

Meeting Notes
County Data Producer Work Group
Wednesday, June 22, 2004
MN Counties Insurance Trust Bldg., St. Paul.

Members Present: Dave Drealan - Chair (Carver County), Jim Hentges (Scott County), Jane Harper (Washington County), Bill Brown (Hennepin County), and Randy Knippel (Dakota County)

Members Absent: David Claypool (Ramsey County). No one has been assigned to take Gary Swenson's place (Anoka County)

Staff Present: Randall Johnson (MetroGIS)

Summary of January 7, 2004 meeting:

The document was circulated before the meeting for comment and is posted at <http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/index.shtml#private2>. No changes were suggested.

Chairman Drealan called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Due the late start time, Chairperson Drealan limited the discussion to the most critical topics in order of importance.

6. ESRI Software Licensing Issue

Knippel reported that he had met with Mike Johnson, Regional Director for ESRI, to discuss whether or not county staff could use of the Regional Mailing Label application, which used ArcIMS software, to query the parcel data, generate a list of mailing labels for a subset of the regional parcel dataset, and charge for the labels without raising a licensing conflict. Mike confirmed that the counties could do so without endangering their public sector license status (1/2 the cost of the standard or commercial user fee which is currently \$20,000 to purchase and \$5,000 annually).

The rationale was that as long as the application is used for browsing data or simply to extract then sell, there is no licensing issue. Conversely, if the use involves enhanced queries that in effect complete with vendors that offer specialized analytical services, it is likely that a licensing issue will be called into question.

Knippel also reported that Mike Johnson of ESRI is willing to waive the license fee for one year to help the workgroup investigate the market for parcel data among non-government users. They are also willing to share information about how other areas in the country are interfacing with non-government users in terms of data access rules.

Knippel agreed to summarize in writing the understandings reached with ESRI and to share the summary with the workgroup.

4. Next Generation Data Sharing Agreements

Staff explained that the Dakota and Hennepin County attorneys had been sent V2 of the agreement on May 5 and that they have not gotten back to Trudy. He also explained that a meeting was scheduled with Chairperson Reinhardt on Friday morning to discuss option to expedite review and adoption of agreement. Brown commented that he would speak with the Hennepin County Attorney and others in the county including senior management and Board Chair to see if he could speed up submission of comments from the attorney. The group encouraged staff to ask if Chairperson Reinhardt would be willing to contact Hennepin County authorities. The option of less than a seven-county agreement was also offered, as opposed to waiting longer for Hennepin County to engage.

2. Proposed Enhancements to the Regional Parcel Dataset

No one expressed any concerns with the proposal as described in the report for Item 5a of Coordinating Committee's agenda packet.

7. Access to Historical Parcel Data Without Need for Licensure

The group decided to table consideration for further clarification. The letter submitted by Will Craig presented four options – three more than tentatively agreed upon at the March meeting and as described in the staff report to the Coordinating Committee (Item 5c for the 6/22 Committee agenda). Staff was directed to speak with Craig to clarify the proposal. Whatever the final proposal, the members concurred that will need to speak with their respective managements before they can comment on whether or not to endorse the requested proposal. The Committee Chair agreed to remove the item from the Committee’s meeting agenda for that afternoon.

5d. Regional Parcel Dataset View-only Policy for Emergency Preparedness Application

Knippel expressed concern that too much was being made of the technical issues surrounding the inability to ensure the security of the regional parcel dataset if access is extended to view-only access. Knippel agreed to present the topic to the Coordinating Committee and to offer to make the access password protected if that was needed to resolve the issues surrounding the proposed method of using an alias and to ensure that these issues are resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. The group agreed to leave the topic on the Coordinating Committee’s agenda for that afternoon.

Next Meeting

No meeting date was set but a preference was stated for sometime between July 19 and 22. Chairperson Drealan agreed to email a preference request to each member the following day.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator