

Focus Group #1

February 18, 2002

10. (57) How have you heard of GeoNOVA ?

- Assigned to Advisory Committee
- Land Information Systems Advisory Committee as primarily a technical and policy group while GeoNOVA was more policy
- Software Kinetics Consulting Study

11. (6) What is your view of what GeoNOVA is ?

- SNSMR provide advice to government on GIS across government
- set and communicate standards to users and non-users
- develop corporate data bases such as
 - roads - topo
 - property ownership layer
 - co-ordinate reference system
- co-op initiative within common stakeholders share responsibilities for maintenance and data with recipients of resulting data
- promote benefits of spatial data to other departments
- means by which we grow the industry

12. (58) What is the ultimate objective of GeoNOVA ?

- efficiently build, maintain, and disseminate geographic data such that collect once share many
- foster co-operation between departments collecting and sharing
- provide advice to government ensure GIS effect and efficient implementation across government

11. (6) What is your view of what GeoNOVA is ?

- A concept - a way to manage and disseminate geographic information
- (Projects are labeled as GeoNOVA after they are completed - not at project start) They may have followed GeoNOVA model without committees, etc.
e.g. Coastal program using forests data

20. (16) To what extent do you currently use geographic information and technology?

Assessment - web site with info and mapping for handling appeals
- presently doing selective training on Arc GIS with staff

Renewable Res - forestry and wildlife divisions heavy users
- data and technology are mission critical

Mines & Energy - used every day and growing importance both internally and with clients

Mineral Claims Registry - having difficulty moving to GIS, but is recognized as beneficial within department

Surveys Division - administer the Crown Lands Cadastral Database
→ big user of technology
→ are presently on the Intranet with Arc IMS
↳ offering to government
↳ planning to offer to public
→ cadastral data is built on provincial NSTDB
- working with SNS&MR on 1 provincial property database (crown and private)
→ this is a major initiative

NSGC

- not viewed internally as a user of data
- Topo base is used for property
- Develop and maintain data - react to user needs
- Use data for "GeoNOVA" projects
- Moving to partnership with source data providers to update primary data sets

21. (11) What major initiative do you have underway with geographic information ?

- Mines and Energy Branch are sharing geo-science with Feds and other provinces (→more important than within province) and private sector
→ Mines and Energy have an issue with provincial standards on projection and datum

23. (14) To what extent do you use the "Primary" datasets:

- Coordinate control network

- DNR's Survey section - critical
→ NAD'83 UTM
↳ Don't have final version of co-ordinate files for conversion
→ Need direction on conversion software
→ NSGC needs agreement of NB and PEI to give co-ordinate update information to SAFE software
→ Meeting with other jurisdictions by end of March 2002
→ NSGC will do provincial conversions
→ Looking at placing application on web for self service

- Air Photos

- Assessment - low
- all agencies indicate they use air photos

- Topographic data

- All agencies indicate they use topo data

- Property Records

- not as important to Mines and Energy (except for Mineral Registry and Claims)
- critical to surveyors
- Assessment 2 - 300 hr./mo. On Property On-Line (CPU time)
- Crown Lands - 50 - 80 hr./mo. On Property On-Line (CPU)

- Civic Addressing data

- Crown surveys are minor users
- unsure of what it is

24. (10) What is your opinion of the state of the province's geographic data with respect to: Availability; Relevance; Accuracy; Timeliness/Up-to-date; Accessibility; Cost ?

- Forestry - Topo and High Precision Network and DEM's meet needs
 - Property - problem identifying land owners in 20% cases
 - resulting in a need to do some field visits
- Assessment
 - recognizes AAN-PID match low in some counties
 - Issues around combining Assessment and Property data for assessment purposes can conflict with policies with respect to selling property data
- Mines
 - Looking forward to 1:50000 coastal series
 - Distributing their own data for free
 - Will topo data be available for free with products in future
 - DEM's
 - developed with NSGC
 - can't distribute digital DEM's because NSGC wants to charge for it

28. (50) How do policy and standards affect/influence/constrain you ? Are they a help or a hindrance ?

- facilitates exchanging data
- there are concerns if provincial standards conflict with clients or partners
- academic concerns with data distribution/licensing

- Forests- charge for detailed forest layer
- other forestry layers are free

29. (32) How do new users secure assistance in geographic applications, data and use?

- personal contact
- painfully
- call NSGC or thru LIC or some government department
- Government's home page generated less than 5 mapping questions each year
- conferences

30. (27) What would you consider the past accomplishments of GeoNOVA ?

- provide coverage of the primary layers in standard format
- NSGC has gained a better awareness of needs of users of spatial information
- standards for geographic data that are there (issues but successful)
- there does exist some Government support for the "concept"
- free exchange of data between departments
- provincial license agreement with ESRI
- increased of use of GIS amongst non-trad. users - Health, Education, Museums, Community Services, Election Office, Justice,
- non-traditional users leverage data sharing and service sharing with federal counterparts (e.g. use data as 'in-kind' contribution to leverage \$.50/\$ from feds)
- opportunity for vertical integration of data
- leverage the Map Fund to apply for GeoConnections (although we didn't get our \$).

31. (28) What would you consider the lost opportunities or areas GeoNOVA has not delivered on ?

- very poor communication from GeoNOVA reps to department staff (people are surprised at what's available)
- Advisory Committee - not had Director Level representation. Not been able to convince Directors that is valuable. Disconnect between management and technical levels. Tech people work well together
- did not identify "GeoNOVA" projects up front.
→Good projects are driven bottom up
- did not develop strong working relation with working level - they are informal
- DNR - GIS steering committee to communicate
- Deputy Minister - buy-in
- Directors are fighting fires and don't have time for it
- Information doesn't flow within departments
- people don't come - don't see committee as effective
- when department starts with GIS there is 1 or more people at the working/mgr. level who champion use of GIS

- give examples/prototype demo's for new users. Need to market GeoNOVA
- don't have resources to try new ways of doing things
- IT led the introduction of word processing
- GeoNOVA needs "branding" to drive awareness
- need to champion the cause and solve problems →although we need to recognize this may not save dollars

Lost Opportunity

- single portal to access all geographic information from one site
- important to have single window on info but info doesn't need to be stored in one site
- individual departments need to put data up. Having a central staff look after access and distribution
 - 1 gr. create economics of scale
 - make it easier for the user (licensing issues in one spot)
- departments need to control what data is made available and how
- save technical infrastructure \$
- and example of how things might work - Mines and Energy put data up on TSS server but haven't handed over management to TSS
- Is the name GeoNOVA a barrier to understanding? Get a better name? Logo?
- Requirement for proactive marketing

Who are we promoting to?

- "Smokey director level" was past target
- Things are happening at the technical level. If efforts are run thru committees work will be slowed down
- Concentrate on new users
 - schools, bus, general use
- Do people outside of government need to know what GeoNOVA is? not really
- People want products not GeoNOVA →They want a map.
- Within government need to be aware of GeoNOVA policy and standards
- Need to put up sample data sets on web
- Mines & Energy - 12000 downloads of data over last year
 - everyone from school kids →to US military
- NSPRD - on-line has far flung users from all over world

43. (63) When you think of corporate geographic information what do you envision being in place in 5 years ?

- Seamless geog. Data - its source is transparent to user
- Meta data that is up to date
- Access thru single portal via the internet
- Primary and other layers
- They meet a standard - you can use data
- View data with any standard (standards based) software
- Access data across the counter
- Read only access is free
- Data available from any department/any where in province (Prov. WAN in place)
- Standards which deal with the FOIPOP issues (confidential data for resource management)
- More data maintenance from source

44. (60) Is a GeoNOVA Initiative required over the next 5 years?

- Needs to be a communication vehicle at management and tech. level
- Concept needs to be further implemented
- Policy work must be addressed / reviewed
- Technical exchange of info must continue
- Sharing experience with new users
- GeoNOVA needs to showcase data and projects to new users
- Need for a communications strategy
- 2 level committee
 - monthly - issue based
 - quarterly - awareness
- Focus on core data from departments (e.g. Environment, Aquaculture, Health) to get data into digital form

Is there a funding issue? No department is going to contribute to a central fund

If you are not in GIS now

→Huge problem today with costs of getting into GIS (less than past)

→Departments needed to give up something else to get into GIS

Successful applications will drive demand

Balance between maintenance, access and applications

- Mines & Energy are balanced
- Forests - maintenance is exhausting work
- SNS&MR - mandated to complete corporate data. Applications left to others eg. Private sector

SNS&MR focus

- mandate to promote private sector

- provide data for applications

Assessment focus

- get the data out there with private firm and get feedback on value

Thematic data

Develop application to get data to the private sector and they can develop applications

- exploration program in NS will move than pay for data

Map fund enabled maintenance of data sets since 1994

45. (34) What do you see as the importance/relevance of the following principles with respect to GeoNOVA: Create data once at source and use it many times; Undertake a corporate approach to data creation, management, dissemination, and use; Adhere to standards; Share data freely amongst provincial departments; List data in the NS Directory of Geographic Information.

- List data in NS Directory - task not principle
Meta data requested can be complex. Simplifying would encourage compliance/involvement
- Provincial standard for meta data may not match national “industry” initiatives
- ⇒ Ensure that geographic data in NS is discoverable
 - Move away from paper based system
 - Responsible for maintenance of meta data is with the data ownership and ability to update yourself
 - Need for “someone” to do this
- Use technologies like data warehouses/geo-portals to provide access
- ⇒ Promote Geomatics/Education with other departments

51. (48) Who do you see leading GeoNOVA in the future ?

It was recognized by all participants for a need for a Core Program

- #1 issue(s) to be addressed - Maintenance of primary database
- Other projects will follow

52. (44) Does the level of participation in GeoNOVA need to be expanded ? Why? To

whom ?

- No
 - municipal and federal involvement would make committee unworkable
 - SNS&MR should interact with municipal unit
- Need to revisit GeoNOVA Advisory Committee model
- Need to bring municipal units into the GeoNOVA concept without including in the governance model
 - Thru SNS&MR →need for input
- Every data partner not on committee. If you have municipal rep will you include Stora, ...
- Will be more interest from municipal being involved in GeoNOVA.