



On April 17, 2003, the Great Lakes Commission adopted the following resolution at the 2003 Semiannual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information on Great Lakes Commission resolutions, please visit: <http://www.glc.org/about/resolutions/>.

Data Exchange Partnerships and Standardization of Decision Support Tools

Whereas, access to accurate and timely data by members of the scientific, management and policy community is critical to decisionmaking that affects Great Lakes water resources; and

Whereas, the general public and other stakeholders including commercial, non-governmental organizations and academic interests need ready access to information to fully participate in the decisionmaking process; and

Whereas, accurate, consistent, well-documented and easily accessible information should be the foundation of all decision support systems (e.g., databases, networked computers, physical, ecological and human process models, and visualization tools that clarify complex relationships); and

Whereas, there is limited emphasis on information standardization across international, state, provincial and county boundaries in the Great Lakes region in spite of substantial federal, state, provincial and local investments in systems for information storage and retrieval and Internet clearinghouses; and

Whereas, there are few interoperable data exchange programs between Great Lakes states, provinces and federal agencies even though substantial strides have been achieved in developing national and international data standards and exchange protocols.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission staff will generate a formal data exchange agreement and negotiate the same with Great Lakes states, provinces, agencies and other relevant parties within 12 months; and

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission encourages the states and provinces and all Great Lakes agencies and organizations to work consistently toward standardizing decision support tools that fully exploit available Internet resources; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission, its states and provinces and observers, promotes the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) to be the nexus of this new-generation information and decision support framework.

ILLINOIS

Illinois' statewide GIS coordination is the Illinois Geographic Information Council (ILGIC). The legislation establishes the Council to be coordinated through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and specifies its membership, leadership, and advisory group. In addition, ILGIC's duties and powers include evaluating proposals and making recommendations to the Governor, as well as, providing funding to state agencies regions, local and academic sectors in the state. The DNR has served as the lead agency for geographic information development and it generates many statewide initiatives including large-scale GIS database dissemination, and statewide database development. The DNR also serves as a comprehensive a repository through its Geospatial Data Clearinghouse to many state bureaus, centers and offices dedicated to such activities.

Illinois Geographic Information Council
<http://www100.state.il.us/ilgic/>

Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse
<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/>

INDIANA

The Indiana GIS Initiative (INGISI) and the Indiana Government GIS Task Force coordinate state GIS initiatives. INGISI initiatives are statewide in scope and its objective is to coordinate statewide geographic information through dissemination of data and data products, education and outreach, building partnerships, and adoption of standards. The INGISI is also working to increase networking and communication opportunities for the Indiana geographic information user community. The Indiana Government GIS Task Force is a collaborative effort of state agencies to foster the efficient use of state GIS resources and provide geographic data in usable forms to the citizens of Indiana. Primary access to Indiana GIS data is through the INGISI.

Indiana GIS Initiative
<http://www.in.gov/ingisi/index.html>

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF) program is designed to solve the data and communication problem of the state by creating and maintaining a single "official" state base map for state business needs. The Michigan Geographic Framework Network (MGFN) is a natural extension of the MGF program. The Michigan Center for Geographic Information (MCGI) goals are to ensure: 1) an "up-to-date" and seamless statewide digital map base supports ongoing state geographic information business needs; 2) users play an active role in its ongoing development and promotion, and 3) users of this data are empowered to more effectively apply the information to critical business needs. The MGFN strives to align the geographic data standards and update mechanisms with existing state/federal/local business processes.

Michigan Center for Geographic Information
<http://www.michigan.gov/cgi>

MINNESOTA

Minnesota's Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) is the principal organization charged with identifying statewide geographic information technology initiatives. The GCGI has several responsibilities, including advising the executive and legislative branches of state government, representing state interests to the federal government, developing and promoting statewide policies and standards, researching technical issues, making policy recommendations, and publishing critical material. It also fosters communication with users and producers, promotes effective uses of geographic information technologies, collaborates with similar groups, promotes effective data development and works to improve access to spatial information. The Land Management Information Center supports the GCGI by bringing in geospatial technologies into state government and by supplying users with pertinent information about data resources for the state. Access to those resources is broadly referred to as the Minnesota Geographic Data Clearinghouse.

Minnesota's Governor's Council on Geographic Information <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/gc/gc.htm>

NEW YORK

The New York State (NYS) GIS Coordination Program serves as the leading geographic information coordination group and provides leadership, direction and coordination; establishes “preferred” standards; and develops policy recommendations for the program. The program facilitates statewide forum for recognizing, analyzing, and developing solutions to problems affecting GIS and spatial information development. Through the NYS Technology Policy 97-6, it directed that state agencies are directed to “share GIS data in a consistent and appropriate manner” with others “at little or no cost.” State agencies were also directed to follow established standards for data and metadata, submit metadata to the NYS GIS Clearinghouse, and make data available to other public agencies.

New York State GIS Clearinghouse
<http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/>

OHIO

The State of Ohio initiated a program, through the Executive Order 2000-05T in 2000, to coordinate geospatial technologies efforts in the state and local government and private sector known as the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program. OGRIP's vision is to “encourage the creation of digital geographic data of value to multiple users, and foster the ability to easily determine what geographic data exist, as well as the ability to easily access and use these data.” Within OGRIP, representation includes private utilities, municipalities and universities as well as representatives from state agencies and a number of local government participants. Ohio has created a GIS Support Center in the Department of Administration Services to provide GIS assistance to state agencies in Ohio.

Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program <http://www.state.oh.us/ogrip/>

Ohio Department of Administration Services – GIS Support Center
<http://www.state.oh.us/das/dcs/gis/>

ONTARIO

The Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) draws its members from all levels of government with a mandate in Ontario (federal, provincial and municipal. Membership is also available to First Nations and aboriginal communities as well as broader public sector entities such as conservation authorities, school boards, and post-secondary educational institutions. Through OGDE, the Province of Ontario has established the Land Information Ontario (LIO) to orchestrate the collection and management of land information. Participant members are required to compile standardized metadata which describes their data sets in the Ontario Land Information Directory (OLID). This process makes the data discoverable on the Internet. While members may elect to retain the responsibility of distributing their own data, a central data warehouse facility, designated as the Ontario Land Information Warehouse (OLIW), has been established to facilitate standardized access by members. The goal LIO is to establish standards in managing land information and to coordinate Ontario's participation and its development of land information infrastructure as part of GeoConnections and the CGDI.

Land Information Ontario

<http://www.lio.mnr.gov.on.ca/liohome.cfm>

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Geospatial Information Council (PAGIC) was established in 1999, between Commonwealth agencies, and participating partners consisting of state-wide associations and nonprofit organizations. PAGIC's primary purpose is to cooperatively facilitate the sharing of common geospatial data; develop and recommend management approaches to data development and sharing; develop partnerships with public and private sector organizations. The Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access system (PASDA) is Pennsylvania's official geospatial information clearinghouse and is a node on NSDI. The PASDA clearinghouse provides for the widespread sharing of geospatial data, eliminates the creation of redundant data sets, and serves as a resource for locating data throughout the Commonwealth through its data storage, interactive mapping, WebGIS applications, and metadata and documentation efforts.

Pennsylvania Geospatial Information Council

<http://www.pagic.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access

<http://www.pasda.psu.edu/>

QUEBEC

Created in 1989, the Plan géomatique du gouvernement du Québec (PGGQ) is a consultative structure that brings together many government departments and agencies. It helps increase the efficiency of public services, foster innovation in management, and extend geomatics to the greatest number of sectors of activity possible. In its role as manager of public lands, the Province of Québec has established major geographic data banks over the years and developed exportable applications tailored to Québec's situation. The first departments and agencies to make use of geomatics were those with missions related to natural resources, agriculture, the environment, and land-use planning and territory management. Today, geomatics applications affect many more areas, such as transportation, civil protection, health, education, and tourism. Nearly 140 administrative units within the Government of Québec produce and process some 1,300 geographic entities.

Quebec Government Geomatics Plan

<http://www.pggq.gouv.qc.ca/>

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) leading responsibility is the administration of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP). The WLIB's primary duties include: guide development of and approve county-wide plans for land records modernization, approve state agency data integration plans, serve as state clearinghouse for land information and land information systems, administer a grants-in-aid program for local government, and provide technical assistance to state and local government. Other agencies that support the program include the County Land Information Officers Network and the Wisconsin Initiative for Statewide Cooperation for Land cover ANalysis and Data (WISCLAND) Steering Committee. A key component of the program is that the county land information offices serve as focal points for information coordination within their jurisdictions, and also with other units of local government and the private sector located in an individual county. Its Land Information Clearinghouse provides a node for data access.

Wisconsin Land Information Board
<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/index.asp>

Wisconsin Land Information Clearinghouse
<http://wisclinc.state.wi.us>

Please direct any comments and feedback to Kevin Yam, kyam@glc.org of the Great Lakes Commission.

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION

The Great Lakes Commission has created the Data and Information Management Program Area to help coordinate regional GIS efforts. A major effort is under way to catalog data holdings on all Commission projects according to binational metadata standards.



Areas that GIS regional coordination is currently underway include Great Lakes coastal wetland studies, biological and hydrological monitoring programs, air toxics inventories, oil spill contingency planning, beach monitoring data, and regional water quantity management investigations.

The goal of such coordinated effort is to provide the data, information and technical support processes needed for informed decision-making on a range of public policy issues within the Great Lakes region.

Great Lakes Commission:
<http://www.glc.org>

Great Lakes Commission – Data and Information Management Program
<http://www.glc.org/about/programs/dim.html>