

KANSAS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS POLICY BOARD/DATA ACCESS & SUPPORT CENTER

Fact Sheet No. 21

January 2001

Kansas Water Office

Background

Geographic Information Systems can be defined as an organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic data, and personnel designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information. This definition acknowledges the many components necessary to make a geographic information system function.

Geographic Information Systems provides a valuable tool for information analysis, automated mapping and data integration. The common denominator in Geographic Information Systems is geography or spatial distribution and location. Approximately 85% of the information collected and used by government has a spatial component and thus is considered geographic information.

Geographic Information Systems Policy Board

Governor Mike Hayden appointed the Geographic Information Systems Policy Board in August 1989 with the Board being re-affirmed by Governor Bill Graves through his executive order in December of 1995. The mission of the Geographic Information Systems Policy Board is to coordinate the development of Geographic Information Systems technology among state agencies. This effort is designed to maximize the benefits of state resource investments in Geographic Information Systems technology, avoid costly redundant database development by state agencies, promote the use and sharing of geographic information and provide a focus for the coordination of planned growth.

Governor Graves' executive order administratively established the GIS Policy Board as a permanent standing committee of the Kansas Information Resources Council and provided four directives. The order states the Kansas Geographic Information Systems Policy Board shall:

- (a) Establish a strategic management plan to guide the development and implementation of geographic information systems technology for the best value and benefit of the citizens of Kansas and update the plan biennially;
- (b) Develop and maintain policies, standards, guidelines, and strategies which emphasize cooperation and coordination among agencies, organizations, and government entities developing and implementing geographic information systems in order to maximize the cost effectiveness of geographic information systems and their value to the state;
- (c) Establish public and private partnerships throughout Kansas to maximize value, minimize cost, and avoid redundant activities in the development and implementation of geographic information systems; and
- (d) Coordinate, review, and provide recommendations on geographic information systems' programs and investments and provide assistance with dispute resolution among geographic information systems partners.

Geographic Information Systems Policy Board Structure

Members of the Geographic Information Systems Policy Board are appointed or invited by the Governor. The membership consists of 22 members representing a mixture of state and federal agencies, county and municipal governments, regents institutions, private sectors, and a state-wide organization. A key aspect to the Geographic Information Systems Policy Board is that many of the members are the head of each particular state agency or is vested with the authority to make binding decisions for their agency regarding Geographic Information Systems. The Board consists of the following voting members:

- The Chief Information Architect of the Kansas Information Resources Council
- The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

- The Chairperson of the Kansas Corporation Commission
- The Director of the Kansas Water Office
- The Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment
- The Secretary of the Department of Revenue
- The Secretary of the Department of Transportation
- The Executive Director of the State Conservation Commission
- The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks
- Five seats representing county and municipal governments (with at least 2 representing counties and at least 2 representing municipalities)
- Three seats representing the Board of Regents Institutions

In addition to the above members, five *ex officio*, non-voting seats appointed by the Governor shall consist of:

- Two seats from the private sector
- Two seats representing federal agencies with offices in Kansas
- One seat representing a state-wide organization

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Geographic Information Systems Policy Board are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Board may elect other officers among its members and may establish any committee that is deemed necessary to discharge its duties.

Data Access and Support Center

Since its inception in 1991, the State of Kansas Data Access and Support Center has served as the central archival and distribution center for the Kansas Geographic Information Systems Core Database and as an outreach arm of the Kansas Geographic Information Systems Policy Board.

Requests for Data Access and Support Centers services continue to grow each year and once again reached an all-time high in FY 2000 as Data Access and Support Center distributed over 106,000 files representing over 1000 gigabytes (1 erabyte) of information. Of the 106,000 files distributed during FY 00, over 76,000 were downloaded from the Data Access and Support Center web site at <http://gisdasc.kgs.ukans.edu/>. During FY 2000, the number of files accessed via anonymous FTP included 76,230 data files, 7,725 help files, and 2,678 Federal Geographic Data Committee metadata files. Combined, these files represent over 174 gigabytes of compressed data (Figure1).

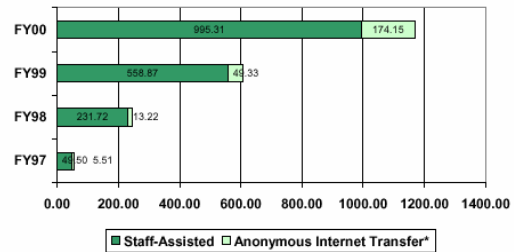


Figure 1. Total gigabytes delivered for FY97-FY00. Anonymous Internet Transfer data is 80-90% compressed.

Geographic Information System Funding

The *Kansas Water Plan* Fund has historically supported three facets of the Kansas Geographic Information System Initiative: fiscal support for the office of the State Geographic Information System Coordinator, Geographic Information System Policy Board sponsored database development projects of statewide utility, and the Data Access and Support Center.

Recent changes in the organizational make-up of the Geographic Information Systems Initiative will alter the need for Kansas Water Plan support for all these activities. The State Geographic Information Systems Coordinator position has been moved from the Kansas Water Office to the Kansas Information Technology Office, Division of Information Systems and Communications, in the Department of Administration.

Beginning in FY 2002, the Geographic Information System Policy Board will broaden the fiscal support for the Data Access and Support Center operation to include funding through the Division of Information Systems and Communications computer services rate base. FY 2002 and FY 2003 will be transitional years where a mixture of Kansas Water Plan and Division of Information Systems Center support for the Data Access and Support Center operation will be required. Starting in FY 2004, Data Access and Support Center funding will be completely under the Division of Information Systems and Communications. Requests for fiscal support of Geographic Information Systems Policy Board database development activities through the Kansas Water Plan is anticipated to continue at current or lesser levels depending on the transition period.

Additional Information

Further information on this subject may be obtained from: State Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, Kansas Information Technology Office, Division of Information Systems and Communications, Department of Administration, 900 S. Jackson, Room 751, Topeka, KS 66612-1249 (785) 296-2771.