**GIS Committee Meeting**

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Highlights

# Meeting Attendees

* Kenneth Abbott (Veterans Affairs)
* Gail Bohan (City of Fairfax) – via teleconference
* Patrick Callahan (Prince George’s County) – via teleconference
* Marc Caplan (DHS)
* Tom Conry (Fairfax County) – via teleconference
* Brian Crumpler (VDEM)
* Heidi Hammel (KCI Technologies)
* Robert Horne (WRTAC Fusion Center)
* Shafi Khan (NoVA Regional Commission) – via teleconference
* Barney Krucoff (State of Maryland)
* Margaret Montgomery (City of Manassas) – via teleconference
* Anthony Puzzo (ESRI)
* Paul Reisner (DHS)
* Scott Scheurich (DEH – Mission Management Solutions)
* Eddie Starr (Pictometry)
* Eric Stetser (Spatial Systems – NIH) – via teleconference
* Marshall Stevenson (KCI Technologies) – via teleconference
* Apollo Teng (Montgomery County GIS) – via teleconference
* Dave Torraca (Loudoun County) – via teleconference
* Lynda Warthen (Frederick County) – via teleconference
* Marc Weinshenker (City of Rockville)
* Stacy Wood (NCPC)

# COG staff in attendance

* John Kent
* Martha Kile
* Nicole McCall

Chair Robert Horne called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

# 1. Committee Business

There will be training at the Unified Communications Center in Southeast DC on February 5. The morning session will be for general users while the PM session will be for administrators. The training is open to all users. Email Heidi Hammel or Robert Horne if interested.

# 2. NCR GDX Update

Ms. Hammel of KCI Technologies provided the GDX update. The GDX is currently working on the Generation 4 code; Generation 5.6 is already out and the goal is to update GDX to 5.6 by the end of February. The development team has pushed out fixes to the flex viewer. A Pictometry widget has been added and is open to all NCR GDX users. No login is needed.

Prince George’s County is working on a CCTV pilot for traffic cameras. The feed has camera locations with a link to the real-time streaming video. Feeds will be viewable in both Flex viewer and the desktop version but a user must be logged in the NCRnet to access them. In the future, DC and MDOT may have CCTV feeds as well.

The team met with CAD managers in Price George’s, Montgomery and Frederick Counties to discuss publishing CAD feeds in the GDX by May or June. Enhancements to the Flex viewer will be made with a focus on emergency management. A generic, scalable solution is desired so it can be transferable to other jurisdictions.

The strategic plan process will kick off in February. The contract stipulates that it must be completed by June 2013. The contract for the co-location facility in Manassas is also up at the end of June. Scott Scheurich is helping with the decision on the next co-location plan. The options are to move to a new co-location center or to lease equipment and services for a managed location from a provider. The current equipment is aging and the current view is that the managed option will have less risk and will be more cost effective.

# 3. Inauguration NCR GDX Usage and Lessons Learned

Ms. Hammel reported on the Geospatial Data Exchange (GDX) performance during the inauguration. Users ran into a few issues, most of which were either fixed or resolved through a work around.

Some secure feeds could not be supported and a solution for this problem was too complex to get in place quickly. However, it will now be fixed so it does not happen in the future. Users also faced inconsistent behavior in sharing data in community events. Users used person-to-person sharing as a work around during the inauguration. The DHS and MIT teams will look at the issue so it does not happen in the future. Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties were unable to access the GDX through NCRnet because the SSL Certificates were being bypassed. Users had to use internet entry points instead, as a workaround. A Y2K type bug reset the date after December 31 and all tokens expired. MIT has already fixed this bug in an earlier version of the GDX so the team will seek input from them.

Mr. Horne led a group discussion on the inauguration planning and shared his own experience. 58 new accounts for GDX were created for the inauguration, mostly for Federal employees, including the military bands, the national guards and VDEM. There were over 600 people working the inauguration at the Unified Communications Center, working 24 hour shifts. The center had a lot of data for the inauguration, including all the security deployments, shelter in place locations and evacuation routes. Data was shared and coordinated with Virginia, contrasting with last inauguration where there was no little data sharing coordination. GIS was used to manage public space.

Data came from a variety of sources; including the NPS, NGA, and DDOT (public space permits). Much of that data came in the form of PDFs or Google Maps, which was not useful in creating geospatial files. Mr. Horne had to recreate the data in those instances. Mr. Horne encouraged the use of Excel instead of PDF and provided unfamiliar partners with a sample Excel spreadsheet to use as a reference in future events.

Because of the problems with Community Events, much of the data was shared person-to-person. Feeds were viewable in Osprey but not in VIPER, which wasn’t secured. Veterans Affairs couldn’t use GDX due to firewall issues.

The big map that was plotted and used as a reference suffered from issues with its legend. The legend was not printed and identification of symbols was difficult. The legend itself suffered from vague symbology, as many symbols were created on the spot as new data was added. There is no standardized symbol logic for much of the data on the map. Lastly, due to the large volume of data on the map, the legend was unwieldy and crowded.

Despite these issues, the GIS User Group was not used during the Inauguration planning; only 8 posts have been made so far, all from administrators. Members of the committee stated that the User Group would have been a good place to post information about the legend.

**GDX Usage**

Statistics were not yet available for December and January but Mr. Horne expects there to be some heavy usage in December from data development with a big spike from the first week in January through January 21st.

**Live Data**

There were no incidents during the inauguration that tested GDX’s live data capabilities. The live feeds of the GPS locations of Civil Disturbance Units would not have been shared anyway. The CAD to Cad data for fire and rescue is merely generic information about incident location and status. Maryland did register video cameras however. DDOT’s traffic cameras were used through dashboards and were turned off to the public to reduce strain on bandwidth. The front end (i.e. the wall of video feeds) is a viewer or dashboard like Skyline but the backend could be GDX.

New layers can be added when incidents occur. Realtime data comes out of WebEOC. 911 feeds give incident locations while WebEOC gives a narrative about the response.

Marc Caplan asked about the use of hand held devices. Arlington may have used PDAs. Chris Geldart, HSEMA Director, had used an iPad with KMLs but was hindered by poor cell coverage.

**Observations**

Ms. Hammel wants to add blast email capability into the GDX. It was noted that generic email accounts for departments may be preferable to individual accounts because administrators are not always working and were also giving subordinates access to accounts. Generic accounts could overcome this security issue.

It was also observed that these events, and general uploading of data onto the GDX, has the positive effect of making departments clean up and improve their data prior to the upload, including removing extraneous fields.

**What comes next?**

The ESRI Fed User Conference, February 25-27, offers an opportunity to present the region’s experiences during the inauguration.

Possible future events testing the GDX: Roc Drill, Protests/Marches, State of the Union, Memorial Day, Cherry Blossom festival, a big snow storm or power outage.

# 4. Other Business

It was agreed that the next meeting of the GIS Committee will be February 19 at 10:00 AM.