

VGIN Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2010
1:00 PM, CESC
Minutes

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| Members Present: | Senator John Watkins Delegate Jeffrey Frederick George Coulter Stan Hovey John Jenkins Connie Brennan Charles Donato | W. Page Cockrell Murali Rao for David Ekern Trent Park for Jeffrey Anderson Rick Pevarski James Wilson Chris Knights |
| Members Absent: | Senator Mark Obenshain Delegate Sam Nixon Delegate Dave Englin Delegate Beverly Sherwood | Delegate Sal Iaquinto Bill Price |
| Staff Present: | Dan Widner, Coordinator Terry Mayo, Board Assistant N. Jerry Simonoff, ITIES Director | Steve Marzolf, ISP Director John Scivani, Staff |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Senator John Watkins called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Senator Watkins welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Senator Watkins asked for corrections or additions to the October 14, 2009 draft minutes, and there were none. Senator Watkins then called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Connie Brennan made a motion for approval of the minutes as written, and Rick Pevarski 2nd the motion for approval. All approved the October 14, 2009 minutes; **13-0-0**

2. VIRGINIA GEOSPATIAL HEALTH NETWORK

Guest speaker Senator George Barker requested time on the agenda to speak to the Board to provide an update on his plans for submitting legislation to establish a Geospatial Health Network Authority. In 2009 he submitted similar legislation that was passed in the Senate but tabled in the House. Senator Barker reminded the Advisory Board on his presentation he gave at the July 2009 Advisory Board meeting. The 2009 legislation proposed to: (i) provide for the continuity and expansion of research both within the public and private sectors using geospatial analysis of health and health care relevant data, (ii) develop economies of scale within state health agencies and within public health programs within the Commonwealth's

universities, (iii) provide geospatial analytical support to other political subdivisions concerned with cost-effective targeting of public health initiatives, and (iv) engage in such other lawful activities as the Board of Directors of the Authority deems reasonable and appropriate. Senator Barker expressed his desire to work with the Advisory Board and the VGIN Coordinator to ensure good communication and support. Senator Barker next introduced Steve Sedlock of the Virginia Network for Geospatial Health Research to the Advisory Board, and said that Mr. Sedlock will give a brief presentation to the Board on the Geospatial Health Authority. Mr. Sedlock said stated one of the projects he is working on is called “Place Matters.” They are studying health equity, and providing a geographical reference. Mr. Sedlock said that this application has a large geospatial component and that they are partnering with VCU and a think tank in Washington, DC. Senator Barker then stated that he would desire to get the Advisory Board’s support of his legislation.

Senator Watkins asked for questions and/or comments from the Advisory Board. Ms. Connie Brennan asked for the website address for this project. Mr. Sedlock said the web address is: <http://vmdev.cgit.vt.edu/VirginiaRuralHealth/> . Several Advisory Board Members had follow up questions for Senator Barker and Mr. Sedlock. Are you using VGIN base map data? Yes; Is VA Department of Health involved? Yes; What are your timeframes for data updates? Quarterly; Who are the users? Public Health Care organizations; Will there be a cost to use the data? No; Are you building a database that contains information on individuals?; No; Are there any Virginia cities in the “Place Matters” application? No. Senator Watkins if the Legislation draft was available. Senator Barker said the bill has yet to be drafted. Senator Watkins also asked that Senator Barker get a draft of the bill as soon as possible to Mr. Dan Widner and then asked Mr. Widner to provide his recommendations to the Advisory Board. Senator Watkins thanked the Senator and Mr. Sedlock for coming and addressing the Advisory Board.

3. GIS Strategic Planning

Mr. Dan Widner addressed the Advisory Board and informed them of the milestone of reaching the review of the final Strategic Plan draft on schedule and on budget. Mr. Widner said he is looking for three outcomes: (1) the Board has an understanding of the vision and goals, (2) suggestions from the Board and what they think, and (3) the Board’s formal adoption of the Strategic Plan if they are so inclined. Mr. Widner then went through the methodology that was presented at the October Advisory Board meeting about the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Widner thanked all the stakeholders for working on the Strategic Plan which included: all the stakeholders who participated in and contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan; the VGIN Advisory Board for guidance and leadership throughout the process; Touchstone consultants for facilitating the process; and the Federal Geographical Data Committee who provided 50% of the financial support.

Referring to the presentation, Mr. Widner gave a brief overview of how the Strategic Plan was developed. He then directed the Board's attention to the vision statement which is: "Using geographic knowledge to create a better Virginia". The three themes or strategic goals are: (1) Coordination and collaboration; (2) Communication; and (3) Creative Services.

Out of these three strategic goals there are six strategic initiatives, each with its own set of outcomes:

Goal 1: Coordination and Collaboration

Initiative 1: *Develop and maintain geospatial standards*

Initiative 2: *Oversee the development of a statewide geospatial clearinghouse that connects all levels of government*

Goal 2: Communication

Initiative 3: *Facilitate geospatial educational opportunities*

Initiative 4: *Provide marketing advocacy and outreach by acting as the primary champion of GIS in Virginia*

Goal 3: Creative Services

Initiative 5: *Provide framework basemap data layers to augment the current orthophotography and road centerline data layers*

Initiative 6: *Identify and develop innovative technical solutions*

Mr. Widner asked for questions and comments from the Advisory Board. Mr. Chris Knight made a comment that he is very pleased with how the plan looks today and that it was well thought out. He has questions about how to attack the initiatives. Mr. Knights commented that he does not think the goals are unobtainable. Mr. John Jenkins asked what methodology do you plan to use to changes and updates to the plan? Mr. Widner said he had planned to go out to the user community on an annual basis. Mr. Trent Park said that he thought that the Economic Development partnership with VGIN has been very healthy and that he approves of the process that VGIN went through. He said he provided comments that were critical of the VGIN's use of resources on the RCL data maintenance project. He was pleased to see that his input to the Strategic Plan was considered and included. He does think overall it is a great plan. Mr. Murali Rao said that VDOT's needs for road centerline data are unique, complicated and goes beyond what the VGIN RCL can provide. Mr. Rao thinks it is very important and would like to see VDOT and VGIN move forward together to collaborate more on the initiatives concerning RCL, with VDOT taking the lead on the RCL maintenance. Mr. Stan Hovey commented that the challenge with follow up to the plan is the execution process with a limited budget, etc. Mr. Hovey suggested the possibility of VGIN forming temporary task groups to getting some of these initiatives done. Mr. James Wilson said the language in the Strategic Plan provides some flexibility to the initiatives. Senator Watkins commended Mr. Widner on VGIN's effort. He said it gives us a guidepost to where we need to be to fully develop VGIN. Senator Watkins said he thinks that VGIN and VDOT should

work together on the RCL project. Mr. Rick Pevarski raised the question about wording under Goal 1 under Initiative 2. He would like to see the initiative include the “private sector” industry. He would like to change the language to reach or oversee the development of a statewide geospatial clearinghouse that connects all levels of government and private sector. A discussion ensued from the Advisory Board concerning the language to include private and government sectors. Senator Watkins asked if the Advisory Board should include “government and other users?” to the initiative. Or if the Advisory Board wanted to add to the initiative all levels of government and other VGIN stakeholders? The decision was to amend Initiative 2 to include “and other VGIN stakeholders”.

Mr. Widner asked if the Board wanted to categorize the initiatives into tiers (primary/secondary), if they wanted to rank them (e.g. 1 through 6), highlight only a few, or stay neutral and wait for VGIN’s input. Mr. Page Cockrell said he thought that VGIN should look at it and bring it to the next VGIN Advisory Board meeting with recommendations. Senator Watkins commented that he thought that VGIN should try to draw down to a limited number of initiatives. Mr. Rick Pevarski said he agrees and that VGIN should establish some metrics for measuring progress. Mr. Murali Rao commented that VGIN should take time to think it through and at the next Advisory Board meeting have some discussion. Mr. Charles Donato commented that he thought that this plan does create enthusiasm.

Mr. Widner said his next step is to incorporate Board input; start developing initiative action plans; continue engaging stakeholders through outreach activities and involvement in the process; and to report progress at the Advisory Board meetings.

Senator Watkins asked for motion to adopt the Strategic Plan. Mr. Rick Pevarski made a motion to approve the plan as amended with the language to include “and other VGIN stakeholders” at the end of Initiative 2. Mr. John Jenkins seconded the motion for approval. Mr. Page Cockrell asked about changes and revisiting the Strategic Plan. Mr. Widner said the intent was to assess the Strategic Plan on an annual basis. Senator Watkins called for the vote to adopt and approve the “Strategic Plan” including the amended wording. All approved;

13-0-0.

4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON JANUARY COORDINATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Dan Widner asked if the Advisory Board had any questions on the Coordinator’s Report. Mr. Widner made reference to completion of the 2009 VBMP orthophotography deliverables for 80 counties and independent cities, six towns; three universities; and one country club. Mr. Widner gave a quick update on the grant activities – Broadband Mapping Proposal; LiDar Proposal; 2010 CAP Grant application (see section 5 - New Business); GIS Education Follow Up; the Virginia.gov website; and the VGIN vacant position. Mr. Widner asked if the Advisory Board had any questions or comments. There were none.

5. **NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION**

Senator Watkins asked for any new business or old business. Mr. Dan Widner informed the Advisory Board that he is applying for 2010 CAP grant for a formal Return On Investment (ROI) study for the VBMP orthophotography program. Mr. Widner said he is asking the Board for support for the application “2010 NSDI CAP Grant Category 5 – Return on Investment (ROI) Methodology and Business Case”. A letter was drafted saying that the Board is supporting this endeavor and was showed to the Board for their consideration. The Board agreed to sign off on the support and letter Mr. Widner drafted on its behalf. Senator Watkins called for a vote on the approval. The Advisory Board voted and was approved; **13-0-0**.

Mr. Steve Marzolf addressed the Advisory Board to discuss the VGIN budget and said there was an administrative mistake on the Governor’s appropriation for the VGIN budget of \$800,000. It was shown as a negative amount indicating the appropriation would be taken away. Mr. Marzolf said it is not, and that the amount was part of the VGIN budget. Mr. Marzolf said he did not want the Advisory Board to be alarmed and wanted to clarify the error.

Senator Watkins called for any more questions or comments. There were none, and a motion was made and seconded to end the January 2010 meeting. All approved, and the meeting ended at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Terry D. Mayo

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Date