a statewide GIS database of tax units across the state. The purpose was to streamline the process for reporting tax boundary changes to the state and to work cooperatively with county, tax districts, and legislative districts to accomplish this goal. They worked closely with the Department of Revenue on the geographical component in facilitating the technology. There are a whole set of administrative boundaries that are tax district building blocks. Work was planned over a three-year period beginning in 2009. In 2010, the first statewide dataset was developed; year 2011 was the first year for integration in the County Clerks annual tax process thus eliminating paper maps; and in 2012, the certifications were in process. GIS made the process much easier. There was a positive response from the County Clerks and there were numerous requests for presentations.

Mr. Nelson noted that Kansas Legislative Research maintains a GIS data layer of school district boundaries and provides this information to the Data Center as updates are made. The geographic data can be combined with the tabular data and used to analyze the impact of budgetary or policy decisions. This could reflect potential reductions or increases more readily using a color coded map of districts across the whole state. The same data can be shared through ArcGIS.com, a very easy to use software. Mr. Nelson displayed slides used to integrate multiple data layers to show flood extent in North Lawrence at various river flood stages with an aerial view of the land impacted. This could be used by FEMA for damage estimates. Another graph showed legislative and school boundaries for Oskaloosa Middle School.

In response to questions:

- The GIS data gives authorities the ability to notify persons ahead of time in case of flood.
- It is necessary to constantly refresh the data so it is accurate.
- Through the Kansas LIDAR acquisition program, the cost for a single county for a data acquisition project would be \$250 per square mile. There are 28,446 square miles in Kansas. Our cost through a collaborative, shared-funding project has been about \$87 per square mile.
- Any county or city can use the data. They have to request it and KDASC will be available to assist.

Mr. Nelson continued that Johnson County has a great GIS program. Jefferson County has the best in the state. If three or four counties get together they could share the cost of GIS. The

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system could also be utilized to track Medicaid fraud, consolidation of administrative boundaries, district consolidation, etc.

Chair Burgess thanked the presenters.

The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, January 18.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

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