

MetroGIS Emergency Preparedness Workgroup
Data Sub Group
December 17, 2003

Attendees:

Brian Woltz – State Homeland Security
Todd Lusk - Dakota County GIS
Peter Henschel – Carver County GIS
Tim Zimmerman – Hennepin County GIS
John Springstad – Dakota Co Health
Aaron Buffington – LMIC
Keith Anderson – LOGIS GIS

Intros:

I preached a bit about how I feel it is necessary to make a solution that is practical for our clients, in this case, Emergency personnel at all levels within the state. I also stressed moving forward as proactively and professionally as possible without undue delays. Enough said.

SNS

We got right into some of the issues that are ahead of us.

Basically, Tim, Todd and Peter will compile the SNS data layers within the SNS data group and the EM Data group will inherit those layers. After initial compilation, our data group will compare the file structure to other similar public datasets as a review procedure. This will also include compilation of metadata and formal submittal to MetroGIS. Once submitted, a formal update procedure has to be established along with a quality procedure. These procedures were discussed but no solutions were put forth.

Here is some SNS discussion which moved into the data layer topic.

MN Dept of Health Licensing is the data source of most of the SNS data we need. Each county has to come up with sites (mass dispensing sites) by a certain date (Jan), however, Todd stated that may be a little positive. Tim downloads the transactional data from MDH and geocodes to his needs.

Aaron stated that LMIC has Hospitals at their site already available. He also suggested it might be wise to get a member of the health department to make spatial data from their transactional data.

John stated that it is very important that ALL data transactions get placed and NONE get missed. We also need to determine which fields are necessary. If data is incorrect in the field our credibility decreases. Unfortunately, we all agreed that priority lies in compiling data first.

Tim stated the problem is not the initial data creation but the updating of this data on a regular basis. Many of the data is changing often. Is it possible to have people at the local level check the validity? Make sure that you use the metadata to state the accuracy of the data and also used for liability. John stated that people will use the data whether it is good or bad. Should we place a confidence rating on the datasets within the metadata?

Pete mentioned it may take a long time to accrue accurate data.

Data Security came up too. Aaron said we may run into security within each field we publish. Can we give out that information? Peter acknowledged that it may be necessary for the EM managers to view that data. He followed with we may need a public set and a private set. We may have to send this topic up to a higher order.

As far as Data Compilation is concerned Aaron stated we could look at the DNR Firewise program and possibly teach Students/Locals to accrue data for us based off handheld GPS. We also have an option, with funding, to have the data compiled with a third party like LMIC. There are no federal or local funds at the moment.

LMIC has standards and the Metadata has to be compiled first before publishing. MetroGIS is the same. It may be wise to get John Hoshal or John Ranstrom from LMIC to join the group for advice in this area.

Make sure we have a disclaimer.

Aaron also said we should also push the PCA to get their data spatial.

Symbology

Keith will email out symbology for all to review.

Keith will check into information on the Font for symbology. Our group will try to adopt the standards of National Homeland Security. We will also try to acquire the font. There may be more bitmaps we require.

ArcIMS 2 MetroGIS

Matt McGuire, Todd Lusk and I will sit down together in January to spec out the ArcIMS site on MetroGIS. This will include protocols from MetroGIS involving source, security and process.

Data Layers

It was decided to see what we can use off of the LMIC site and place on MetroGIS EM as soon as possible. The SNS group will do their best compiling their layers. Keith will tackle the PSAP datasets and E911. Aaron volunteered for the MES datasets coming from the Pollution Control data source. All EM datasets will comply with the MetroGIS coordinate system

Thanks to Aaron for a jump start by bring the LMIC spatial data list.

Conclusion

I thanked all attendees and stressed that I will need their input, positive and negative, in order for the MetroGIS EM Workgroup to be successful. Due to the Holiday schedule, in combination with the next Committee meeting at the end of January, another Face-to-Face sub group meeting is unlikely. I feel that with the total amount of work we have will spill into the middle of January and the ArcIMS meeting with MetroGIS will be enough prior to meeting with Randy again. I will

be sending all of you many emails within the sub group on task lists, results and information we have gathered. Tell your inbox to get prepared.

If a sit down meeting is required prior to the end of January, I am open to that but I feel we are all better served with email correspondence at this time. Let me know if you feel otherwise.

I will be sending out the proposed Task items and dataset priorities next.

Regards,

Keith
