

SPATIAL DATA WAREHOUSE STAKEHOLDER SESSIONS FINAL REPORT

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Spatial Data Warehouse's (SDW) objective is to provide for the long-term management (updating, storage and distribution) and associated funding of digital mapping "data sets" which collectively make up Alberta's digital mapping infrastructure. The Mapping Data Agreement (MDA) between the Government of Alberta and SDW defines the initiative and the stewardship role in which SDW is responsible to preserve the investment and ownership of mapping data, and make Alberta's base mapping infrastructure more available, accessible, accurate and affordable.

On a regular basis, SDW engages and solicits feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders to ensure it is meeting its mandate and to help the organization think ahead. This input informs forward planning activities.

To facilitate this process, two stakeholder engagements were held (in Edmonton on November 13, 2014 and Calgary on November 17, 2014) that engaged approximately 120 representatives from the Alberta Government, Municipalities, Not-for-Profits and the private sector.

The objectives of the joint planning session were to:

- Build and strengthen relationships among key stakeholders by increasing awareness of SDW and understanding of each other's roles and issues;
- Review the changes occurring in SDW and the Alberta Government; and
- Generate forward planning items for SDW to consider.

The morning of the workshops was focused on providing updates on SDW, changes being made by government and highlighting the experience of industry and municipal partners, and set the stage for the afternoon table discussions. At their tables, participants were provided with a list of nine potential topics and discussed five of their choosing. The key themes emerging from these activities are documented in the next sections of this meeting report under the appropriate headings.

Three central areas of discussion common to both groups and a multitude of stakeholders were:

- A one-stop shop for data is crucial. A centralized distribution point for spatial data was the most frequently mentioned theme from the stakeholder sessions. Currently users are not sure where to go to get authoritative data. Instead of building new sources, participants would like to see one complete source.

- Two datasets are needed to enhance Alberta's base mapping; a complete map of interests on the land that covers all areas of the province including cities, and Human or Anthropogenic Footprint (starting with an accepted definition by Government and industry).
- Open Data needs to be embraced for certain datasets; particularly those paid for by government. Some data should not be made open to maintain accountability for quality, accuracy and timeliness. Attention should be paid to open data standards and when updates and changes need to be made, a formal and consistent feedback loop for users to identify errors or omissions from the data is crucial.

TOPICS PROVIDED TO THE STAKEHOLDERS

1. WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF OPEN GOVERNMENT AND OPEN DATA ON YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- Currently open data is disorganized and needs more centralizing. To make it more meaningful, better metadata is needed.
- Many participants felt that taxpayer data should be open, access consistent and free as more data leads to better decision making. However, open data accuracy specifications are important. Many felt we need to have government guidance to mandate open data standards, policies and integrity to ensure confidence in the quality of the data.
- Many stressed that a single data source hub is crucial – one stop shopping is foundational to the success of open data initiatives.
- Others had concerns over the implications of free and open data. How do professionals make money in an open and free data environment?

2. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE DIDS PRODUCT TO MEET YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS?

- See below

3. HOW IMPORTANT IS A PRIVATE LANDS DIDS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- The most frequently mentioned response was that private land DIDs should be added to the existing DIDs product. Benefits included time, cost and efficiency gains from having this information readily available.
- Participants felt that the base data for private lands DIDs needed to come from the Government of Alberta and be a provincially maintained dataset that is updated regularly to the same standard as Crown DIDs.
- Some participants shared concerns they had about private DIDs including: accuracy; sharing owner's names; keeping the system up-to-date; ensuring ease of access and completeness of the data; and cost implications.
- Other tweaks to DIDs that participants mentioned included: all utility locations added; short term dispositions added; other format types offered such as file geodatabase and web map; and adding hyperlinks within the system to existing government plans on file.
- Again, participants re-iterated that having a one stop shop for data is critical.

4. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR A PROVINCIAL WIDE ROAD AND ADDRESSING NETWORK?

- Province wide standardized data is useful. A standard addressing code is needed to ensure consistency across rural and urban areas. This data should be open and accessible as it serves the public good and is safety critical. Updates should be done frequently to ensure the accuracy of this information as first responders are heavily reliant on this information.
- Many felt that the province had a role to play in providing a place to collect and distribute this information to the public, and that municipalities should partner with the Province to develop the standard.
- Additional features that participants felt should be included are: clearance restrictions for highways, road feature information and resource road statuses.
- Consistent with participant's responses to other questions, a one-stop shop for data was emphasized.

5. HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS PROCESSES WITH CADASTRAL AND TITLES MAPPING?

- Fundamentally, stakeholders want a one-stop shop for a packaged GIS product that is not cost prohibitive.
- Stakeholders would like to see the following improvements: a better connection back to Alberta Land Titles; a web mapping service for updating; tentative mapping of development stage projects; and Edmonton and Calgary integrated into the provincial data set.
- Some participants wanted to see a new Cadastral/Title product created which includes land ownership data defined by a limited AOI.
- Others felt that SDW should continue with the quality control process of cadastral improvement that is triggered with the sale of a property.

6. HOW SHOULD SPATIAL DATA BE DELIVERED?

- Participants focused around the Future State of how spatial data should be delivered. The notion of a one stop shop was again emphasized.
- Spatial data should be centrally distributed with standardized data, compulsory metadata meeting a standard and a predictable cost structure. Participants wanted to be able to access the data in multiple formats including WMC and WFS and see real time common building block data.
- Participants recommended the British Columbia model as one to emulate, and to look at other best practices that exist and try to replicate these practices in Alberta.
- Fundamentally the data should be open, standards should be open and the data must be trustworthy.

- Other improvements mentioned by stakeholders include: automatic push notifications of updates; web mapping services; links across AB and nationally; provide incentives for companies to submit data on a common platform; and geoprocessing services.

7. WHAT DOES HUMAN FOOTPRINT MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- Many issues with the current way of assessing the human footprint in our province were raised. Many mentioned that current datasets are theoretical and that gathering real-time information is difficult and industry is opposed to sharing. Concerns were raised about the accuracy and currency of the information currently available.
- In the future, participations would like to see a spatial representation of the human footprint by company, and for that data to include rich metadata. To achieve this, some recommended a process whereby stakeholders submit data, SDW collect the data, standardizes it and manages the data using common metadata and definitions.
- For this information to be credible it needs to be measureable, repeatable and defensible. All branches of the Government of Alberta need to be involved in this initiative and committed to sharing information, as currently the public records of ownership and responsibility are not in sync with who is responsible for an asset.

8. IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT AUTHORITATIVE DATASETS (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE) PROVIDE THE GREATEST VALUE TO ALBERTANS?

- Participants had many suggestions for important data sets that they'd like to be readily available. A strong sampling includes:
 - o Road network
 - o Addressing
 - o Flood data
 - o 1 m DEM
 - o Private and public land DIDs
 - o Census data
 - o School district map layer
 - o Voting district maps
 - o Railway networks
 - o Live incident map
 - o Water bodies
 - o Geo-admin boundaries
 - o Wet areas data
 - o Hydrography
 - o Pipelines/well-sites
 - o Power/distribution lines
 - o ATS4
 - o Metis land

- State of linear disturbances

9. INDUSTRY CONSTANTLY CREATES DATA. IS THERE DATA THAT YOU'D LIKE TO ACCESS ON A PROVINCIAL WIDE BASIS?

- There were concerns from some that industry data is proprietary. Some felt it should stay this way, while others wanted to see more open sharing of industry data.
- One idea was to leverage SDW board members to incorporate industrial data into the fold. In addition, some stakeholders called on SDW to monitor data, mostly Government of Alberta data, but also to include some industry data in their review.
- For the desired future state, many would like to have a place to see theoretical or planned industry projects vs. actual industry constructed projects.
- Again the one-stop shop for data concept was mentioned. Participants would like to see all provincial data searchable in one portal.