

AIMS Coordinator's Meeting February 17, 2005

In many organizations the start of a new year is a time when strategic and tactical planning takes place. Reflection on the past year and analysis of current challenges and opportunities gives rise to establishing goals and objectives for the new year. While the GIS teams we represent are not likely to have a formal planning process, all of us set priorities and establish initiatives that serve essentially the same function as a formal statement of goals — that of providing direction for the future.

With this in mind, the topic of the February meeting will be ‘Plans for 2005: The Road Ahead for GIS within the AIMS Coordinator Organizations’. AIMS feels that the entire AIMS Coordinator group would benefit from hearing each other’s plans for the upcoming year. While AIMS will take the lead in presenting its plans for 2005, we would like to encourage every organization to participate by presenting your plans for the upcoming year.

The format of your presentation may be whatever you like — powerpoint, a handout, a short talk, etc. Whatever format you choose, please ensure that it will encourage participation from others. As a guide, we suggest that your presentation be 5-10 minutes.

Our organizations are interconnected. By facilitating a meeting of this type we hope to ensure that all of our GIS teams are operating in sync, and to identify new opportunities for collaboration. AIMS will be contacting you shortly to firm up your organization’s participation in this meeting.

To prompt your thinking on what your organization may want to present, consider the following questions:

- Do you have plans to collect/build new geographic datasets in 2005?
- Do you have plans to enhance existing geographic datasets by improving currency, improving spatial accuracy, adding additional attributes, etc.?
- Do you have plans to support new programs/initiatives within your organization?
- Do you have plans to apply GIS technology to enhance the business processes of departments in your organization?
- Do you have plans to develop/deploy new web or desktop mapping applications?
- Do you have plans to improve the hardware/software/storage/network infrastructure within your organization that will improve access to geographic data?
- Do you have plans to enhance the storage and maintenance of your geographic data (e.g., migrate storage/maintenance from file-based coverage to DBMS/SDE feature class, enhancements to your DBMS/SDE implementation)?
- Do you have plans for unique collaborative efforts with organizations you may not have been involved with in the past?
- Do you have plans for organizational changes within your GIS shop (e.g., hiring additional staff, de-centralizing/centralizing staff)?
- Are there challenges you face that may be helped by the AIMS Coordinators group?
- Is the level of commitment to GIS in your organization appropriate for the upcoming year?
- Do you plan to apply more or less resources towards GIS support in your organization?