United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fifty States Initiative Grant

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Presenter
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Purpose of Appearance
Provide update on USGS Fifty States Initiative Grant for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Strategic and Business Plan.

Status
The Department of Information Services (DIS) released a Work Request number WR-09-79 for GIS Strategic and Business Plan on April 9, 2009 using the Information Technology Professional Services (ITPS) master contract. No responses were received; however, in consultation with the ITPS approved consultants as to why they did not respond they stated that they viewed the work request as highly risky given the limited funding, timelines, and their limited experience in this area. Due to the lack of responses it was decided by the WAGIC Strategic Planning Grant subcommittee to release the work as a Request for Proposal (RFP). This subcommittee furthermore researched and selected six well known GIS consultants based on their extensive expertise in the areas of GIS collaboration and GIS Strategic Planning. Two of the consultants have produced a total of thirteen similar business and strategic plans for thirteen states within the funding constraints of USGS' Fifty States Initiative Grant. The WAGIC Strategic Planning Grant subcommittee feels confident that it will receive viable responses from this RFP process.

Background
This project focuses on updating and aligning Washington's GIS Strategic Plan with its Information Technology Strategic Plan and to build a business plan for framework data that will help guide and track results. Tasks include:

- Update the existing GIS Strategic Plan to reflect current business needs in Washington; and
- Develop and build a comprehensive business plan to implement the Strategic Plan focused on one or two key priorities.

WAGIC has never undertaken a business plan in Washington. A business plan development effort will provide decision makers and the GIS community a concrete framework focus over time. This project is designed to modify and finalize a 2009 Strategic Plan, generate a viable business plan, and enhance and expand a network of partnerships among GIS practitioners, business-line leaders, and the Information Services Board Geographic Information Technology Committee.

The Fifty States Initiative outlines a fundamental change in the way all governments will work together to jointly build critically needed spatial Infrastructure data. Instead of relying on random grants and partnerships, a new program emphasizing strategic and business planning with specifically targeted implementation grants, performance measures, and incentives will be employed.

Why The Fifty States Initiative Plan? The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) estimates that the geographic data required by state, local, regional, tribal and federal governments will cost in excess of $6.6 billion, not including

maintenance costs. There are over 18,000 municipal governments, 3,141 county governments, unknown numbers of regional organizations, and over 327 tribal governments that are all creating geographic data in addition to the states and Federal government. Coordination efforts need dramatic improvement. Otherwise, these organizations will continue creating the same data on a frequent basis. By some estimates, there may be as much as 50 percent waste which we can ill afford in this time of economic hardship. Through the development of state level GIS Strategic and Business Plans (via the Fifty States Initiative), targeted federal grants tied to those plans can include performance measures, incentives and rewards that will allow all levels of government to work more effectively together in the creation and maintenance of geospatial data.

Issues/Actions
Aligning the WAGIC Strategic Plan with the GIT Strategic Plan and the National States Geographic Information Council Fifty States Initiative will be a focus for the WAGIC over the next year. The Fifty States Initiative outlines the way governments will work together to develop and share GIS resources.

Next Steps
- Release the RFP
  - Review, rate, and selected best RFP proposal.
  - Meet with selected consultant to codify the action plan, timeline, etc., contained with the RFP in order to successfully meet the requirements of USGS' Fifty States Initiative Grant.
- In the event of no responses to the RFP
  - Do a strategic assessment of the past GIT Strategic Business Plan and the GIT Enterprise Architecture Initiative.
  - Determine what items were completed in those plans what items were not and prioritize outstanding items.
  - Assess whether to proceed with a GIS Strategic and Business Plan and/or return grant funding.

Previous Appearances Before the Committee
September 18, 2008: Update on the June 2008 WAGIC Retreat.