

## Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council

### Meeting Minutes

January 20, 1999

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Rod Low facilitated and Vicki Lukas recorded.

I. Charter Committee - The Charter Committee is ready to file for non-profit status. The remaining task is to write up exemptions (qualification for being non-profit) which is essentially two essays on what the group will do the first few years and what the finances will be like. To help define the content for the essays, the group discussed the HIGICC's current activities and proposed standing committees.

#### A. Current Activities

##### 1. GISMAP

Based on past experience, GISMAP takes at least one year to plan, so if we started right now the earliest we could have the next conference would be next year.

GISMAP pays for itself, but a lot of the money doesn't come in until after the conference, so we need to generate some money for it up front. Last time about \$3,000-4,000 profit was made, but APA was running the treasury and they have different numbers, though this estimate is probably more accurate than the APA estimate.

In 2000 the regional ESRI CA/NV/HI/Guam meeting will be held Hawaii. Perhaps we could do GISMAP in conjunction with that. We need sponsorships and perhaps to increase exhibitor rates.

## 2. Framework Project - Molokai boundaries of public lands

Ev Wingert attended the FGDC project meeting to discuss the project's progress, but the meeting was closed before Hawaii could give a report. The project has lost staff but got an extension despite initial bureaucratic difficulties in extending contracts. Ev wants to get the project done quickly as soon as he hears that it has been extended. Outstanding tasks include writing a final report, populating a database, and not a great deal more. Problems have surfaced with ahupua`a and other property boundaries matching up. USGS ahupua`a boundaries are from old Monseratt maps. Ahupua`a were surveyed several times resulting in different boundaries, and it is not known which representation in Monseratt's notes went on the USGS maps.

It was asked what was learned from the project in terms of the social and organizational side of how to maintain the public lands coverage. Ev stated that the proposal was to find out if the administrative boundaries from USGS will be good to hang other data on, and answer is no. We should review the initial proposal to the FGDC to ensure that all proposed outcomes have been addressed.

See the project's homepage at: <http://atlas.geog.hawaii.edu/~max/Default.htm>

## 3. HIGICC Webpage

The current location of the draft webpages is at <http://wailea.mhpcc.edu/HIGICC>. This is a temporary website hosted by the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC). The Webpage Committee is still discussing where the permanent site will be, but are leaning toward MHPCC. MHPCC could potentially host a data server, not just a clearinghouse, but we would need to pay for a webmaster. Scott Splean predicts it will take 10-15 hours each week to maintain the website. The committee needs to find out how much that will cost, so they can consider offering advertising on the site or other means of funding the webmaster. In the last meeting minutes, the Committee posed 6 questions to consider and need feedback from the HIGICC on these.

## B. Standing Committees

At the last meeting the group discussed the formation of the following standing committees:

### 1. Data Standards and Sharing (DSS)

An example was used to illustrate the need for online data sharing and standards, as well as a mechanism to report errors and changes to data. FWS got a layer from DLNR with updated reserves (formerly called managed lands) that includes non-public lands like TNC lands. The data don't show recent changes, so how does FWS get the new information

included in the dataset? What is the mechanism for FWS to communicate with other users/revisors of the data and resolve questions and issues? One idea the DDS Committee may explore would be to use a website as an intermediary, by putting Arc/Info export files and ArcView shapefiles (or whatever format) online with a table showing who posted the files, what they think needs to be changed, why, and a potential solution with an incident number so that others can respond using that incident number. We need to think about this concept and give Rod ideas on a mechanism wherein publicly accessible data can be revised. It was recognized that there is more than one solution and sometimes it takes the court to decide the boundary between conflicting legal descriptions.

This proposed forum may beg the question, who is in charge of the data and revising them? With some data, different agencies have different versions and it's not clear who is the owner or who should update them. HIGICC could create special interest groups to be the authoritative bodies for such areas as ecosystem conservation, wetlands, coral reef/fisheries/marine, parcel boundaries/land ownership, transportation, and others. These groups would have access to the online discussion within their areas. Or another way to organize groups could be by framework themes, for instance hydrography, transportation, elevation data, etc. This would not be limited to data of any one agency - it would encompass all of the stakeholders who use/create/revise the data in a given category.

The whole process can be complex, but we need a place to have the dialog. This came up in the framework project - they didn't have authority to change the USGS DLG data. HIGICC could help form a better link with the USGS for updating maps by ensuring that revision information from all the local agencies gets documented and goes to the USGS "correction files". HIGICC also needs to have better links with surveyors.

When the DSS Committee has defined an online mechanism, the Webpage Committee needs to determine how feasible such a site would be.

It was noted that the HIGICC needs to decide what our policies should be on revision and how to manage it. The policies should be agreed upon before a system is designed and implemented. However it appears that the group present today is in agreement that the idea of openly sharing problems with data is a good idea. A more concrete proposal needs to be developed for the HIGICC to approve and for the Website Committee to review.

2. Professional Development and Community Outreach

3. Finance - Ken Schmidt was nominated as the chair of this committee

4. Ad hoc committees - to address other issues that come up

## II. Vision/Mission/Strategic Planning Committee

The current effort is to find a way to maintain non-profit status and at the same time get State government support of the HIGICC. Craig Tasaka reported to Rod that such support won't be in the form of an executive order, but perhaps a directive that tells State agencies to cooperate with HIGICC could be established. The alternative of promoting legislation is too late at this point, but the eventual results of legislation may be stronger as it could direct the counties as well as the State to support the HIGICC. In any case the idea remains that we want to include all sectors rather than creating another state body or management. Therefore, Ron Cannerella will continue toward filing papers of incorporation as the Strategic Planning Committee develops the 3-5 year plan including finance numbers. This document will be useful to the essays needed for incorporation.

It was agreed by the group to use the TNC address for the incorporation documents.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet via teleconference around the first week of February. Ken has the updated list of members and will let the whole group know when the meeting will take place.

III. NEXT MEETING - April 6, 9:30 am - ? Location TBD.

IV. Revision/reprojection project update

Vicki Lukas distributed a handout showing the NIMA revision area and the reprojection project by cooperator. Recently NPS funded nine more quadrangles, leaving only 10 quadrangles on the big island unfunded for reprojection. The DOI agencies in Hawaii may choose to request that the remaining 10 maps get reprojected, but that might delay completion of the State coverage slightly. The DOI agencies will meet to discuss this option. There may be other options that could be more timely, so all are encouraged to pursue any leads on potential cooperators.

Some of the newly revised maps from the NIMA project are already for sale: the western side of the big island is complete with regard to revision, and Maui is underway. It was requested that Vicki find out what happens to the old maps that as they are being replaced. Those would be useful to various users in Hawaii. Vicki will find out and let the group know if they can be recovered for use in the State.