

Legislative Committees Meeting Minutes
11/20/2008
IGIC Office 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees:

(in person)

Jim Stout
Jim Sparks
Dave Coats
Andrew Harrison
Janet Tomlin

(on phone)

Phil Worrall
John Milburn
Anna Radue
Steve Leatherman
Bill Holder
Jason Tuck

Agenda:

1. Initial Planning Meeting for 2009 Legislative Session

Discussion:

Phil: John Milburn and I attended Indiana Chamber Pre-session round table discussion on Monday at the Convention Center. Challenge for this session will be the General Budget. High priority for the state will be to fund “existing requirements / mandates for” Education (K-12 is 46%, Higher education is 13%) and Medicaid 12%. The representatives present clearly indicated that they were not sure how they would be able to accomplish this, with the current downturn in the economy and with Sales Tax representing 46% of the State's revenue.

Dave Coats: We do not know who will be the heir for Senator Ford on the Technology Committee.
Answer: No. Not posted yet.

Jim Sparks: Without funding available the practical opportunity still exists to organize ourselves and our message and make efforts to contact and educate the new legislature on the IndianaMap and our initiatives.

Phil: We also want to get our legislative initiatives on the AIC and IACT legislative platforms.

Phil: We are creating a workbook for the Legislature. Key components for the ROI study and our IndianaMap Roadshow. Use as a tool to sit down one-on-one with a representative.

Phil: Would like to see IGIC council member meet their representatives to discuss our GIS initiatives using this workbook.

Jim Sparks: We need to be deliberate about our contacts with the legislature. The committee needs a list of all contacts planned/made and receive written documentation of all conversations. This way we have a record of who we talked to and the result.

John Milburn: We can also partner with groups who can lobby on our behalf of IGIC such as AIC and IACT.

Phil: AIC has a board meeting today to discuss the details on how IGIC can become a member of AIC. IGIC hopes to become part of their annual conference. County GIS Coordinators could then have an Tract at the meeting, plus have the opportunity to bring permanent GIS education tract to the conference for all attendees.

Phil: We need to find a web site blog / news source to track what is going on day-by-day at the legislature. Allow us to keep on top of the pulse of what is going on.

Jim Stout: Would like to see some changes to existing Indiana Code. This session should be a good opportunity for technical amendments to Jim Sparks law and APRA.

Phil: Electronic Maps singled out in APRA. It would be nice to see that distinction go away. This change would help promote and simplify sharing of "Electronic Map" (GIS) data across all levels of government and with the public.

Dave Coats: Any opportunity to attach some data sharing language to an existing bill to enhance our data sharing initiative with local government?

Phil: What about the possibility to redirect existing funds already being collected today to the IndianaMap fund (e.g. E-911 fund).

Jim Sparks: Some funds may be controlled by State law, but others may be covered by ordinance or other. It would help to have some funds in it. We need a plan on how to effectively allocate those funds (local government, statewide ortho, etc.) But allocation also depends on if we have \$100k of \$3 million dollars in the fund, and if there are any strings attached to how parts of the money can be spent, and what are the State's priorities, and how we get the most bang for our bucks!

Phil: If the orthophotography is the most visible product the Counties and the State see, is it the low hanging fruit as far as a funding opportunity?

Jim Sparks: Depends on what we have in the fund. \$200K will not get us far for new orthophotography that cost ~\$6million.

Jim Stout: Property Assessment and reassessment will be another topic this session - \$6 million will not be too-huge a number to these folks.

Jim Sparks: Especially if they get photography and a parcel layer for that \$6 million number.

Steve Leatherman: Use GIS as a strong argument for more uniform reassessment. GIS can be a valuable tool to support this. Tie our request for new orthophotography for new orthophotography would be valuable!

Phil: What about going after funding for the data sharing initiative? To date, roughly 50% of the population signed up for the DHS grant. Go after additional money now?

Steve Leatherman: Project already started and 2 years of funding in place. Recommend making it a second priority for sustaining funding for this program.

Jim Sparks: Recommend asking for funds to support the IndianaMap web portal. The INDOT funding cut from \$250k for 2 years to \$100k for 1 year. We are needing to do some filling in. We need to go to all the large state agencies, plus the utility companies and A&E Consulting firms (power users) of the IndianaMap.

Phil: Can we also get the legislature to get some chunk of money in the IndianaMap fund to support the web portal?

John Milburn: Ask for as much as we need, because it will most likely be cut by 75%.

Jim Sparks: We need to get some additional input. We have discussed creating an IndianaMap Advisory/Steering Committee to think through web-portal scope, cost, technical and funding support structure.

Phil: I have started outlining some ideas on setting up this Steering Committee.

Bill Holder: County government is proceeding with their own orthophotography programs. Many local government would be happy to kick in funds to partner with the State on a statewide ortho program. Save time and money if we do this collaboratively.

Can the large State Agencies (INDOT, IDEM, IDNR, etc...) tell the governor's office the value of the IndianaMap and statewide orthophotography. Key Agency Commissioners push value and need up to the Cabinet level for Governor to identify both internal funding and legislated funding.

Jim Sparks: I can help a lot inside government to have these conversations. Can try to be helpful in both places.

Andrew Harrison: Hear a lot of interest from local government in some kind of perpetual fund to help with the data-to-day maintenance of the GIS. Similar to how County Surveys receive \$5 per Deed transaction. Fair distribution would need to be addressed so that the have-not counties are left out of the funding stream.

Phil: The IndianaMap Needs Your Help article from the ROI report will be in the legislature booklet. I need a chair/co-chair for this committee. Will be contacting some of you to discuss volunteering.

Action Items:

1. Locate legislative news sources (web sites, blogs, etc) to track the legislature. (Phil)
2. Distribute DRAFT 1.0 of the IGIC Legislative Handbook to the committee for review and feedback. (Phil)
3. Get an up to date list of all current house and senate members. (Jim Stout)
4. Figure out who is on each of the key Standing Committees. (Jim Stout)
5. Draft up a list of technical changes we would like to see made to existing Indiana Code. (the Jim's)
6. Map out all IGIC Council members showing their State Senator and Representative. (volunteer?)
7. Change the current IndianaMap Committee to become the IndianaMap Steering Committee. (Phil & Executive Committee)
8. Find Legislative Committee Chair/Co-chair (Phil)

9. Set up next meeting to review our planning progress and to start implementing our legislative priorities. (Phil)

IGIC 2009 Legislative Priorities:

1. Meet with lawmakers in key Standing Committees (Technology, Economic Development, Homeland Security, Budget/Finance, etc.) to promote the benefits of GIS and the IndianaMap through our Return on Investment (ROI) Study and other educational materials.
2. Educate organizations like AIC, IACT, Indiana Chamber, Indiana's Universities and others to support and include IGIC's GIS initiatives in their legislative platforms.
3. Advocate permanent funding for the IndianaMap Portal
4. Advocate permanent funding for an ongoing Orthophotography Program as part of the IndianaMap.
5. Advocate changes to language to the existing Indiana Code.