

Meeting Notes
County Data Producer Workgroup
Thursday, May 12, 2005
MN Counties Insurance Trust Bldg., St. Paul.

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

Members Absent: David Claypool (Ramsey County)

Staff Present: Randall Johnson (MetroGIS Staff Coordinator) [Only for Agenda Items 4 and higher]

Chairperson Drealan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Summary of December 4, 2004 Meeting

No discussion.

2. Ideas For A Possible Application For The \$22,000 Available For Regional GIS Projects

The Workgroup discussion focused on a proposal involving the purchase of code for an advanced web application. The application provides advanced capabilities for access to property information and other similar information typically served off a public portal. The application could be used on a regional basis and by individual counties to upgrade county websites. Use by counties would be at the option of each county; several counties expressed a high level of interest. It was agreed to develop a proposal for the acquisition of the application - Randy Knippel agreed to develop a set of bullet points and Jane Harper agreed to add narrative and develop the final proposal.

3. Discussion of John Murphy's Request

This item was not specifically discussed. The issue was discussed on a limited basis in the context of the discussion of item 2. No course of action was decided upon.

4. Non-Government Access to Parcel Data

- a) Coordinated County Distribution Mechanism: The group concluded their efforts to accomplish a standardized fee policy, across the seven counties, for access to parcel data which resolved the largest concern among non-government interests who desire access to these data. The group also concluded that due to the minimal amount of data sales currently being experienced there is insufficient justification for any further efforts to coordinate distribution of parcel data, such as standardizing a license for non-government access. **As such, it was agreed that no further effort would be expended, at least in the near term, to implement the prototype web-based mechanism developed in 2003, which was designed to expedite the data request process when multiple counties are involved.** (Work on the prototype was ceased in spring 2003 to work on drafting a common license for government entity access. The thought at that time was that once the government license was implemented, it could serve as a model for reaching agreement on a common license for non-government entities).
- b) Non- Profit Access Pilot Solution: Brown commented that a procedure has been implemented in Hennepin County at the request of the TOPS Grant consortium. The intent is to learn from the Hennepin County experience to establish a coordinated regional policy.
- c) Proposed Pilot Project To Share Data With Utilities: The Staff Coordinator noted that all seven representatives to this group have confirmed that they have no problem with releasing a sample of the most current version of the Regional Parcel Dataset to Great River Energy as sample access has been previously given to Xcel, CenterPoint, and MN Valley Electric Coop. **Action: Chairperson Drealan agreed to coordinate the distribution to Great River Energy and to send the newest version of the Regional Parcel Dataset to other three utility interests for their evaluation.**

The group briefly discussed the matter of obtaining a sample of data from each of the utility companies for evaluation to determine its value to the counties and other government interests. Most believed the spatial accuracy of the utility infrastructure maintained by the utilities is less than desired by the counties and other government entities. The members were encouraged to keep in mind that if a data sharing arrangement can be negotiated, utilities may be willing to align their infrastructure with more accurate street centerline and parcel data if they can have regular access to such data. In such case, all parties would benefit from the partnership, in particular, for Emergency Preparedness and Right of Way Management functions.

Finally, the Staff Coordinator commented that the Policy Board has asked staff to host a forum for private sector interests before the proposed September 22 Strategic Planning Workgroup for the purpose of identifying challenges that the private sector would like MetroGIS to address. He noted that invitations would include representatives from the referenced utility interests.

- d) General: Knippel stressed that the MetroGIS community needs to do a better job explaining and documenting the indirect benefits (not limited to improved organizational efficiencies) realized from widespread access to commonly needed data (e.g., enhanced economic development when preliminary siting decisions can be made with data readily available via the Internet.) There was no agreement on how to accomplish this need.

5. Emergency Preparedness

Knippel summarized efforts of the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup to finalize a proposal that is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Coordinating Committee in June. The proposal involves each county assuming custodial responsibility for one or more core emergency preparedness datasets, in conjunction with the Metropolitan 911 Board, and possibly others.

Action: It was agreed that the proposal needs to be fully vetted within each of the seven counties and accepted by their respective management officials before being submitted to the Coordinating Committee for consideration. The Staff Coordinator offered to help Knippel draft the report and supporting materials. Early June was set for a target to forward the proposal to each of the counties.

Other Business

The group concurred that establishment of a clearinghouse of some type for proposed/desired imagery capture projects would be highly beneficial. The current informal process of seeking out partners is not effective in an environment where there are so many organizations with overlapping and/or adjacent jurisdictions that regularly fly the Twin Cities for a variety of reasons.

The Staff Coordinator mentioned that the FGDC/NSDI has implemented a web-based mechanism that may accomplish this objective and agreed to check into further and report back to the group. He also noted that such a clearinghouse mechanism is also an objective of the Imagery Committee of the Governor's Council on Geographic Information and that he would pass this need along to the that group, assuming they are still active.

7. Next Meeting

No decision was made as to when the group would next meet.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator