

**MetroGIS Emergency Preparedness Workgroup
Steering Committee**

Meeting Summary

March 24, 2004

**Dakota County Northern Service Center, Room 310
West St. Paul, MN**

Attendees: Randy Knippel, Dakota County
Tim Zimmerman, Hennepin County
Keith Anderson, LOGIS
Chad Bergo, City of Maplewood

Agenda:

1. Recap and discussion on Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference
 2. Recap and discussion on Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting
 3. Roundtable report and discussion on each focus area
 4. Strategize next steps
 5. Next meeting
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1. Randy and Tim attended the Conference. Tim staffed the booth for half a day. Randy gave a presentation with David Windle (City of Roseville). Carla and Rick Gelbmann also attended and staffed the booth. They also sit on the GCGI Emergency Preparedness Committee, which had several other members in attendance as well. Approximately 125 people attended the presentation in two sessions. Randy's presentation contained general information followed by David with detailed examples from the city. The presentations were well received and were followed with many questions. One observation was that there were several comments to the effect that they would really like to use GIS, but either don't have the expertise or resources to do so. There were two vendors with a GIS focus in the demonstration area including Pictometry (www.pictometry.com) and E-Maps (www.digitalcorp.com).
 2. Randy attended the GCGI Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting in the morning. Their emphasis right now is on developing an inventory of GIS data and activities related to Emergency Preparedness. They also have a graduate student who is very interested in helping with a website and contact database. Randy suggested that the MetroGIS workgroup and GCGI committee work closely on developing those materials and suggest that Chad Bergo and Carla Coates work closely with Matt McGuire and James Beal to build them to serve both purposes.
 3. Tim reported on activities related to supporting the Metrowide Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan. Tim has been working with Todd Lusk from Dakota County. Tim and Todd attended an SNS planning retreat sponsored by the BioTerrorism (BT) grant coordinators. Over 40 people were in attendance including public health professionals and emergency managers. They are in the process of identifying 24 mass dispensing sites which will meet the regional need, and will probably be a subset of the smallpox vaccination sites identified last year. They are also talking to the collar counties due to the potential for overlap in required services. Randy mentioned that Dakota County Public Health Department will be conducting an exercise of a mass dispensing site by

providing routine vaccinations at two junior high schools in Burnsville. Burnsville public safety personnel will observe. Dakota County GIS will provide site maps to assist with discussions of traffic flow and parking.

4. Chad has recently accepted the role of chair of the GIS outreach focus group given Dave Brandt's inability to continue. There are currently no members of this focus group. Chad is aware of the mission of this focus area and will be reviewing the online database that was created last fall and making follow-up contacts with Steve Fester. He will also be meeting with James Beal from the ICGI Emergency Preparedness Committee to discuss outreach collaboration and related websites. The focus will be on developing a website followed by leveraging the GIS/LIS outreach opportunities through their e-news and newsletter.
5. Keith reported that they have assembled a number of data sets. Todd Lusk (Dakota County), and Matt McGuire (Met. Council) have been doing most of the work to this point. Their priorities were adjusted to accommodate the SNS Planning efforts. The ArcIMS website is up and running. They will now focus on developing metadata and validation of the existing data but do not have adequate resources to do so. After discussion, it was decided that they will leverage the county data resources as a focal point for data verification and cleanup. Randy will discuss this with the County Data Producer Workgroup.
6. Randy reported that Carla has been talking to Kim Ketterhagen regularly and was instrumental in setting up the Emergency Managers Conference for us. She will also be coordinating with James Beal on website development. Randy also reported that we are in need of people to write articles for Kim's newsletter. He made the same plea at the GCGI Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting.
7. Meetings will continue to be held on a bi-monthly basis on or about the fourth Wednesday, to prevent interference with activities of the focus groups. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 from 1:30 – 3:30, at the Dakota County Northern Service Center in West St. Paul, room 310.