DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the
Topographic Mapping External Advisory Committee
Held September 21st, 2005 in Calgary

Attendees:

Mike Benz, Sundre Forest Products
Eric Solomonson, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Lawrence Fabbro, EnCana Corporation
Simon Lee, Alberta Energy
Nola Lewis, Talisman Energy
Randy Williamson, County of Strathcona
Stephen Barnett, Challenger Geomatics
Phil Mackenzie, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Jim Chorel, AltaLIS
Marco deHoogh, AltaLIS
Wayne Newby, AltaLIS
Wolfgang Janke, SDW

1. Committee Membership

   Two additional members have been added to the committee: Shane Eubank from The Cadastral Group and Dr. Ayman Habib from the University of Calgary. Although unable to make this meeting, the new members look forward to participating in future meetings.

2. Minutes From December 7, 2004 Meeting

   There were no changes to the draft minutes, so these minutes will now be considered final.

3. Follow-up Items From Previous Meeting

   a. Fixed Version of the ATS

      The March 2005 version of the ATS (based on a 3 point definition of sections) has been established as the standard fixed version that will be used by the Government of Alberta (GOA) and will be referred to as March 2005 ATS Version 4.1. Everyone agreed that there should be only one standard version of 4.1 available and that it should be available in both a coordinate file and a SHAPE file format. Up until now there has also been a SHAPE file version based on a 9 point representation of each section available. This version also contained LSD linework. The GOA and AltaLIS will investigate the possibility of creating LSD linework for the 3 point definition. In this way all users could use the same standard version.

   b.

Review of geo-admin boundaries

Subsequent to the last meeting of the EAG, Phil Mackenzie circulated a list of available geo-admin boundaries to the members and received some feedback from the oil & gas sector. Industry would like to have the GOA make available all geo-admin boundaries that are required to be shown in submissions to government. Currently only 28 of the geo-admin boundaries are available in Base Features. Phil will circulate an updated list of the geo-admin boundaries maintained by the GOA and will flag the ones identified by Talisman. EAG members should then let Phil know which boundaries they would like to have available to users.

c. Dissatisfactions with provincial topo data

At the last EAG meeting, the following items were identified:

- Lack of classification of water data
- DEM contains numerous errors and resolution is too low
- Freehold mineral titles not mapped
- Hydrography – data needs to be updated in order to be of value to users.
- Public Land Dispositions – As built disposition mapping would be useful.
- Access – currency of data is an issue
- DEM – needs to be updated. Higher resolution and accuracy needed.
- Metadata – more metadata would be helpful
- Geo-Admin Boundaries – Additional geo-admin boundaries are required.
- Watershed – Watershed delineation is becoming increasingly important to users.
- Data Formats – some users would like to see vendor independent data formats
- Federal Lands – Users would like to have good data for the entire province. The lack of good data for national parks and Indian reserves hampers corporations who operate in these jurisdictions
- Land Cover Data– Would be beneficial for some users.

The access update program is continuing, geo-admin boundaries are being reviewed and compilation of watershed data is being considered. An initiative (item 8 below) is now underway to map public land dispositions over the next four years.

d. Educational representative for EAG

As noted above, Dr. Ayman Habib from the University of Calgary has agreed to join the EAG. The consensus was to still get another member from the educational sector, someone who works directly with the AltaLIS topo products. Randy Williamson will speak to his contacts at the University of Alberta to see if they have someone who may be interested. Nigel Waters from the U of C geography department is another possibility if we are unable to get someone from the U of A.

4. Base Features Update

Since Base Features was originally made available to users in May 2004, there have been several updates especially to the access and geo-admin data. The 1:250,000 series

maps have also been updated. The GOA will confirm that these updates have been sent to AltaLIS so they are available to the user community.

5. GOA Update Plans and Activities

The GOA currently has a 5-year cycle for the update of access data, with more active areas being updated more frequently. Phil reviewed the GOA's plans. 572 townships have already been updated and the focus for this fiscal year is in 174 townships in the northwest part of the province. Much of the work is imagery dependent. IRS imagery is not the preferred source since it degrades the data to ± 20 metres.

Many stakeholders acquire their own imagery and in many cases receive GOA funding for their projects. The GOA is encouraged to stay in touch with these programs and leverage the work that is already being done. Creating awareness of what is happening is a key. AAMD&C, GeoAlberta and the various geomatics industry association luncheons are potential ways of increasing the awareness.

Update of hydro data still needs to be addressed. The GOA wants to start with manmade changes. If and when funding becomes available (from initiatives such as the "Water For Life Strategy", National Land and Water Information System, Climate Change, etc.) the GOA will explore opportunities for compiling watershed delineation data. This data could be created over a 3 year period. There may be other federal and provincial programs that may assist in acquiring additional data.

6. User Input Into GOA Topo Update Plans

In 2000 Banister Research and Consulting Inc. conducted a market survey of approximately 200 current and potential users of topographic data. The GOA and SDW will consider having a similar study done to better assess the needs of users.

7. Alberta Participation In National Programs

a. National Road Network – Eric Solomonson reviewed the National Road Network (NRN) initiative sponsored by National Resources Canada. The NRN is the first component of GeoBase. Initial data was collected from 2000 to 2003. The data is being updated over a 3 year period which started this year. Potentially this data could be integrated into Base Features in the future.

b. National Hydro Network – No one at the meeting is directly involved with this program.

c. DEM Data – AltaLIS has created DEM data that is now available through GeoBase. This data is in the CDED file format, has no break lines and is of lower resolution than the DEM data available through AltaLIS.

8. Disposition Mapping

The approximately 232,000 active dispositions in the province will be digitally mapped over a 4 year time period. Funding for the project will come from the $125 filing fee

that now applies to all disposition applications. The mapping will map "intent" of the dispositions, not the as built. All dispositions will be referenced to the March 2005 ATS Version 4.1.

Users will be able to subscribe to unlimited on-line access to disposition mapping for an annual access fee of $2,000. Transactional customers will be charged $100 per download. Users acquiring data from the AltaLIS order desk will be charged $150 per order.

During the early stages of the initiative, an evaluation will be done of the integration process for new dispositions. The evaluation will help the GOA in assessing whether they want new dispositions mapped using a fixed or dynamic base for active dispositions.

9. Other Matters

Users would like a vehicle for giving feedback on errors they find in the provincial topo mapping data.

Wolfgang circulated, for information purposes, a summary of a cross Canada base mapping comparative study conducted by Fujitsu Consulting earlier this year. The complete report is available on the AltaLIS website (www.altalis.com).

Martin Newby has successfully tested the creation of an ESRI geo-database for maintenance of cadastral and title mapping data. This geo-database approach could ultimately be used for on-line submission of plans

A few years ago the PFRA collected GPS data for the location and depths of water wells in the province. The addition of surface elevation data would increase the value of this data.

Several users have received a user survey from McElhanney Land Surveys. It is unclear what the survey is being used for.

Next years GeoAlberta conference will be having an industry focus. Industry committees are being formed to help design the conference.

10. Next Meeting

The next topo EAG meeting will probably be scheduled for either late this year or early in the new year.

Thanks to all committee members who participated in the meeting!