

TIPS Steering Committee Meeting

September 9 – 11, 2003

Beaver Run Resort

Breckenridge, CO

<i>NAME</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>	<i>PHONE NUMBER</i>
Bill Joseph	OSM-MCRCC	618-463-6460
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Buck Miller	OSM-KFO	865-545-4103
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Willis Gainer	OSM-AFO	505-248-5096
Larry Evans	DEP-West Virginia	304-759-4564
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Bob Welsh	OSM-WRCC	303-844-1400
David Berry	DMG-Colorado	303-866-4938
Karen Pierson	OSM-WRCC	303-844-1400
Becky Meyer	Indiana Geological Survey	812-855-6641
Licia Weber	Indiana Geological Survey	812-855-1364

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

Introductions, Agenda Review: Billie Clark

Steering Committee Members – Constituent Reports:

Carl Campbell (KY)

Mr. Campbell represents the states of Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana.

All states feel that the TIPS training effort is great; including the on-line ESRI courses and encourages OSM to continue funding for the training initiative. Dean Spindler from Illinois requests that the course names are consistent on the training survey needs form and the actual class list. The names have caused some confusion because of the different titles for the same courses on the two lists (i.e., ArcGIS ArcInfo 8. x Desktop for Mining & Reclamation on the survey needs list and it is Intro to ArcGIS for Mining and Reclamation Using ArcInfo Desktop on the actual class list). Tim Taylor from IN, is very satisfied with OSM/NTTP training, but would like to request that the TIPS Training program provide the same type federally pre-paid hotel/motel arrangement that the NTTP provides. Finally, these states request that if there are any changes made to a class schedule, a notice be sent to training coordinators, or a notation be made on the website beside the class with the change/update.

Mark Schlimgen – TX

Mr. Schlimgen represents the states of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Texas is the leading TIPS Software user, with Louisiana next. Mississippi is using no TIPS software presently and submitted no comments to the Steering Committee Meeting.

Texas and Louisiana feel that the availability and support of software and training are invaluable. Texas requests that additional training be provided in GMS (Boss Intl GW modeling software w/ GPS integration); Ground Water, Surface Water & Soils, integrated with the use of Aqtesolv and Aquachem; advanced AutoCAD; and SedCAD. Texas has also asked that Surfer and MathCAD software be evaluated and considered to be added to TIPS core software. Louisiana would like to see ArcPad, PhotoShop and Adobe Acrobat added the available software for their state and requests a faster workstation be supplied to them (PIII 550, 256MB).

John Craynon - (OSM - HDQ)

Mr. Craynon reports that Steve Parsons is the main user in for TIPS software in Headquarters (HDQ). TIPS users in HDQ have dropped by more than half. Things are just going along in HDQ.

Gerald Collins (VA)

Mr. Collins represents Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio.

These states are very satisfied overall with TIPS services and feels that TIPS is meeting the needs of the states. Ohio expressed concern regarding hardware upgrades and budget cuts for the TIPS program. Virginia states that their Service Manager, Bill Card, will deliver SurvCADD to them. They are also very pleased with the on-site training scheduled next month for SedCAD. There was a concern expressed about the limited number of licenses for ERDAS. It is foreseen that there will be a significant increase for future use of AutoCAD, SurvCAD, and ERDAS. Primary Concern: What can states and tribes do to assist TIPS in getting more money? Willis Gainer commented that he is working on a team to submit a report to Congress on use of TIPS software/hardware, training.

Larry Evans (WV)

Mr. Evans stated that there has been a significant increase of TIPS software usage over the past year. Since Oct. 2002, 81 different desktops have been configured with various TIPS software. ArcPad is being used successfully. The state is using EQUUS to interface with ArcGIS and other TIPS software. Mr. Evans reports that there is an overall success for TIPS use in their active mining program, and they are well pleased with training received from TIPS.

Willis Gainer (OSM)

Mr. Gainer represents OSM Field Offices in WRCC and Indian Tribes (Crow, Hopi, Navajo). There has been an on-site GIS training for Crow, but they are not using TIPS software significantly. The Hopi display a limited use of software, and are using the plotter to some degree. The Navajo have increased their GPS and GIS software (ArcView, SEDCAD) usage. They would like further training for SEDCAD, and intermediate training for GPS. They are pleased with the ESRI on-line training. The Navajo are using ArcGIS for their Title V work. They also expressed a desire for more on-site training. Their GeoExplorer III is not working. They also expressed a desire to acquire 7-1/2 minute quadrangles for New Mexico. Rick Koehler offered to work with Willis to provide quads for New Mexico. Bill Joseph said he might be able to help also. Navajo concern: Will there be any effects on their systems when OSM switches to XP?

OSM, Albuquerque, reports an increase in ArcView usage. They request that TIPS continue looking for ways to make Mobile Computing work effectively.

Rick Koehler (NM)

Mr. Koehler represents western states as WIEB.

Mr. Koehler reports that the western states are happy with TIPS overall. They feel that the quality of TIPS training is exceptional. One concern: Out of 400-some requests for training, New Mexico only got one slot for 2004. They see a future need for TIPS to ensure that TIPS licensing management will not conflict with the states licensing configurations. States would like to take advantage of TIPS expertise in remote sensing. They may consider purchasing their own seat for ERDAS.

Greg Melton (AR)

Mr. Melton represents Arkansas, Alabama, and Oklahoma.

Mr. Melton reports that things are slow in Title V arena in Arkansas. The main thrust of TIPS is in the AML department. They are using SurvCAD for design. TIPS' training is Excellent!! Definitely has use for Mobile Computing. They like the ArcGIS extensions and ERDAS, but sees little to no time for use. Oklahoma is using a lot of SEDCAD for Title V, and they are also using AutoCAD. Oklahoma expressed a need for a large format scanner. Alabama reports that there is no need for ERDAS or Mobile Computing at this time. Alabama is using ArcGIS, SURVCAD in permitting. They would like it if TIPS could help more with hardware in Alabama permitting (Title V). Electronic Permitting is coming on strong (about ½ permit applications received are electronic) and they need a server. Wants more TIPS support for what they already have going on. The consensus overall from these states is that TIPS is doing a great job.

Buck Miller (OSM)

Mr. Miller represents the OSM Field Offices in ARCC.

Mr. Miller reports that the Knoxville, TN and Charleston WV offices are the biggest users of TIPS software in ARCC. Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, PA come in next. There is significant use of Hydrologic software. AMD Treat being used. Knoxville FO is interested in participating in Mobile Computing. Columbus, Ohio, expresses a need for a new plotter. Charleston FO expressed issue about checking out TIPS software license from remote locations (i.e., from computers in the field, away from the office network environment). WV would like to see more slots for them in training. Tom Galya (Charleston, WV) wants to do 3-D applications in earthVision. Overall, all offices feel that TIPS is doing an excellent job.

Loretta Reichert (MT)

Ms. Reichert represents Montana, Alaska, and Wyoming

Service Managers got rave reviews from all states. Everyone likes having TIPS software on desktop. One big concern expressed was about internet outage and not being able to get TIPS licenses. These states are asking for frequent updates on this problem, and better communication about short-term license server issues and outages (blanket e-mail). Alaska and Montana would like some ArcGIS extensions training on-site (Spatial Analyst, etc.). All states are very supportive of Mobile Computing initiative. Alaska expressed some concern about the possibility of dropping earthVision from TIPS. Alaska still wants to use it. Billie assured them that TIPS has no plans right now to migrate away from earthVision. The question was raised about using "Vulcan" as opposed to earthVision. Montana AML is very interested in remote sensing. Wyoming is more interested in GIS. Wyoming is hoping for continued TIPS support down the road for their GIS initiative. Wyoming is very interested in the "News Groups" aspect of the TIPS website. Alaska is still relying on DOI's Arc Net to stay connected to TIPS license servers. Montana and Alaska have been using TIPS a lot for AML. Wyoming needs some outreach concerning software support. (Mary Greene will look into this). Loretta gave a thumbs-up review on R2V. She feels that R2V is considerably better than ArcSCAN for raster to vector conversion. Both Alaska and Montana suggest that once a year, or at the time of software updates, they get an introduction or overview on-site of the software due to a large turnover of staff.

Rick Koehler suggested that TIPS put together a compendium for scanning, LIDAR, Remote Sensing, web mapping, etc., to present to customers as a user forum. Loretta commented that all her states would support this. John Riley backed up these

statements and confirmed the successful use of the scanning aspect specifically. Len Meier suggested we use the TIPS website to post forums for these subjects as people create/develop projects.

Jeff Jarrett

Director, Office of Surface Mining

Director Jarrett spoke to the committee regarding the impact the Cobell court case is having on OSM, the importance of OSM's role in technology transfer including TIPS, NTTP, and NTTT.

Mr. Jarrett was very complimentary on the TIPS efforts and initiatives. He emphatically states his trust in TIPS, and supports it 100 percent. This was very encouraging to the steering committee as a whole.

John Riley (CO)

Mr. Riley represents the states of Colorado and North Dakota.

The most significant concern from the state of North Dakota is the uncertainty of potential impacts that may occur with statewide IT consolidation. It appears that the proposed IT consolidation may be unable or unwilling to accommodate the level of data generation and specialized technology needed to perform effectively. The definitive impacts are unknown at this time. OSM may have to play a greater role in management and storing of states data. (Colorado is facing a similar problem, but not on the same scale as North Dakota.) North Dakota states that they may be losing their server capability for data storage. The overall view of TIPS is satisfactory, but they would like to have easier access to ESRI on-line training courses, as this would help them prepare staff for greater GIS involvement. They feel also that on-site training for multiple staff (and possibly industry) would be very beneficial. Also, they would like more timely software distribution, with quarterly update on planned releases. They believe that earthVision running under the Linux operating system should continue to be supported.

Colorado is very pleased with TIPS in software/hardware support/training. Commend Bob Welsh as Service Manager. They are looking into more Mobile Computing. The GIS environment and software use is increasing along with GPS uses.

These states feel that TIPS is doing an outstanding job and they appreciate all the support and training.

Mike Sharp (National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML))

Mr. Sharp compliments Bill Joseph and Dan Hause for their role in implementing/supporting SurvCAD in Oklahoma. Overall, the TIPS technical support and training/facilities are outstanding. Oklahoma is very appreciative of Kyle Bohnenstiehl's help with photogrammetry and remote sensing. The Mobile Computing effort is coming along with help from Bill Joseph.

Oklahoma AML is very pleased with the technical support they receive from TIPS, and the training is excellent. State AML programs are becoming more interested in field/mobile computing, and ask that TIPS continue to expand their efforts in this area.

It has been reported that the Denver training facility has regular poor computer performance, perhaps due in part to inadequate RAM. This makes the training at Denver less desirable to students.

Jerry Wilkinson (MO)

Mr. Wilkinson represents Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

Mr. Wilkinson reports that Kansas did not get their GEO Explorer III. (Len Meier says they have one on loan as of Wednesday, September 3, 2003.)

Missouri says that TIPS training is outstanding, and they are glad to see the cooperation between NTTP and TIPS training efforts. They are particularly grateful to Bill Joseph and Kevin Garnett for their help with GPS data capture using RTK units. They would like to see more integration between GIS and CAD applications.

Pete Rutledge (OSM –WRCC)

Mr. Rutledge states that the region is particularly heavy in the use of TIPS software, and is pleased with the support and training provided by TIPS.

Vann Weaver (OSM -ARCC)

Mr. Weaver reports that 85% of TIPS users are in ARCC. He reports two new service managers: Lisa Kosareo to Maryland and David Lane to Kentucky and the Lexington Field Office. Both employees have TIPS and NTTP in their PDs. Fifteen classes were taught in Pittsburgh this fiscal year. Concern: IT security. He is asking Billie Clark/TIPS to intervene whenever possible on behalf of OSM and the states concerning issues that may arise with the IT security plan. The newly developed AMDTreat class will premier in Pittsburgh this fall.

Charles Sandberg (OSM –MCRCC)

Mr. Sandberg reports that MCRCC has eleven states to provide services for, and this results in providing a large group of instructors for TIPS and NTTP. He highly commends the job Sarah Donnelly and Billie Clark are doing as heads of TIPS and NTTP. The main concern for all states in this area is the IT initiative. He shared the concern that some state representatives had regarding IT consolidation and its impact on technology transfer efforts.

Dave Berry (CO)

Mr. Berry was very complimentary regarding TIPS and the coordination and cooperation that has been demonstrated among TIPS, NTTP, NTTT, and the regional technology offices. He stated his major concern was about the IT issues in Colorado. He is hopeful for the continued success of TIPS.

The following are presentations that were given to the steering committee. All presentations are presented in hard copy in the binder provided to each steering committee member.

Mobile CAD and GIS applied Science (Joseph, Meier, Welsh)

Comments:

OSM Director Jeff Jarrett commented that industry might have a place in this meeting as far as mobile computing resources/ideas. TIPS will discuss.

Wyoming GIS Bonding Pilot Project (Wilhelm)

Comments:

This is an exciting project for TIPS in the western region, mostly because Wyoming is leading the project. This is a Major milestone for Wyoming in using technology.
(Clark)

OSM Underground Mine Mapping Initiative (Craynon)

Comments:

What role should TIPS play in this effort? TIPS software, technology and assistance to the states/customers. Technical expertise can be provided (Meier, Dunn, Kyle B., Welsh, etc.). (Clark)

Prioritizing underground mines is of great importance (active underground mines, abandoned mines, hydrology issues, potential breakthrough areas, etc.). (Sandberg)

We need to recognize that we are dealing with historic records. We need to compare inventory of maps and inventory of mines. (This was basically ideas on possible methods for capturing this data.) (Roberts)

There was discussion around table about capturing data from old/new underground mining maps.

IN/IGS Underground Mine Mapping GIS-AML (Licia Weber & Steve Herbert)

Comments:

Virginia is doing a very similar thing to the Indiana effort (per Licia's presentation).
(Weaver)

(More discussion at this point about enhancing TIPS website)

Mine Map Repository and TIPS (Dunn)

Comments:

None.

Training Program (Welsh)

Comments:

Need more instructors from the state side of the house. This would help support TIPS. (Clark) (Instructor Training Course is April 18 in Leesburg, VA – Sarah Donnelly).

Early October training may not always be good as far as OSM budget. (Sandberg)

Bob & Team are really working hard to make e-training a big success. High expectations for e-training, and a lot of resources have been made available to ensure success. Commendations to Bob's excellent work! (Clark)

NTTP Coordination (Donnelly)

Comments:

None.

SOFTWARE

Management & Usage (Greene)

Comments:

Commendations from Billie Clark on Mary's work.

Use of Citrix in West Virginia (Evans)

Comments:

Have received positive feedback from users as far as TIPS/Citrix.

AMD-TREAT (Means)

Comments:

Brent and Team received the Secretary's "Four C's" award for the design, creation, and implementation of this software. (Clark)

Mobile Computing/GPS

Digital Control of Earthmoving Equipment (Hause)

Comments:

None.

Inventory of Tri-State Area Utilizing GPS and Mobile Computing Technology (Sharp)

Comments:

None.

ArcPAD Application for CO Hard Rock AML Reclamation (Jim Herron & Jeff Graves)

Comments:

Looks like good subject for a talk at next years' meeting. (Meier)

Large Watershed Software Recommendations (Greene)

Comments:

WCMS is geographically regionalized (WV). We've put a lot of money into it already and should look into extending the use of the software into other regions/areas. (Dunn)

Keep searching for a modeling tool for the large watersheds. (Reichert)

This could be an area for a partnership, e.g. USGS, ESRI, TIPS experts. (Koehler)

TIPS License Management Operations (Clark)

Comments:

None.

IT Issues (Overview of OSM Active Directory and User Classification plans for OSM)

Comments:

None.

OSM-DOE/NETL: VA Remote Sensing Project (Kyle Bohnenstiehl.)

Comments:

This technology (DIGM) may not be effective in the Eastern Coal Fields due to "noise" issues. (G. Collins)

Inventory of Tri-State Mining District in OK - LIDAR and Aerial Photography

(Kyle Bohnenstiehl & Mike Sharp)

Comments:

None.

ERDAS Image Analyst Extension

Comments:

There was some discussion for the Committee to purchase four seats for this software. No decision made.

TIPS Sponsored Remote Sensing Pilot Projects (Kyle Bohnenstiehl)

Comments:

Borehole Laser Scanner—This is the answer to finding voids. (Dunn)

Thermal Imaging – look into more.

Shipping insurance for items is a problem.

Acquiring adequate computer hardware may be an issue.

Appropriate training for these items could be an issue.

(general comments from around the table)

The role of TIPS is to test out these new technologies and report findings to states.
(Koehler)

Committee agrees to purchase the thermal camera.

WV Airborne Imaging Program (Evans)

Comments:

None.

Greg Conrad (IMCC)

Mr. Conrad stated that he was impressed with the new technology demonstrated in this meeting. He feels that this may be the best example of a group that would qualify for the Secretary's Four C's award. Good work from all (states/OSM). IMCC is involved with the benchmarking effort in allowing states to disseminate knowledge and new technological discoveries to other states. Next benchmarking workshop could be a technology enhancement forum. IMCC is developing new performance measures for Title V. Performance measures are critical in making case to OMB and to Congress for funding. Hopeful to be able to use what states have presented here to accomplish funding goals.

ARCC (Weaver)

Vann Weaver explained that the National Technology Transfer Team (NTTT) was developed because we are moving more toward tech transfer and less oversight. Communication, consulting, and cooperation are three key words for this effort. The Bat Conservation Workshop was one product of the team. Pooling resources will enable technology transfer to be more effective in a regional aspect.

He also discussed the Appalachian Regional Technology Transfer Teams (ARTTT) activities. He explained that 50% of the ARTTT's annual meeting is about technology transfer. The other 50% is about what the team will do in the future. The team will

sponsor a Hydrology issue workshop every year. A Flooding Workshop was held in Huntington, VA this past summer. Next spring will be Valley Fill workshop (late March). David Lane is new team leader for next two years. David and Lois Uranowski are now full time technology transfer employees in the ARCC.

MCRCC (Joseph)

There are new versions of the Tech Transfer CD. Some initiatives: Reforestation, Coal Combustion by-products, bat conservation and mining. Next meeting will be held in October. PHC-CHIA will be discussed.

WRCC Access

WRCC website for what's new. WRTT (Western Region Technical Transfer)

Member structure includes a representative from each state. They have conference calls monthly.

Vann Weaver stated that he would like to see networking between the three regions. Dave Berry, Bill Joseph agreed. Vann says ARCC website went online in June.

FINAL REMARKS

The Four C's Partnership Team is developing a website. Billie and Sarah are on this team.

Interactive TIPS forum received a good deal of discussion. Consensus seems to be that it may be best served as being web based or perhaps sending TIPS reps to deliver on-site as it may be cost prohibitive to try to send many people to a location based forum. Whatever form this takes it still needs to include a feedback capability. Forums could be specialized/focused, e.g., Hydrology, Remote Sensing, and Mobile Computing, thereby limiting the number of people that may need/want to attend.

Al Klein commented that the western states are working on a vision on what's important to them. The western states are depending on OSM for technical assistance. GIS and Electronic Permitting is extremely important. There is an opportunity to deliver more technology transfer for Mobile Computing, GIS, and Electronic Permitting.

Action Items:

The Steering Committee requested that TIPS hold a national TIPS conference that focuses on geospatial technologies and electronic permitting.

Decision Points

1. Mobile Computing \$115,000
2. Remote Sensing Software \$22,000
3. ThermaCam \$16,000
4. Refreshing GPS Units

(Bob Welsh states we have not been on a refresh cycle for the past few years for the GeoExplorer GPS units.)

5. Hardware (scanners, digitizers, plotters) \$114,000
6. Training for GeoChemist Workbench
7. Interactive Forum
 - a. National level
 - b. Regional level
 - c. All agree we need to form an Inter-Governmental team to pull together some ideas for this effort. Will be discussed at the next tele-conference call.

Priorities set by the Committee:

1. Mobile Computing Research & Development
2. GIS and Remote Sensing Technology
3. Electronic Permitting
4. Educating the SMCRA Community about TIPS capabilities through technology conferences.