WV GIS Coordination
and
State Strategic Planning
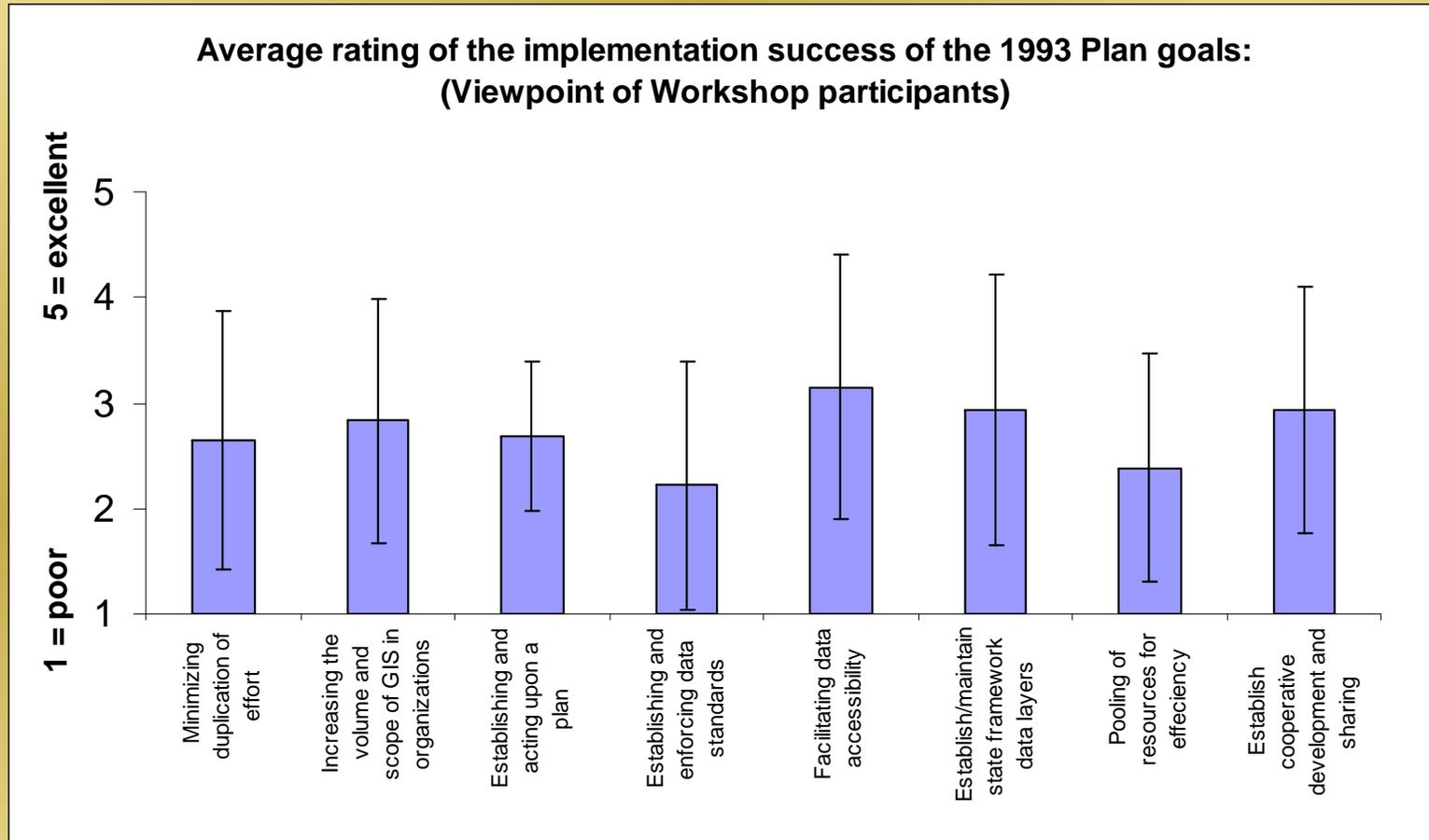
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TOPICS

- State GIS Coordination- *who are we?* Integrating past strategy and lessons, current status, and future objectives to optimize state coordination- go forward utilizing the best available model.

- Strategic planning process and content

INFORMATION SOURCES

- Informal interviews with various GIS stakeholders

- Research and interviews of coordination activities of other states

- A formal survey of approximately 70 WV GIS stakeholders administered on June 10, 2008 at the WV GIS Conference (70% state or local government, ranging from technicians to manager/executives).

Average rating of the implementation success of the 1993 Plan goals: (Viewpoint of Workshop participants)

(Bar columns = average score, Range bars = standard deviation)

Key factors for plan implementation success as identified by stakeholders:

1. Communication   2. Buy-in at many levels   3. Clear goals and leadership

GIS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 88% of survey respondents said that agencies starting or wanting to start a GIS program do not have access to the knowledge or resources required to successfully implement one.

- The main challenges of optimizing GIS in state/local government are
  1) unclear protocol for how to implement a GIS program (31%)
  2) lack of funding (28%)
  3) lack of communication with other agencies (21%)
  4) lack of support from organizational management (10%)
  5) other (10%).

- 88% of respondents indicated their organization would likely be interested in GIS cost-sharing strategies, and 93% of respondents would be interested in collaborative training opportunities

IDENTIFIED FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- Clear, defined roles and responsibilities, connectivity and interdependence, and collaborative leadership

- Inclusion of diverse stakeholders and sectors

- Optimized conditions for executive involvement

- Utilization of grassroots momentum and support

- <u>Recognition</u> and <u>optimization</u> of work currently being done

- Defined target goals and target audience

STATE STEERING COMMITTEE

● 86% survey respondents indicated the desire to re-activate the State Steering Committee.

● The State Steering Committee should develop and implement state activities, policies, and initiatives that combine organizational goals with geospatial solutions and goals.

● 52% survey respondents said the State Steering Committee should meet separately from a formal external advisory/User Group, but should have overlapping subcommittees as appropriate.

● Priorities, challenges, and unique opportunities for Steering Committee:
- Regular meetings
- Formal linkage to the State IT Council
- Utilization of remote meeting technology
- More local government representation
- By-laws created

WV OFFICE OF GIS COORDINATOR

- A majority of respondents (52%) viewed the main mission of the WV GIS Coordinator as coordinating and expanding the use of GIS in state and local government, followed by promoting and communicating the benefits of GIS in the state (20%). 65% survey respondents described their understanding of the role of the Coordinator as somewhat to highly unclear.

- Priorities, challenges and unique opportunities for WV Coordinator:
    - Improve communication and interaction with stakeholders
    - Serve as a visible advocate for geospatial efforts
    - Seek to increase use of and access to GIS resources and knowledge

WV ASSOCIATION OF GEOSPATIAL PROFESSIONALS

🌐 51% of respondents viewed the main mission of WVAGP to be providing a forum for bringing together multiple GIS professionals and stakeholders, followed by providing outreach and educational opportunities (31%).

🌐 The envisioned role of WVAGP in state GIS coordination by the majority of respondents is fulfilling a User Group role *and* providing an external advisory role (62%). 53% of respondents indicated the need for better clarification and communication of the specific role of WVAGP.

🌐 Priorities, challenges and unique opportunities for WVAGP:
- Achieving a unified voice for the GIS professional community
- Enhancing educational and training opportunities
- Focusing efforts as a young organization
- Increasing participation and member diversity

OPPORTUNITIES and CHALLENGES for the State GIS Program for various stakeholders:

GIS Users
"On the ground" expertise and knowledge, personal dedication, strength in numbers, independence
Volunteer limitations (time, effort, $), independence

Organizations
Official capacity/responsibility, connection to decision makers, organizational resources, combination of GIS and organizational goals
Varied organizational missions, resources (knowledge/funding), and interest

Executive Level
Decision makers, influence, action
Information should come to them in relevant manner- "why", not "how"

GIS Users   **WVAGP**

Formally recognize the non-profit WV Association of Geospatial Professionals as an official GIS User Group for advancing the geospatial profession in WV, and provide formal representation and participation of the organization in state GIS coordination activities.

Organizations   **State Steering Committee (Quarterly meetings)**

Re-activate State Steering Committee and create formally defined membership of state departmental GIS representatives (GIS managers/equivalent) appointed by the Policy Council, as well as appointed representatives from local government and the academic, federal and private sectors to directly provide broadened perspective and participation on state initiatives, as well as a WVAGP representative to formally communicate input and recommendations vetted in the wider GIS User community. (*~20-24 members*)

Executive Level   **GIS Policy Council (Annual or bi-annual meetings)**

Expand membership of the Policy Council to invite local government policy-level voting members, and include the WV GIS Coordinator and the WVAGP President as non-voting Council members. Executive-level meeting content and schedule, focused on high-level policy and budgetary issues relevant to mission goals.

*Authorization and advocacy
of state initiatives and policy
proposed by Steering Committee*

*Development and implementation
of state initiatives and policies
in collaboration with GIS community*

*Advocacy and advancement
of GIS community in
collaboration with state*

WV GIS Policy Council

State Steering Committee
*(Facilitated/supported
by WV Office of GIS Coordinator)*

Formal GIS User Group

Executive-level policy reps
of organizations

Appointment

| Organizational GIS representatives |
| WV GIS Coordinator (initial Chair) |
| WVAGP representative |

WV Association of
Geospatial Professionals
(Non-profit)

| Elections |
| Communications |
| GIS Conference |
| Outreach |

*Standing subcommittees-
participants recruited by Steering Committee
and WVAGP*

State Interagency Subcommittee
Linked to WV IT Council
(Forum for state agency communication)

**Technology and Interoperability
Subcommittee
(Meets w/ WVAGP Technical Issues)**

SSDI Subcommittee
Framework data teams for
data development and stewardship
(Meets w/ WVAGP topic committees)

Additionally: Topic-based Interdisciplinary Workgroups, as needed

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- State Strategic Plan should focus on state/local government but also have general relevance to entire GIS community. Plan will be "officially" authored by the re-activated State Steering Committee and sub-committees there-of (with input and participation of GIS community), and presented for approval to the GIS Policy Council.

- Office of WV GIS Coordinator will provide Steering Committee facilitation/administrative support for planning process (drafting and communication tools) in a way that creates protocol and tools for the future *New Office of GIS Coordinator website coming soon*

- Plan should loosely follow the template resource from the National States Geographic Information Council, emphasize and re-visit the overall objectives of the 1993 GIS Development Plan, and support the general goals of the State CTO (such as increased efficiency and interoperability).

- Transparent planning process (progress reports and drafts posted for public access).

- Promotion and demonstration of GIS as a decision-support tool should be a priority objective to be considered before, during, and as part of the Strategic Plan.

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTENT

Objectives for before and during Strategic Plan development:

- Clarified GIS organizational structure, roles, and enhanced communication

- Greater visibility and demonstration of GIS as a decision-support tool at the executive and legislative level

Objectives addressed by Strategic Plan
(priorities identified by various GIS stakeholders):

- Establishment of statewide GIS data standards

- Improvement of GIS data sharing among organizations (inventory and access)

- GIS data stewardship and funding strategies: 1) orthoimagery, 2) tax parcels

- State agency GIS program development and training, local government models

CURRENT OBJECTIVE

- Promoting open communication, synchronization of efforts, and strong partnerships in state GIS coordination.

NEXT STEPS

- Endorsement by Policy Council for re-activation of State Steering Committee and recognition of WVAGP as a formal User Group represented and formally participating in state coordination *(moved by Policy Council 7/28/08, Executive Order 4-93 revision to reflect changes in near future)*

- Put forth motion for WV Information Technology Council to formally integrate State Interagency Subcommittee *(August meeting)*

- Communication of process with WVAGP *(this presentation was originally presented as a draft to the WVAGP Board on 7/15/08 for input, and was delivered for posting to WVAGP membership 8/08)*

- Re-activation meeting of Steering Committee, designation of sub-committees, launch of Coordinator website, Strategic Plan drafting *(begins late August-September)*

- Endorsement of final Strategic Plan by Policy Council and by WVAGP membership *(ASAP)*

QUESTIONS, FEEDBACK, ETC.

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Thank you for your time.