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### **2005 YORKINFO PARTNERSHIP**

**The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, October 3, 2005, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:**

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

This report informs Committee and Regional Council about the 2005 activities of the YorkInfo Partnership.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

The YorkInfo Partnership works together to create and operate a geospatial information framework among tax-funded, not-for-profit organizations that operate within York Region. Membership includes all nine area municipalities, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board are re-evaluating their participation at this time.

#### **4. 2005 YORKINFO PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Guided by the *YorkInfo Partnership Charter* developed in 2004, several significant successes were realized through the Partnership in 2005.

##### **4.1. Governance Framework**

Nine organizational framework meetings of the Executive Board, Coordinating Committee and Information Management & Technology Team have been held to date. An additional three meetings are scheduled to be held before the end of 2005.

On June 3, 2005, the Partnership held its second Annual General Meeting. The Partners agreed it was a great opportunity to celebrate the previous year's successes, discuss our plans for the year ahead and to learn about each individual organization's accomplishments and goals.

At the September Executive Board meeting an annual review of the governing structure was conducted. The Board recommended to the Coordinating Committee that the Data Standards Sub-Committee be removed and that task forces continue to be formed as required and reporting directly to the Information Management and Technology Team. This recommendation was accepted by the Coordinating Committee.

## **4.2 Annual Work Plan**

In 2005, the Partners' developed a process for establishing, prioritizing and managing the annual activities of the Partnership. The goals as identified in the *Charter* were used as a framework for the development of the annual work plan. Partners identified potential activities that they thought would benefit the Partnership. These suggested activities were compiled into a document and distributed to the Partners to rate as high, medium or low importance and to identify their organization's top two priorities. From this analysis a work plan was developed and approved by the Coordinating Committee. The work plan was monitored through the governance committees.

## **4.3 Policies**

### **4.3.1 Datasharing and Licensing Agreements**

An inventory of datasharing and licensing agreements in use by the various Partners was undertaken. An analysis of the agreements is in progress with the goal of creating a one datasharing and licensing agreement that will serve the needs of all the Partners.

### **4.3.2 Standards**

The establishment of geospatial information standards facilitates datasharing between municipalities and their third party contractors and results in reduced costs of integration and support. In 2005, the Partnership formed two task forces with mandates to develop standards related to roads and parcel databases.

#### **4.3.2.1 Road Network Data Standard**

The development of a road network data standard is a complex process that must consider the requirements of users and many emergency and business critical applications. The Road Standard Task Force reviewed several existing standards including the Ontario Road Network (ORN) standard, the Municipal Infrastructure Data Standards (MIDS) and the Ontario Regional Planning Commissioners Planning Standards Extension. User needs and feedback was solicited through meetings and survey. These were considered in the development of the road model standards specifications, and are inputs to the Region's Single Line Road Network Geodatabase modelling project, which will provide a significantly richer road network capable of supporting all of the identified business processes across the YorkInfo Partnership.

#### **4.3.2.2 Parcel Fabric Data Standard**

A Parcel Standards Task Force was formed to research and recommend a region wide parcel standard. As part of the process, the Towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan have been working on parcel information exchange toward the

development of one parcel fabric and eliminating duplication of effort around the creation and maintenance of this information.

#### **4.4 Technology**

##### **4.4.1 Web Service Pilot Project**

The Region and the Town of Richmond Hill collaborated on a project to pilot the capability and process for Partners to contribute information about their geospatial data into the Regional metadata web service. This technology allows partners who have metadata to easily and efficiently share this information with minimal effort.

Alternatively, it provides Partners who do not have web service capability the means to publish their investments through the Region. It sets the foundation for “one-stop” discovery and access to municipal geospatial information.

#### **4.5 Knowledge & Training**

York Region Geomatics extended an offer to provide Partners with the Region’s two-day GIS training session. The enthusiastic response resulted in the scheduling of two YorkInfo Partnership training sessions to be held on October 17-18 and November 15-16 at York Region’s Tannery training facility for a total of 24 staff from partner organizations.

#### **4.6 Spatial Data Creation & Maintenance**

##### **4.6.1 Key Spatial Information Updates**

York Region Geomatics maintained and distributed quarterly updates of key geospatial data to the Partners. These datasets include:

- Single Line Road Network (SLRN)
- Parcel Fabric
- Draft Approved Plans and Pending Plans of Subdivision
- Forestry
- Water and Wastewater Facilities
- Emergency Services Locations and Boundaries
- School Locations
- Lakes and Rivers

##### **4.6.2 2005 Orthophotography**

Partners collaborated in the acquisition of 2005 digital orthophotography and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) updates. An Orthophotography Task Force was formed to develop the specifications, data requirements and perform quality assurance of the data on behalf of all the Partnership. The digital orthophotography was delivered to the Partners in the fall. This initiative demonstrates how the Partnership continues to benefit Partner organizations through resource and cost sharing.

#### **4.6.3 Parcel Fabric Realignment to Orthophotography**

The Region and the Town of Aurora successfully piloted a new parcel realignment process. Realignment of the remaining municipalities' parcel fabric is targeted for completion by the end of 2005.

#### **4.6.4 Markham, Vaughan, and Richmond Hill Parcel and Road Data Exchange**

The Towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan are collaborating in a parcel information exchange that will result in reduced duplication.

### **4.7 Development and Acquisition of Tools, Licences and Training**

#### **4.7.1 Data, Tools, Policies and Standards Inventory**

The Partnership recommended that an inventory of data, tools, policies and standards be conducted. This inventory gives a greater understanding of what is available and assists in the identification of opportunities to reduce duplication and share the costs of development.

### **4.8 Joint Initiatives**

#### **4.8.1 GeoSmart Application**

The Partnership submitted a joint application for GeoSmart funding in September 2004. On September 7, 2005 the Ministry of Natural Resources notified the Region that the GeoSmart program was being discontinued and as a result, our application would not be considered. Although, it was unfortunate that the program was discontinued, it was a wonderful opportunity for the Partners to work together toward a common goal. We will continue to seek and collaborate on other funding opportunities.

### **4.9 GIS Emergency Management Planning & Support**

The GIS Emergency Task Force is creating an emergency contact list and notification procedures for coordinating the GIS response between member organizations during an emergency situation.

### **4.10 Memoranda of Understanding**

The Memorandum of Understanding documents among the Partners were revised to reflect the content of the *YorkInfo Partnership Charter* and more clearly define the benefits and deliverables provided to individual Partner organizations. These agreements are being finalized for signature among appropriate partners.

#### **4.10.1 2006 Work Plan Development**

The successful implementation of the 2005 work plan encouraged the Partners to follow the same process in the development and management of the 2006 YorkInfo Partnership work plan.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Some funds are recovered from YorkInfo Partnership fees related to data creation, information management, distribution, products and services. This approach reduces duplication and avoids cost expenditures among the tax-funded organizations of York Region. Reduced duplication and cost sharing benefits both the Region and the area municipalities.

## **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

All nine local municipalities are members of the YorkInfo Partnership. They along with the Region, have the responsibility to deliver services that fully employ the best use of technology for the best value to our residents. Through cooperation, the Partnership and its members can avoid duplication and costs related to data collection, information management and technology while developing an efficient information infrastructure that is requisite to manage the challenges of rapidly growing urban areas alongside agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive sites.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

2005 has been a very productive year for the YorkInfo Partnership. Significant advancement was made toward achieving its goals and communication was enhanced through meetings, task forces and minutes of meetings.

York Region Geomatics continues to look forward to working with the Partners to plan and implement a work plan in 2006 that will further achieve the vision of “enriched communities through the provision of a geospatial infrastructure”.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.