

Enterprise GIS Workshop
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
12:30pm – 2:00pm

Attendees			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Bob LaSala, County Admin	X	David James, BTS	X
Pete Yauch, Public Works	X	Jim Main, Sheriff	X
Paul Alexander, BTS	X	Jill Hersch, Sheriff	X
Pam Dubov, Property Appraiser	X	Charlie Dye, Property Appraiser	X
Kevin Becotte, Utilities	X	Marc Gillette, SOE	X
Mark Woodard, County Admin	X	Rick Becker, SOE	X
John Woodruff, OMB			

As facilitator and presenter of this workshop, David James began the presentation explaining the intent of this workshop and its agenda. He then proceeded to read through each slide of the presentation. The presentation will be uploaded to the EGIS SharePoint site.

Additional notes and discussion for each slide are detailed below.

First slide – Grand Central Station

All departments have their own agendas and perspectives. Breaking down these silos to reach an enterprise wide effort is the direction we'd like to go. Bob inquired if this workshop and EGIS meetings are open to the public and documented for public review. Pam confirmed all EGIS communication is public and the public is welcome to attend any meetings held to discuss EGIS.

Blue Line – Pam

Pam provided examples of partnerships with local municipalities (Cities of Clearwater and Safety Harbor). Currently, the Property Appraiser provides the base map and these cities overlay the base map with their own maps. Property Appraiser's system now includes these cities' zoning maps seamlessly. We should consider the benefits of expanding this partnership as possibly an Interlocal agreement with all Pinellas County municipalities.

Green Line – in the future

No additional comments other than emphasizing this enterprise-wide initiative is a journey, not a destination.

Progress Report

An interview panel has met with several agencies to discuss their GIS needs and issues. Common issues have been identified through these interviews: people/resources, processes (within each department), and technology. Top concerns of critical data are: roadways, addresses, land use, zoning, in addition to permitting, public safety, dispatching, and disaster recovery. With so many databases of GIS information, inconsistencies are also a major problem. More interviews will be taking place in the coming weeks possibly identifying more issues and concerns. A complete list is being developed as interviews are completed.

Paul mentioned OPUS, data mapping, and its business intelligence tool. Pam gave an example of redundancy: the Property Appraiser maintains property tax rolls and site parcels but in

separate databases. A parcel may have many addresses within it. Ideally, we should maintain all information for these sites instead of many different databases with conflicting or missing information. We currently have numerous different departments and resources maintaining address information and databases when we should have one database to consolidate and eliminate redundancy. This is a major concern for the Property Appraiser, Public Safety Services, and Sheriff's Office for public safety and dispatching. Pam mentioned the 2004 hurricane season and how this initiative would have been useful during that time. Instead, as citizens were looking for their evacuation zones, they were finding inconsistent data depending on which maps they reviewed. The recent Utilities water main break was also mentioned.

David pointed out the fact that our current GIS environment was not originally designed to be so available and in such demand, as it is today. The software and servers are outdated.

Benchmarking Proposal

Establish a GIS Services Bureau of 3-4 resources to focus on specific tasks. Select a standard database model and limit customization to allow for full vendor support. Some compromises will be necessary. Pam pointed out the proposed benchmarking timeline of 6 months means 6 months from when the bureau is formed and the 'pilot' Palm Harbor project actually starts. Between now and then, we need to secure the funding as well as form the bureau. Assessing a small area such as Palm Harbor will not only serve as the pilot for this initiative, it will allow us to update our data for that area.

Actions/Next Steps

David mentioned we need to designate what data is mandatory to maintain. Paul asked how many datasets we currently have. There are approximately 400 layers/fragments of data; however, that doesn't mean there are 400 databases. One parcel could have 6 different layers. These layers can be consolidated and managed better. Assessing Palm Harbor, a smaller geographical area, the bureau will be able to use more tools allowing for more testing. SOE may need support sooner. Marc will need to discuss with Pam how the Property Appraiser can possibly help them. Pam decided the Property Appraiser will work with SOE now as the bureau focuses on the Palm Harbor pilot project. It was also clarified that partnering with ESRI will provide us technical expertise as we proceed with this initiative.

Property Appraiser and BTS will assign resources for this bureau and determine where the bureau will be located. Paul does not think BTS should continue maintaining the GIS data maintenance responsibilities; the bureau would be more appropriate. BTS is willing to work with the EGIS Committee on consolidation of resources and formation of the bureau. Pam suggests the leadership and project management responsibilities of the bureau should be within the EGIS Committee, preferably by Pam, Charlie, and David. The Property Appraiser has space to house the bureau. Paul then suggested the bureau observe and help with, if needed, the redistricting process SOE goes through 2-3 weeks prior to elections.

Pam inquired how many people/departments are paying licensing fees annually. An enterprise license would be more effective and less costly and could eventually include municipalities. Paul recently received an email from Peggy Rowe, Human Resources. She is looking for projects the Succession Management Team can take on. Overseeing this bureau could be an option as long as the team has the right background. Pete inquired if David has checked into grant opportunities. ESRI has mentioned several to David. They know the grant process well and

would be willing to guide us through it. David also informed everyone we have licenses, which can be consolidated and taken advantage of. David will continue discussions with ESRI in regards to grants and licensing.

In Closing

David asked for a vote of confidence and support. We're in the budgeting cycle now and need to figure out how to proceed. Will this initiative affect FY11 and FY12 budget? Paul goes to BTS Board in April but his budget update is very high level. If we want to do any benchmarking in FY11, we need to decide that now. Pam has employees to dedicate to this initiative and is willing to begin work on this immediately. BTS agrees. David and Charlie will continue the interview process. Charlie will discuss with the SOE how the Property Appraiser can help them. David pointed out that we might need to address one time funding that may be required for hardware, software, etc. Pete asked if a ROM has been drafted. David responded no because we haven't reviewed all the components yet. ESRI could possibly give us an idea of cost but we need to discover all of our architecture and current standpoint. Both Property Appraiser and BTS have necessary licenses for the bureau. There may be some gaps though; we'll need to figure that out.

Bob indicated the Board has earmarked GIS a significant critical issue. Bob will report back to the Board the results of this workshop. He will bring proposals to them to secure funding. Pam has made statements about degenerating data to the commissioners during the recent workshops. This will provide resolve with safety, as well as Utilities, issues. Bob understands we are going to be on one platform but it will be a process that will take time. We want to be common where we can and different where we have to be.

Pam added a comment about the Palm Harbor pilot project. It should involve a new tool/database so not to affect our current databases and should include utilities data as well. Kevin will dedicate someone to work with the bureau. Utilities' main concern is GPS coordinates, an effort they've been working on making accurate for a couple years. The Property Appraiser is working on something similar.

Jim asked for an update on the aerial photos. Oblique images are currently in the Property Appraiser's Office. The agreement with Pictometry is in the contract review phase and will then be reviewed by Bob. Once that process wraps up, the photos will be distributed. The Property Appraiser is QCing the obliques and will have any problems corrected before distributing them. The orthos were QCed by SWFWMD and are being corrected now.