

Friends of NAIP:

I'm pleased to report that significant progress is being made toward a summer 2008 National Aerial Imagery Program (NAIP) flight for Minnesota. This USDA Farm Service Agency program has supplied important and economical imagery for Minnesota's GIS users in the past.

Based upon interest expressed by many of you in color infrared (CIR) imagery, the FSA plans to add this fourth band to its product, which previously had been natural color imagery only. Though the State share remains one-third of the total cost, the addition has increased the state share from the original estimate of \$450,000 to \$500,000.

To date, we have collected \$400,000 from the following eight state agencies:

- Department of Transportation
- Pollution Control Agency
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Health
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Department of Administration (LMIC)
- Department of Public Safety (Fire Marshal Division; Pipeline Safety)

In addition, the Department of Transportation is supervising ground control target placement, which the FSA may accept as a credit against the \$500,000 target. The Office of Enterprise Technology and LMIC are providing in-kind contributions of financial and project management, respectively.

On Monday (December 31, 2007), Minnesota formally indicated its interest to partner with FSA by submitting the attached Letter of Intent. The letter makes no commitment beyond the \$400,000 we currently have in hand, but did indicate we would continue seeking additional funds. The following expected deliverables were identified:

- Four band digital imagery for the entire state
- All imagery captured at a ground resolution of 1-meter
- Orthorectification using ground control (absolute accuracy)
- A mosaic of that imagery for each county in compressed image format
- Full resolution, uncompressed quarter-quad-based files for the entire state

Except for the additional CIR band and improved positional accuracy achieved through better ground control, 2008 FSA orthoimagery will be similar to that provided in 2003-04. The next step in locking in Minnesota's commitment to 2008 NAIP will be to sign a service agreement with FSA before the end of this month. The service agreement is a contract that will legally bind both parties to its terms.

We remain short of the full share of funds necessary to enter into that contract, but are seeking to close the gap by the end of the month. We are encouraged by the fact that two additional organizations are still contemplating contributions. Additionally, a Legislative Commission's recommendation to add funds for NAIP through an LCCMR project awaits consideration by the full Legislature during the next session - a vote on this project will come after a NAIP vendor has been chosen, but before payment is required. The FSA is now determining how this situation might impact the vendor selection process.

Because of current state contracting restrictions, funds for this project must be provided by either state or federal agencies. If you represent a state agency that might consider contributing to this effort, please contact me.

I will send out another progress report later this month. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

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