

Southwest Data Center
2/13/01

Notes: 3p.m.

Topic: How to go forward...define a level of interest...Where are we going?

Bob: recap

No representative at the state level to support the WGA's initiative. If can get a lead person, can lead remainder of Colorado along...BLM \$ support a possibility.

Bill: It should happen anyway, regardless of funding. I think it's an appropriate time to look at this, although funding may not be a certainty.

Bob: Fair to say BLM is committed to giving some resources. It shouldn't be dependent on budget. If we start, it makes the opportunities for those dollars/collaboration better for us. People see good things happening and want to be a part of it. Can use it as a catalyst. WE need to do it anyway, because it needs to be done.

Question: What is the scope?

Bob: County by county plans. Has a guideline available...ties into IT plans geared toward trying to get Dept. of Interior funding. Combined the outlines.

Bill: We're a little unique...needs to form infrastructure to determine what/who/when needs to be done.

Bob: Needs all counties to come together...comprehensive/overseeing umbrella.

Question: Is Colorado Counties a possibility? No.

Is it the County Surveyor's Assoc?

Bob: Should we pursue this?

Participant: Counties need to decide whether they want to go through with it...or by an association...take an assessment of what each county wants. Come up with a plan...inc. level of participation.

Bob: We ask for \$ to do planning first. Outline is looking at strategy at how to approach it...doing an inventory where we are...basically evaluate that data based on business needs that it's being used for. Where do we need higher accuracies? Evaluate what level of information we need for cadastral. Have to get on the same page. The first thing is to do the inventories...where do we need to bring the data to meet those needs.

Participant: Do you have the \$ in hand? No. Looking at 2002. Planning for 2002 budgets right now.

Bob: Already submitted request...used the Western Gov. resolution. It's up to us to start now. The farther we can get along and show progress, the better off we are.

Bill: I'm hoping we can get enough interest for incremental funding.

Bob: It'll take some time to determine what's available in terms of information.

Participant: USFS may not be able to be involved in 2003-2004..have to go through steps. We have particular funding ability to do things. In this case, falls in GMUG/San Juan...needs to be broached with mgmnt. Teams of each forest...get into budget cycle.

Bob: That's why the local folks need to do the planning.

Bill: Good chance that the emergency fire money can go for this. Giant pot of money out there.

Participant: National Fire Plan \$s have already been allocated...other portions for planning. Nothing in there that relates to the WGA's initiatives.

Bob: WE do have the governor's support...do some pilot projects with communities. There is some potential there.

Participant: Big pot of money isn't there...Failed to put any money in there for surveys. It's going to be there, but it comes out of project dollars...some of the planning dollars. Dependent on local level..

Bob: Information is part of that...allows for better implementation of the plan. We need to work into their process. WE just need to get those local sources involved in the planning.

Participant: Responsibility falls upon the Forest Land Surveyor...be the cooperating person doing those things. The Fire Plan is for the Urban Interface.

Bob: It is an issue. There would be a lot of benefit with the parcel information.

Participant: WE learned a lot from the fires last year. Nationally, they've recognized that we need that kind of expertise to provide information to all participating agencies.

Bob: Fire community has recognized that they need local/county data. WE need to work with them...they'd be key folks to be involved in the planning effort.

Participant: Every forest group has deemed areas most important.

Bob: Communities at Risk published on the internet. In talking to the fire center...after a couple of sessions, they're saying they'd like to help with this. Needs to be their project, too.

Participant: If you have a project and a demo, that's the way to go. Might be a little difficult to come in the front door.

Bob: Fire is a good vehicle to set the priorities.

Participant: Assessors have a lot of information available after the effect of the fire...it can't just be the federal agencies...has to be the whole integrated community.

Participant: Last year, we (USFS) were allocated 50 K...if we can demonstrate some usefulness toward this effort...we can get into this...

Bill: We were getting calls from all the counties on the Front Range...it's my preference to start real soon...could bring Gunnison in to Region 10...other counties are going to ask us to talk to them..if we try to go statewide...we're resurrecting the GICC, which isn't going to happen. I'd recommend going with Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Mesa..try to figure out where to work from that...we could get started.

Participant: There's a high profile up on Red Mtn...lot of interest on that.

Bill: San Miguel and Uncompahgre Plateau—also high interest.

Participant: Pilot program to demonstrate the viability...if we could get counties to coop with that.

Participant: May be pure and simple datasharing...part of that inventory about what each group can do.

Bill: If we start in a small area...we start setting up some stuff with a uniformity of metadata...document that...work on that on one level...on another level, meet with clerks/assessors, etc. to define a business model...how we can fit that into a business case...establishing the checks and balances that allow...i.e. Mesa Co. integrate with systems...what problems can we i.d.? Estab. Maintenance cycle.

Bob: Links to websites...have a comprehensive picture that has public/private lands available. Can i.d. when we do the planning...we need to think about it a little bit. Get our act together/ have it be a budget-independent plan.

Participant: Are all counties represented here? Gunnison isn't.

Bob: WE need to think about a commitment from each county.

Bill: Premature to ask for money...but they'll commit some man hours to providing input/ok staff to come to the meetings. I think they'll all do it to some degree.

Participant: But, you don't have a formal commitment...

Bill: Two reasons why we picked this area...we have permission to distribute parcel level data from every county here. SWDC is already coordinating to make data usable. I know most of the counties here...real nice starting point here. There's a difference from asking them to participate...to ask them to formally commit to supporting some kind of umbrella organization...we're not ready for that.

Participant: Everybody should participate...put their 2 cents in.

Bill: Maybe Ouray, San Miguel, Montrose and Delta already have the same software...integrating GIS data...if we already have another team to utilize this stuff that's coming out...another plus for the region.

Participant: Are you going to create a document following this meeting? So they can have an idea about how to develop more involvement? There's kind of a start.

Bill: We need to do a little more of the rough inventory. I feel comfortable with we come back 2-3 weeks with a packet of info...we're trying to set up a plan...make that at least part of your staff time's priority.

Participant: I was playing the devil's advocate...we sit through these kinds of meetings all the time, but they're not asking the question.

Bill: Until we have some more outreach, more meetings, there's no real reason yet to pick that umbrella. You have to let that group work together and see what rises.

Bob: WE don't have to do that here.

Participant: There's a Jeff in Gunnison that's GIS...we should let those folks know.

Bill: We did send them an invitation.

Bob: Wade Hall (Delta Co.) is very interested in this.

Participant: Mesa Co. is definitely interested in this...interested in getting more federal information...for federal agencies to use. All the counties that don't have it, want it.

Lot of rural counties have big percentages of public land in it.

Bob: In Wyoming, they want to track that stuff.

In Wyoming/Nevada...

Bill: In Ouray Co., anything that would lead us within 16 mos. Of getting more political buy-in...there's lot of public interest. What we're saying is that we want to get started now. Get the institutional framework started. Two phases: administration cost to get information passed around. Next thing to do: lots of little opportunities around...shoot some more points...there's some stuff happening. We continue to have meetings. If we start like that...define business cases...unifying approaches...and we have this mechanism in place...that when \$ is available, we'll be at the top of the list.

Bob:...and to know what's required.

Bill: If within two years we get 400k...there'll still be a need in 2004.

Participant: Little big lost. What's our main topic?

Bob: I think we're saying we do want to do this. A vision we're shooting for. Next steps..what do we do next? How do we proceed? Pilot project? Planning?

Participant: We're so far behind...our immediate need is to get our house in order...our commissioners are putting heavy pressure on us...I can see our budget and resources trying to get our own house in order.

Bob: That fits into our equation. The better job you do, the better you'll be able to feed your data to us.

Bill: We're using GCBC in most of the counties...ability to integrate into your system...do that in next 6 months..show something tangible to the commissioners.

Bob: Ultimately want to attract additional money to help. If we could shorten that timeframe by doing contracting, etc. we're hoping we can get some. No guarantees, but we do have some support from WGA...Colorado is missing out by not having a state rep. Bill has taken that initiative.

Participant: Easy for us to set up systems that can be integrated...learned the past two days.

Participant: Can be used as an extension of the CDOT...expanding the network...adding to the system.

Bob: What we're doing now can contribute to a larger effort...if a county is still getting its act together (San Miguel Co.)...it meets the Fire Plan's needs, too.

Participant: Need to meet and coordinate.

Bill: So, we're talking no funding to begin with...if we figured out how to...the GCBC..maybe we could start to integrate. Taking what we are doing and working together. Then, when I moved into the Business case thing...elected officials can understand the value of it. Keep talking to the assessors/county clerks/ figuring out what they need...consultant to develop the interface. They get \$ if do it for a while.

Participant: Worried about budget things.

Bob: My role is that I'm going to asking for the dollars. That's why I'm focused on that.

Participant: These concerns were expressed in SLC...counties said they couldn't afford to participate...but coming to the meetings WAS participating. Take advantage of other counties' knowledge. Eventually, you're going to get there.

Bob: One of the recommendations was that BLM should take the initiative and get extra dollars. That's why I'm here. There needs to be some budget strategies for rural counties in the West.

Bill: This budget request from the BLM is to ask for funding...if it happens, this area could be poised to be recipient of the funding...

Bob: There's nothing else going on in Colorado.

Participant: What do we need to do?

Bill: Start at a small level...integrate what's going on...meeting with surveyors and see what's going on now...really good first step...get stoned by the surveyors. Right now, it'd be premature for this group to attempt to "train" them...put this on the agenda of some surveyor's meeting.

Participant: I could get triple the amount of points if they'd work with me. Another problem with the surveyors: we all run private businesses...for me to show up at a meeting is a big deal..it's costing all of us \$1k to sit here. That's another reason why we're not getting a lot of interest.

Bob: Using the forest service as an example...change policy with contracting...collect information in this kind of format. Counties could work these kind of things into the contract.

Participant: Hard to justify 4-5 days of meetings in a year. That value has escalated.

Bill: It gets down to the whole thing..everyone wants everyone else to do it. There has to be value...if not, it won't happen. You're right, it's tough. But, you need time to shoot the point someone shot last week.

Participant: We'll probably show up at the meetings.

Bill: We need to be aware of this...make it so traveling isn't such a problem...conference calls.

Participant: Surveyors get together on a monthly basis...you've got those guys together...broach those ideas there...start to educate the surveying committee. Most of the burden fell to the federal and state agencies to make that happen...need to get the private sector involved. As we change contracting...becomes a standard practice of business. That's where we need to go.

Bob: When they said they wanted the fed and state to make it possible...meant it to help make it possible, not to do the work itself. See if we can get something going in Co.

Participant: Surveyors here have learned a lot in the past 2 days...

Bill: It'll take time.

Participant: Surveyors have to look at it and show an economic benefit...to bring them on board. If not, have to drag them with a pickup truck.

Participant: Show them Rick Corsi's monument data...

Bill: They do their own data...shows them how important it is.

Participant: State mandate?...comes out with a resolution that info comes out with with this format. Maybe that's where we should go as surveyors...to State Board...with the initiative...if we can get them out...pass a resolution...then it comes to "You will".

Participant: At chapter meetings...PLSW...problems we had in WY was an unbelievable battle...comes back to economics...all the private surveyors have to pass the cost on to clients...part of education process...show them what the benefits are. A critical issue to address.

Participant: How big is the area?

Bill: Mesa, Montrose, Delta, San Miguel, San Juan...Gunnison.

Participant: Proposal to start in these areas.

Bob: Great to have a coordinator/umbrella kind of strategy...great to have information up front...here's the goals/objectives, strategy...

Bill: Tomorrow we'll start drafting goals...circulate it and ask for comments.

Bob: In the meantime, have the initiative with the surveyors.

Bill: Can't really do much until we meet with the surveyors.

Participant: Meeting with Western Slope surveyors is happening next month...on broader picture, Warren Ward (sp) President of PLSC, county surveyor from Grand CO., has a mentality that'll take ideas and work on them...worked on subdivision plats.

Bill: He's also a champion of GIS. We know there's a wider area of interest than is in this room today.

Participant: Have to hit these guys with the concept at least 3 times before they're even thinking about it.

Participant: Be a presence at the next PLSC meeting in Montrose...give a good presentation...have to condense the information.

Bill: We've thrown out a lot of disparate subjects.

Participants: WE need to have meeting between us (surveyors)...first.

Bob: Another recommendation from WGA...recognition re cadastral...can get you copies of quotes..."infrastructure that needs to be supported".

Participant: Give them something to pique their interest...maybe a form made up that they can put their data in...

Participant: We may be addressing that later this week.

Participant: What do you think about attending this meeting? Most of us surveyors are pretty boring...

Bob: Sure.

Bill: It's like some of the other efforts Bob has been involved in...but he can help get something started.

Participant: What about the assessors? Do you have meetings? Ok, is this it?

Bill: Mesa Co. guy and the Delta Co., I'm pretty sure we can get it spread through the assessors.

Participant: Lot of counties have interest...even going outside the group, there's a lot of interest in the subject.

Participant: WE have a good opportunity at Western Slope GIS users' group...have a meeting coming up in a month...at this meetings the assessors' group has been invited...might be a good time to bring it up again.

Bill: Already have a position on the agenda. Co. clerks? GIS types?

Participant: We need to raid other counties resources in order to keep up.

Bob: If we can make information available...GIS people take that into other applications...getting it into 911 systems...more efficiently/current information is...

Participant: Tomorrow's schedule? Surveyors need to know how to make room for it in their website...i.e. Delta Co. can't handle it with their current website.

Bill: If we can figure out what the standard is...already filling out metadata...

Bill: Let's i.d. some real issues/goals tomorrow a.m. If we start to get down to very specific bullets...these are things we need to address along the way.

Participant: In SLC, we didn't come out with the whole thing...just establishing some goals.

Bill: There's a deeper thing tying it all together.

Bob: Gets me excited about the opportunities and potential...giving info to decisionmakers.

Bill: Purpose of this whole thing...so we can be more efficient, make smarter decisions..

Bob: Those common threads...how to make communities more livable.

Participant: D.C. guys out here with the USFS out here next week...possible that we could get funding next year for this...seems like a good expenditure of funds. Try to do what we can.

Bob: We'll look for some partnership dollars for the year...sure helps when there are extra dollars.

Participant: Seems like USFS always has money left over at the end of the year.

Bob: GIS...Colorado doesn't participate...no coordinator to funnel the \$. Something we might like to talk about tomorrow.

