Report of Attending GIS Summit
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The day-long GIS Summit was hosted on June 16, 2006, by Mr. Roy Soto, Chief Information Officer for New Mexico at the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque, NM. The goal of the Summit was to bring together the players, from techies to the highest decision makers, and all those in-between, who are some way touched by GIS technology. Approximately 250 persons attended the meeting.

Following opening remarks by Mr. Soto, the keynote address was presented by my Jim Geringer, former Governor of Wyoming who provided an excellent overview of the impact GIS is having and can have in the operation of state government and the conduct of citizens in everyday endeavors. Several points in his presentation were to promote purpose over process, to realize that all spatial data are local, to collaborate in every way possible, and to communicate GIS issues in understandable language – avoid tech slang.

Then several excellent stake-holder summaries and overviews were presented by:
1. Benito Martinez, President of New Mexico Association of Counties
2. Kurt Menke, President of New Mexico Geographic Information Council
3. Mike Inglis, Chair Governor's Geospatial Data Acquisition Coordination Committee
4. Rick Koehler, Chair Geospatial Advisory Committee

A team of professional facilitators was on hand to organize group discussions. They requested the discussion follow certain focus points:
1. Seize the day by picking the low-hanging fruit first. Do what can be done.
2. Develop the parts with the idea that parts will contribute to the whole.
3. It grows as it goes. Although the complete picture has yet to emerge, we need to build carefully and document what we do.
4. Interest groups are the source of many good ideas and are a force for the future.
5. Use inclusive communication between disciplines and interest groups.

Morning break-out groups focused on "Needs" in the following functional areas:
1. Public Safety
2. Natural Resources
3. Education
4. Health
5. Infrastructure
6. Economic development

After reporting on morning discussions and a tasty box lunch (courtesy of the sponsors), the afternoon break-out groups focused on developing recommendations. Those recommendations were then reported and summarized prior to adjournment. I found the meeting very informative and very worthwhile.

The following CIO web sites are recommended:
1. http://cio.state.nm.us/content/itcMtgs/2006may16/GIS-Summit.pdf
2. http://cio.state.nm.us/