

AIMS Coordinators Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2004

Hosted by Johnson County AIMS

Johnson County Northeast Offices

This coordinator's meeting emphasized AIMS collaboration efforts with the engineering community. AIMS requested feedback from the engineers in attendance to direct future projects and a survey was handed out and completed by each engineering participant. Dan Steen acted as facilitator.

Orthophotography and Planimetric Data

Shannon Porter discussed the history and current status of the orthophotography and planimetric data for Johnson County. From a previous survey it was determined that the building footprints, water features, edge of pavement, contours and orthophotography were deemed most important to the engineers who get digital data from AIMS. He discussed the differences between aerial photography and orthophotography – AIMS 2003 orthophotography has a ½ foot resolution with an accuracy +/- 2.5 feet. The future plan would be to obtain orthophotography for the entire county every other year. The planimetrics layer includes both the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) that could be obtained digitally. There are attributes associated with each planimetric layer (i.e., Source Accuracy, Last Updated) that could be requested. It was asked how much would adding additional attribute data increase the file size and the cost of obtaining the planimetrics – Shannon believed that the cost would not increase and was looking into how much the file size would increase. Currently, planimetrics get updated every few years, and usually just in areas of largest growth. In order to make the planimetric datasets more complete on a countywide basis, AIMS has been investigating updating some of the layers in-house. This would result in a slightly less accurate dataset, but the dataset would be more dynamic and current. AIMS would then add an attribute to each layer updated to denote the source of the data. Shannon then discussed the different tests being done to update the building data layer.

Data Conversion and Distribution

Keith Shaw discussed AIMS' acquisition of FME (Feature Manipulation Engine), which enables data to be converted into a variety of formats, including more AutoCad formats. Converting to DWG is now possible, either through extended entity or by inserting attributes or entities. It was brought up that 99% of people wouldn't use blocks because the resulting file size is extremely large. Keith then showed a demonstration in AutoCad which showed what feature attributes would look like. A question was asked if FME was up-to-date with the current version of AutoCAD – Keith mentioned that it currently uses AutoCAD 2000 for conversion but both 2004 and 2005 will be available soon, and that AIMS does have an annual maintenance for updates. There was also a question if FME was formatted for DGN tags – Keith said that yes it was. Keith then asked for comments on receiving digital data in one large file as opposed to one file per layer – it seemed most would like one file as long as there was metadata or a text file attached to distinguish the layers. Keith assured that there would be something included in the data transfer.

Requesting AIMS Data Via the Web (DDR)

Steve Yoder discussed the concerns that requesting digital data has brought up to some customers such as the ability to have 24-hour access, getting data immediately rather than faxing in a request, getting the right extents back from what was requested, and obtaining a price quote prior to purchasing the data. In response to these concerns, Steve then demonstrated the application that AIMS would put into effect for customers to request digital data via the web. The \$25 conversion fee that is currently charged would not be incurred by those who used the DDR web application. Steve mentioned that there is a free Internet Mapping Application class that would be beneficial to those who would use DDR to determine extents. AIMS currently only takes Visa or Mastercard and it was brought up that some digital data requesters only have Discover or American Express or don't have access to a company credit card. AIMS will look into taking both Discover and American Express, and will also continue to take faxed data requests, but the \$25 conversion fee will still apply to these faxed requests. Some expressed that they would like to still be invoiced – Steve mentioned that an receipt would be emailed along with the data, as far as invoices, most preferred AIMS move faster on a web app for DDR rather than take more work to add an invoice piece. Someone asked if it was possible to do something similar to the plat subscription process – Steve mentioned this wouldn't really apply to requesting digital data.

Collaborative Repository of Utility Data

Jay Heermann discussed the possibility of having a utility repository accessed through the web using the myAIMS page. It would be a secure one-stop place to retrieve information about various utilities on the web, and help those who use utility data save time, money and the potential for accidents. The site could also include easements, plats, and survey information with buffer capabilities. It would not replace One-Call but would have more general information – a pilot area of 20 square miles is being investigated to determine the possibility of creating the repository. Most engineers have varied experiences getting the utility information they need, it really depends on where in the county they are, what agency they're working with or what utility information they need. Most don't understand why utility companies don't want to give their information out, it was emphasized that a collaborative approach between utility companies and engineers would benefit both parties. A question was asked to determine how much coordination AIMS would be responsible for – Jay responded that AIMS would handle all the maintenance of the repository. It was mentioned that attributes denoting source and currency of the data would be included, and that any accuracy concerns would then be referred to One-Call. There was a very positive response to creating some sort of online utility repository from the engineering community.

Site Development

Jay Heermann talked about the role AIMS could play in site development beyond basic plat information. Possible data could include demographic information, parcel characteristics, addresses, and scanned documents. It was mentioned that most of the time, when engineering companies are already involved, research into site development has already been completed. It was then mentioned that AIMS should target real estate

companies and chambers of commerce to market their site development capabilities. Engineering companies would be interested in getting CERI information themselves rather than having to refer clients to them. Jay then gave a demo of 3D fly-through capabilities to support site development, which the engineers thought would be very useful to have.