Community Development Services of Montana

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TO: Erin Fashoway, State GIS Coordinator
FROM: Janet Cornish *JC*
RE: MLIAC Council Priority No. 2 – Grant Program Benchmarks
DATE: June 26, 2018

At our June 14th, 2018 MLIAC meeting, we discussed how we might address the Council priorities as identified in the fiscal 2019 Montana Land Information Plan. The Plan identifies five priorities as follows:

1. Review MSDI Framework Themes to determine sustainability under current funding constraints:
   a. Review what it means to be designated as an MSDI theme:
      i. Support provided
      ii. Best practices
   b. Prepare a recommending document
2. Create measurable benchmarks to determine success of the (Montana Land Information) grant program.
3. Create measurable benchmarks to determine success of each MSDI layer.
4. Match data layers to the requirements of Montana Statutes (e.g. Growth Policy and Call Before You Dig statutes).
5. Determine the highest needs of stakeholders, other statutory boards and councils, and create a plan for outreach and marketing.

Here are my thoughts on how we might frame No. 2, the creation of *measurable benchmarks to determine success of the grant program.*

There are three evaluative tools that govern what outcomes we might choose to measure. These are:

1. The Montana Land Information Act (MLIA), §90-1-402 MCA. The act calls for the development of a "sustainable method to collect, maintain, and disseminate information in digital formats about the natural and artificial land characteristics of Montana. Land information changes continuously and is needed by businesses, citizens, governmental entities, and others in digital formats to be most effective and productive. This part will ensure that digital land information is collected consistently, maintained accurately in accordance with standards, and made available in common ways for all potential uses and users, both private and public. This part prioritizes consistent collection, accurate maintenance, and common availability of land information to provide needed, standardized, and uniform land information in digital formats."

2. The Montana Land Information Plan. The Plan, which is prepared for each fiscal year, identifies areas of focus for the grant program, which for 2019 include projects that:

     a. Support public safety and emergency response
     b. Improve local government and tribal workflows, business processes and operations
     c. Improve land records

3. <u>The proposal that each grantee prepares, setting forth a project's goals and objectives</u>. Each applicant for MLIA funds must provide project goals and objectives. These vary, based on the individual nature of each project; however, they must be consistent with the goals set forth in the MLIA and the priorities in the Montana Land Plan.

Note: The second and third of these, Land Plan priorities and goals and objectives of each individual project, should be used together in identifying benchmarks. Separating these two would likely result in redundancies in reporting.

In order to measure success, each MLIA grantee upon the conclusion of a project, should submit a monitoring plan that includes an annual reporting component, addressing some or all of the following questions (depending on the project). The format and schedule for providing this information to MLIAC could, alternatively, be incorporated into the Scope of Work that MLIAC and the grantee develop at the time of the grant contract award. MLIAC might consider an annual reporting requirement for a period of three to five years.

1. MLIA criteria:
     a. Sustainability – Has the project resulted in the collection of digital information that can be maintained and disseminated over time? Is a maintenance plan in place?
     b. Public Need/Service – Is the data that was produced in connection with this project accessible to businesses, citizens, governmental entities, and/or others as needed for their operations?
     c. Consistency – Is the data that has been collected in a common format, according to established standards, that enables accessibility for all potential users? Has it contributed to the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure?

2. and 3. Land Plan Priorities/Project Goals and Objectives – Monitoring:
     a. How has/will the project meet the priorities of the land plan over time?
          i. Immediate outcomes
          ii. Outcomes to be realized over a three to five-year period
     b. What measures will you use to evaluate success, based on the goals and objectives of the project?
          i. Better system functionality
          ii. Number of users accessing information
          iii. Improved business processes
          iv. Contribution to the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure
          v. Community engagement
          vi. Other