

Nevada Geographic Information Society
Summary of the 2009 NGIS Plenary Panel and Society Discussion

D R A F T (5/20/2009)

Revised from Business Meeting notes

Panelists: Mark O'Brien (BLM); Scott Bassett (UNR); Holly Smith (Nevada State Lands); Clint Wertz (Lincoln County); Jack Dangermond (ESRI).

Moderator: Eric Ingbar

Three major areas of improvement / change / service that can improve our profession. Within each area, specific ideas are listed.

GIS AWARENESS

- Invite decision-makers and supervisors to the conference (“invite the boss”)
- Teach others that GIS is a tool, but it still needs a professional in the background
- Advocate for a GIO position in State government, and in larger organizations
- Advocate and educate that GIS is not just another “Business Analyst” but is a specialization in its own (esp. state government)
- We need to do more to educate decision-makers at all levels that this technology is here to stay, and that it relies upon professionals as well as general users. You can't reap full benefits without help:
 - Local government, County Government, State Government
- Network more with information technology focused professional associations, such as ITPA. GIS and IT overlap a lot, but IT tends to know little about GIS.
- Consider creation of a briefing for CIOs on GIS
- GIS Day – get back to doing more as a society

Professionals Helping Professionals

- Peer Support Mechanisms
 - Forums
 - Webinars
 - Nevada-specific. Maybe focus on data sources
 - Standards – how does one design a GIS? How about a dataset?
 - Wiki
 - On-Line Meetings
 - Brown bags (where feasible). On-line meetings could be in lunch time form too. (Virtual brown bags)
- Training
 - University – create a university short course series aimed at practitioners
 - Practical and quick short trainings as social gatherings too
 - Accreditation or certification for such activities (e.g., GISP, GITA credit)
 - Refresher courses are useful for the occasional GIS user too!
 - Internships – great way to create new professionals
- Professionalism
 - Encourage certification

Common Services

- Common, shared, data models
- Clearinghouse of data (w/identified dataset stewards)
 - Centralized model OR
 - Confederated library
- Clearinghouse of on-line services (as above for data)
- Less of “who you know” (and bought lunch) and more of “how you know”