Notes from June 22nd meeting MGISAC Strategic Planning Meeting

Present: Shannon White, Paul Wright, Debbie Briedwell, Tim Haithcoat, Mark Duewell, Liz Cook, Aaron Addison, Ray Fox

The first 1 hour 15 minutes included a discussion and development of wording changes to the by-laws for the Structure and Duties/Responsibilities section (section 5 and 6). See Separate document for proposed changes.

It was discovered that the newly posted by-laws with current changes did not reflect all changes that had taken place in the November 11, 2011 so Shannon will re-review the changes and submit new copies onto the website.

Points that were suggested during the discussion of the by laws that pertain to Strategic planning included:

* Need to put into annual operational budget for the GIO/OGI Director (or another delegated individual) travel and registration monies to attend NSGIC
* Need to put into operational budget budget for the MGISAC to designate an officer or member to attend one of the 8 adjoining state’s conferences per year. Budget item to include registration, travel, per diem, etc. This was discussed as a role of the Chair Elect but discussion led to the “what if’s” of the individual’s full time job responsibilities and thus was broadened as a recommendation.
* It was suggested that one of the responsibilities of the Committees should be the development of whitepapers
* Discussion included reference to last meetings discussion of requiring a minimum of 2 meetings a year for the Standing Committee’s and/or defining the Standing Committees in the by-laws but it was suggested that it might make the by-laws too lengthy or complicated. As it stands all committees are at the will of the Chair.

The second half of the meeting was a discussion of the role and relationship of MGISAC and MSDIS. Discussion included history of the establishment of both MSDIS and MGISAC and how those roles have changed over time.

The word “oversight” with respect to MSDIS was discussed at length. It was agreed by all present that reviews of MSDIS should be conducted regularly but oversight can get too much into the weeds or “heavy handed” and become less useful for assisting MSDIS in serving the users. The financials should be a review but also should be a way to suggest funding opportunities that MSDIS could be seeking. MSDIS is not a State budget line item for funding , it is part of the University budget.

There was a discussion of the intertwined nature of MSDIS and GRC and that it was the business of the university and nature of grant funding that can often provide opportunities for MSDIS that did not exist previously. It was suggested that reporting about MSDIS to MGISAC should focus solely on MSDIS projects and not GRC projects to help alleviate confusion among members. It was suggested that there be a GRC report as part of the meetings to help clear up this type of confusion.

Next there was a discussion of the desire of MSDIS to be responsive to the collective needs to secure and deliver geospatial data (How are we doing? What changes are needed? Are we being responsive to the needs?). It was suggested that maybe a more formalized feedback loop between MGISAC and MSDIS could be established so that it was not an overwhelming list of things requested during an annual review rather than an ongoing list that could be prioritized. There was an expressed interest in hearing from MGISAC what the members think the strategic direction should be for MSDIS.

There was discussion of how MGISAC members might contribute to the work of MSDIS, beyond data sharing, and how the MSDIS to-do items could involve no cost projects that take advantage of the expertise and talents of the various members of MGISAC. The variation of members and skills over time was acknowledged as something that ebbs and flows but it was discussed that MSDIS might want to take advantage by opening a door to allowing members to assist.

Generally, by the end of the discussion the term “guidance” was determined to be a good fit for what MGISAC could provide for MSDIS. It was suggested that maybe a committee could be formed to regularly meet to discuss the higher level needs of MSDIS with relation to MGSIAC.

**Next meeting will be July 13 from 1-3pm.**

Topics that are still in need of discussion by the Strategic Planning Committee (in order of discussion):

* Relationship and role of OGI/MGISAC;
* What does it mean to be a member of MGISAC?
* How do our business members “fit” into the operational structure of the Council?