



TO: MetroGIS Policy Board

FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Information Sharing – MetroGIS Related Activities

DATE: December 20, 2000
(For the Jan 10th meeting)

b) Regional Parcel Dataset Project Updates

Public Sector Pilot:

Agreements were executed by each of the counties in October 2000 authorizing the Metropolitan Council to distribute the regional parcel dataset to government interests. An invitation to participate was mailed on November 12 to over 160 individuals, representing about 100 organizations, who are the contact persons for a TLG Street Centerline dataset license or who are on the MetroGIS mailing list and affiliated with a government unit that serves the metro area. As of December 18, 19 copies of the dataset had been distributed and several other inquiries have been received. Seventy-five copies of the CD were created. An article explaining the pilot project will also appear in the next GIS/LIS newsletter. The Peer Review Forum is scheduled for April 2001.

Private Sector Access Policy and Distribution Agreement:

On October 18, 2000, the Policy Board recommended a policy calling for each of the seven respective counties boards to adopt a non-government access fee policy of between \$0.01 and \$0.05/parcel, effective January 1. The counties were also empowered to offer more than the minimum data elements (parcel polygons, PIN and property address) for the recommended fee.

Trudy Richter of Richardson and Richter drafted, with the assistance of the Council's and County legal staff, a multi-party agreement to authorize the Council to assemble a regional parcel dataset and distribute it to non-government entities. On December 18th, the final version was sent to each county for approval. At the time of this writing, all but one county will have acted on the agreement by the first week in January. The seventh should act on it by the end of January.

c) Professional Services Contract Update

The work plan endorsed by the Policy Board in July assumes that a professional services consultant will be retained by mid-January 2001 to supplement MetroGIS staff resources. The Request for Proposals was published on November 20th and mailed to 30+ firms that had expressed interested in MetroGIS' previous Fair-Share Financial Model/Business Planning project. The deadline for proposals is January 4, 2001. The Scope of Work was reviewed by the Policy Advisory Team and Coordinating Committee's information.

The Metropolitan Council will finance the contract, in accordance with the assumptions set forth in the MetroGIS Business Plan. The Policy Advisory Team will oversee the work of the consultant in a relationship much the same as with the consultant for Fair-Share Financial Model and Business Plan projects. The MetroGIS Staff Coordinator will serve as the project manager.

d) Update -- Registration of “MetroGIS” and “DataFinder” names and logos

At its July 19th, meeting the Policy Board endorsed a work plan for the remainder of 2000 and 2001. The Board concluded that registration of the MetroGIS name should be pursued in 2000 rather than wait until 2001. The Metropolitan Council’s legal staff and the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator are in process of developing an application to register the “MetroGIS” and “MetroGIS DataFinder” names with the State of Minnesota. The cost is \$50 for each registration. Further investigation is required to decide if federal registration would be of value. A law firm that specializes in federal trademark law has been retained to assist with the federal application. It appears that the total cost for federal registration could range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, which is consistent with the funds set aside in the MetroGIS budget. Staff’s goal is by year-end to decide if federal registration should be pursued and if so to have the work under contract and to have submitted the state application.

e) County Users Group Update

A GIS users group is operational in each of the seven counties. A contact with each was asked to provide a summary of their activities. The following comments were received:

- *Anoka County*: Hosted its first GIS Data Fair on September 13th.
- *Carver County*: Hosted a GIS Day Open House. The next Carver County users group meeting has not been set. Waiting to get our FTP site up and going, anticipated mid-Jan, to demonstrate how to directly download GIS data sets. This will be a Password protected site and only users with a license agreement will be able to use it.
- *Hennepin County*: Hosted a GIS Day Open House.
- *Ramsey County*: See the group’s Internet site is operational at www.ramseyconservation.org/gisgroup.html. We have monthly meetings (1st Thursday of the month) and try to have at least one presentation of GIS at each meeting. That has been very successful and our attendance is increasing.
- *Scott County*: Hosted a GIS Day Open House. Dan Pfeffer, recently hired as the Scott County GIS Coordinator, will assume the Scott County GIS User Group Coordinator responsibilities as of January 2001. Blake Crandall had been serving in this capacity for the past six months. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20th. Don Gemberling with Information Policy & Analysis Division from the State of Minnesota will be speaking to the group on Data Practices relevant to the geospatial community.

f) National GeoData Alliance (www.GeoAll.net) Update

Purpose: This initiative seeks to create national structure for a “bottom-up” organization to connect the GeoData Community and within which to foster fruition of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Phase One was completed in September. It involved development of a preamble for the creation of the proposed new-age organization along with a purpose statement, 18 principles, and the

proposed organizational concept (NSDI) [see the web site for the final report]. Hennepin County Commissioner and MetroGIS Policy Board member Randy Johnson; Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator; and Steven Lehr, CB-Richard Ellis and member of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, served as members the Phase One work group.

MetroGIS' guiding principles are very similar to several of those the proposed principles for the GeoData Alliance. MetroGIS is also viewed as an example of the self-organizing, self-governing entities anticipated throughout the country that would comprise the GeoData Alliance.

Recent activity:

- The team charged with drafting the GDA Constitution met in Olympia on November 8-10 to review and edit the first draft. The Launch Team will review the second draft in early December and the constitution team will meet in San Francisco on December 11-13 to complete the work.
- A Certificate of Incorporation for the GeoData Alliance was filed on November 13, 2000. IRS Form 1023 Application for Recognition of Exemption under section 501c3 was as submitted.
- Members of the Launch Team will meet in Boston on December 8 and 9 to complete the business plan.
- The first general meeting of the members and friends of the GeoData Alliance, Inc. (the 2001 GeoData Forum) will be held in Denver, Colorado in the late fall 2001. The plan is to elect the Council of Trustees at the meeting.
- A Technology Plan outline will be discussed by the Launch Team on December 9th