

Slide presentations (\*) and links from presenters are posted on the Alaska Smart Communities Forum (<https://akscf.matsugov.us>).

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Introductions (\*) Doug Miller

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- Partnerships are being created through relationships built through members of the Forum.

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Alaska Disaster Response (\*) Scott Nelsen  
Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs

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- Past year was exceptionally busy with earthquake/wildfires.
- When dealing with a disaster, there is a 30-day window to prove need in order to get FEMA assistance. The ability to have certified assessments for all affected areas during the earthquake was beneficial.
- Improvement goal: Project data out to local governments and public, which will take funding.

Questions:

- **Are there other options to leverage other GIS platforms in the State?** This is being reviewed, and some agree that there needs to be understanding. USGS/NOAA is relied on for tsunami warnings. Unsure how to actually get feed to the public. Looking more to have their own for public viewing, similar to 511 to provide an overview of state disasters, with links to municipalities' website for specific information.
- **If utilities could find a way to donate to a state Master GIS portal, one location for pertinent info/emergency-fire-communication-infrastructure/etc., would it be easier to identify. Is this too broad a goal to reach?** Agree a state platform/portal would be good and would keep everyone on the same platform, if all agencies could provide funding. Geoportal does have some links; this could possibly grow. Progress should move forward on ownership/budget/etc. once GIO has been hired.
- **Comments:**
  - NIFC Incident Teams have main national dataset for fire response nationally for interagency events, which could be used as a template for building this for State of Alaska.
  - MSB provides GIS assistance for DOF Wildfire teams; would be willing to get agreement in place to make GIS staff available for others as well.
  - Esri has Disaster Response Program they are willing to activate when needed.
  - Mike Chimelewski: Serves on LEPC at the Borough; as owner of radio station, desire to be on air to keep citizens aware with good information. Later, to take after-incident reports to ensure general public understands what happened/what is happening.
- **Action Item:** Doug Miller to coordinate a working group to further discuss this topic.

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Alaska Statewide Data Hub Project (\*) Heather Crondahl  
State of Alaska Office of Management & Budget / Technology Architect

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- Important for business model to provide enough diversification on the platform for organizations to stay competitive in a changing environment. Knowledge services help to identify the portfolio diversification for a business platform.

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- State is looking for ways to diversify and provide better communication models for government-to-business and government-to-government. An example is the State DMV partnership with UMV for satellite locations (distribution channels). The State would like to see expansion to other services and is looking for business processes that are duplicative across government platforms to standardize, streamline and reduce overhead to make government more efficient.
- Business models allow for effective/efficient reporting back for Federal funding requirements.
- Milestones: Finishing up requirements analysis phase & funding request to legislature. Potential partners met to identify what data platforms were needed; looking for feedback from this team as well.

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Cyberthreat Support for State/Local/Tribal Government (\*) Greta Noble  
MS-ISAC / Senior Program Specialist

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- Designated by Homeland Security to assist with free cyber security resources to governments.

Questions:

- **Is there a size limit for membership?** No – subscription to any size local government. Helps to provide resources and assistance in cyber security. State platform is being utilized for sharing some services.
- **Difference between her SOC and other vendors, besides free?** SOC does not provide managed services; purpose is to share information/monitoring services/answer quick questions/provide support.

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Building Smarter Communities Sharon Stanley  
Information Services Department / CIO-Director / Cobb County, GA

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- Third most populated county in Georgia; tourism is #1 economic driver; citizens are technologically savvy & expect the same from their government while keeping costs/tax rates low.
- Built a culture where all decision making/services/data available 7x24 and are transparent.
- Data sharing hub with partners (like utilities), but not public facing.
- Department/Agency Teams coordinated a list of information they wanted to see; her team built the platform to make this work for them.
- Community Design used by many agencies to plan all aspects of traffic/safety/services when Braves built new stadium in county. Accomplished within County regulations. Traffic Management Center addresses pedestrian flow with traffic analytics on game days.
- Improvements have Public Safety & DOT working together to divert traffic when an incident occurs, as well as notify public when lanes are reopened.
- As data sharing rolled out, resulted in a hunger for more.
- Executive support critical to success. Executive staff attended Esri Annual User Conference.

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- What's next: Providing future requests from departments/agencies as partnerships are built with businesses who are bringing new technologies into the area.

Questions:

- **How did they accomplish sharing technology across departments/agencies?** IT is centralized; therefore, all services are through IT. 110 people on staff to serve all aspects of IT; manager in IT that support each department (i.e., community dev) that sit in those departments. Confirm that IT strategy is meeting business objectives for departments, ensuring business objectives is understood before even considering an IT solution; she will only identify what she feels will benefit the business objective; relationship building has been vital with departments.

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Empowering an Analysis-Driven Organization through a Geospatial Strategy Adam Carnow  
Thought Leader & Community Evangelist / Esri (Charlotte, NC)

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- All data, especially government data, has a geospatial component; therefore, it cannot be an afterthought.
- ROI of GIS needs to be identified in advance of each project; as budgets are being trimmed, this will ensure GIS budgets are funded.
- Apps developed by other organizations are available for reuse.
- Nobody knows their data better than the user; show them how to use their data in GIS (Insights). Public Relations/Communications can be the greatest user once introduced to simple tools.
- GIS departments need a GIS plan/strategy to be successful, and most do not have one.
- Identify a problem, find the solution. Goals/Challenges lead to solutions. Solutions lead to business value.

Questions:

- **Issue at Borough with leveraging Esri tools for Dispatch Services – how do other Esri customers get around issues with CAD?** Question for Esri Public Safety Development team. It does require very careful planning to ensure the right information is delivered to the right individuals.

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Announcements

Doug Miller

- Any suggestions on how this can be more valuable to you, share your thoughts with Doug.
- Next forum November 14<sup>th</sup>. Dell to sponsor. Topics: Joint agency partnerships. Let Doug know of other topics you'd like to hear.
- Encourage executive leadership to attend Forum to see value/importance of GIS tools organization-wide.