Planning and Development Committee Agenda

Thursday, Oct 19, 2017
Council Chambers
County Administration Centre, Walkerton

1. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

2. **Information Items**

   A. County Geographic Information System (GIS) update report (attached)

   B. Invitation to GIS day – November 15, 2017 (attached)

3. **Next Meeting**

   November 16, 2017

4. **Adjournment**

Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Chris LaForest
Director of Planning and Development

Date: October 19, 2017

Re: County Geographic Information System (GIS) Update Report

Recommendation:

The County Geographic Information System (GIS) update report is for information.

Background:

A Geographic Information System (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends. GIS has significantly evolved in recent years to become a vital tool for municipalities. Municipal GIS provides a platform for organization-wide collaboration allowing both individuals and departments to query and share spatial information.

Historically, as a function of the Planning and Development Department, GIS has largely focused on assisting Planning and Economic Development. The 2014 Operations review noted that the County should leverage and grow key existing assets such as GIS. As a result, the Corporate Policy team undertook a research project to determine how to transition this powerful tool from a primarily departmental focus to a more corporate focus that meets the needs of the entire organization. As a result, a strategy was developed.

Phase 1 - Organize		Phase 2 – Build		Phase 3 – Sustain
Evaluate current capacity and restructure resources to achieve an increased capacity	→	Expand GIS across the organization and initiate GIS projects for capable departments	→	Develop and sustain an effective GIS capacity across the organization to meet County needs and priorities

This report highlights recent and ongoing work done by our GIS team, in addition to highlighting upcoming plans for GIS in the near future.

45.0°N | 81.3°W

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GIS Products and Services:

The County's GIS provides the following products and services include:

Web-Based Mapping Products	Hard Copy Mapping Products
Bruce County Maps • Includes data layers for: transportation; parcels and road allowances ; hydrology; elevation; buildings; forests, parks and recreation; planning; and base maps including high resolution air photos; for public and internal viewing • User has the ability to search property parcels, perform queries, change visible layers, identify feature information and measure distances and areas.	**Bruce County Tourism Publications (Legacy)** • MTB the Bruce; Mountain Bike Trails • Adventure Passport • Destination Light houses • Bruce County Cycling Routes • Bruce County Beaches • Ride Grey / Bruce / ATV maps • Paddling Grey / Bruce: Grey / Bruce Motorcycling Tours • Bruce Peninsula Map / Bruce County Trails
Bruce County Map Factory Legacy System (No longer supported but the program exists internally to support the forestry database.)	**Bruce County Visitor Map** (Replaces Bruce / Grey Official Visitor Map) **911 Maps** (EMS Usage)

Sharing of Spatial Data - GIS provides spatial data to a number of organizations on a regular basis and by request. This includes roads data on a quarterly basis to the Ministry of Health, Ontario Provincial Police, and Ontario Road Network. Organizations that receive data as needed include Bell, Bruce Telecom, Wightman Telecom, Eastlink Communications, Canada Post, HuronTel, and Tillsonburg Fire.

Bruce/Local GIS Steering Committee - led by the County, this committee connects all local municipal GIS staff to network on latest trends in both service and technology, trouble shoot problems and share best practices. Through this committee, we were able to obtain a multi-party Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). The benefit is GIS software cost is no longer an obstacle and this collaborative licensing structure offers an array of software titles easily shared and otherwise not affordable. This committee also facilitates efficient sharing of spatial data, an important component of a strong regional GIS.

Realtors' Association of Grey-Bruce Owen Sound (RAGBOS) – and the County collaborate to include MLS Real Estate listings on the interactive Bruce County Maps service. This has enhanced the user experience of our mapping system for both the public and our Economic Development team. Users and staff now have the capability of searching for commercial properties for sale.

County Sign Inventory - Recently, the GIS supported the Highways staff in the creation of a sign inventory program. Highways now have a fully integrated live signage inventory with sign type, retro reflectivity values, and condition details that can be input and maintained both from an iPad in the field and on a workstation in the office.

Bruce County Applications – To date County GD operates the following applications (apps).

Bruce County Applications to Date
Land Use Planning Planning-specific layers from Bruce County Maps, including credential-based access to archeological site locations. Both a public and internal system.
Highways Signage Inventory Including all details of BC constructed signage
Commercial / Industrial Vacant Lands Provides search capability of all vacant and commercial/industrial zoned lands in BC.

Broad GIS Goals:

To address the wider needs of the Corporation, the County's GIS will focus on the following broad goals:

1) **Create Opportunities** – Outreach to departments in order to explore ways GIS can improve workflows or collaborate on projects that enhance services and decision-making.

2) **Maintain and Enhance Existing Products and Services** – Maintain Bruce County Maps (Web-based GIS) in addition to creating separate and simplified user-specific viewers. Additionally, staff are exploring new GIS solutions and the potential benefit to the organization.

3) **Increase Data Collection and Sharing Efforts** - expand data collection efforts and develop a system to organize, store and maintain all spatial data. Increasing data

collection and sharing between departments enhances the organization's ability to make better-informed decisions and provide better services to our clients. Important to note, using the latest GIS technologies reduces staff effort and could support our lean commitment.

Conclusion:

The evolution of GIS has made it an extremely powerful tool in municipal government. By advancing the broad goals highlighted in this initial phase of the strategy to build this function, the County will be positioned to fully realize the potential of GIS and use of this important asset to the best of its ability.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

None

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #1 – Develop and Implement Tactics for Improved Communication
   #6 Explore alternate options to improve efficiency, services

Approved by:

Kelley Coulter
Chief Administrative Officer

Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
             Members of the Planning and Development

From: Chris LaForest
             Director of Planning and Development

Date: October 19, 2017

Re: Invitation to GIS Day November 15, 2017

Recommendation:

The Invitation to GIS Day on November 15, 2017 is for information.

Background:

GIS Day is an annual event first held in 1999 by the National Geographic Society and occurs around the world. GIS Day provides an international forum for users of this technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. Locally, GIS Day provides an opportunity for the County and the lower tier Municipalities to show case how this technology is used to solve real problems as well as improve work efficiencies.

Almost all departments in local government can use GIS technology in a wide range of scenarios and applications. For example, Finance departments may use GIS to manage an accurate inventory of real property, analyze land value and associated improvements, and maximize property tax revenue. Public works / Highways departments may use GIS to maintain right of way assets, meet transportation and environmental quality needs, coordinate and plan capital projects, and operate public facilities in a safe and effective way.

In addition, Fire / Emergency response departments may leverage GIS to analyze risk, develop pre-incident plans, and improve response activities that protect human life, property, and natural resources. Planning and development departments may use GIS to help engage the community in growth management plans, promote business diversity, attract talented citizens, or encourage quality places and environments. Social Service departments may utilize GIS to provide a framework to understand human behavior, identify community needs and assets, and improve the delivery of social services programs including empowering communities to support disenfranchised groups.

GIS Day:

Bruce County's GIS Day is November 15, 2017 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM at the Town of Saugeen Shores Council Chambers. (Poster attached as "Appendix "A")

Through this report, we cordially invite you to see both the progress locally that GIS has afforded our local governments, as well as its future capabilities worth leveraging. At this informative day, you will see live demonstrations including:

- Solutions for improved asset management
- How story maps improve communication with residents
- Mobile apps that improve work-flow and solve municipal problems
- Using reports from GIS for better budgeting and capital planning

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

None

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal - #1 – Develop and Implement Tactics for Improved Communication
       #6 Explore alternate options to improve efficiency, services

Approved by:

Kelley Coulter
Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDIX "A"

Discovering the World through GIS

Learn more about GIS for YOUR Local Government

- **Asset Management**
  - Solution Demonstrations
- **GIS is the Future**
  - Learn Why
- **Realize the Power of GIS to Solve Municipal Issues**
- **Open Forum**
  – Get your Questions Answered

When: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Town of Saugeen Shores Council Chamber

Contact: Register by 4:30 p.m. on November 1st
to laura.kranenburg@saugeenshores.ca

GISday   **BRUCE** county

Be an explorer.