



**Address Workgroup
Wednesday, July 9, 2008
9:00 A.M - 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Summary**

Members Attending: Bob Basques (City of St. Paul); Gordon Chinander (Metropolitan Emergency Services Board); Tim Gladhill (City of Ramsey); Peter Henschel (Carver County); Deb Jones (Falcon Heights); Joel Koepp (City of Roseville); Curt Peterson (Ramsey County); Nancy Read (Metropolitan Mosquito Control District); Lyn Rohe and Jim Bunning (Scott County); Todd Sieben and David Brandt (Washington County); John Slusarczyk (Anoka County); Kent Tupper (Dakota County); Matt McGuire (Metropolitan Council)

Members Absent: Ben Verbick (LOGIS); Jeff Gottstein (Woodbury Police Department)

Staff Present: Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council)

Meeting facilitated by Mark Kotz. Notes by Nancy Read and Matt McGuire.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kotz welcomed everyone. All introduced themselves.

2. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Update on Geocoder Project

Nancy Read reported the web service is up and running, hosted at LMIC. Funding from MetroGIS was used to hire a contractor for programming, who adapted the existing PAGC batch geocoder to run as a service, set up the Metro Parcels and TLG streets for use in the geocoder, and wrote documentation. The service is being used by several active applications, including MMCD's customer call system [and DNR's LandView]. Scott County has a couple of things in the works. Met council is working on a SOAP interface to make it easier to use in dotNet apps. The Geocoder Team is monitoring any changes that are needed and finishing up with the programmer and with local adjustments. Please contact a team member if you have suggestions or check our project web site, www.metrogis.org/data/apps/geocoder

4. Update on Synchronizer Project

Pete Henschel reported this project (funded & contracted last year) fell behind, but they plan to do a detailed design doc by mid-August, and hope to have an implementation by November including source code. The contract includes 5 hours for Carver staff to work with each other county to help set up and support. The synchronizer was originally designed to

test synching ArcSDE to SQL databases, but it should be able to be modified to use other databases as well through XML. [more about this when specs are available]

5. Preliminary Address Points database:

Mark Kotz described current status for a preliminary db to use as a working example for testing (NOT for distribution, just use within workgroup). He is starting with County PIN Points, other communities can send in data as well. Most counties indicated they had something started for points, but the format was still the parcel format, not parsed into address parts. Dakota, Scott and Carver have parcel centroids and some points beyond parcels (trailer parks, etc.); Scott and Carver have some data in Address Standard format.

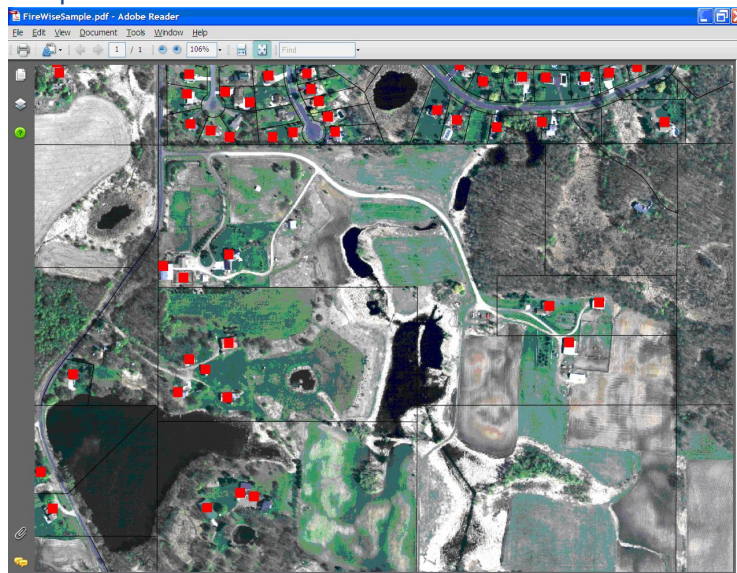
6. Web Editing Application project:

MetroGIS is providing funding of \$13,500 (approved by Policy Bd. 7/23/08). Nancy submitted the proposal to include funds for both project management and prototype development. We need a sub group should to come up with an initial RFP, work with the project manager to develop detailed specifications, and review the prototype. Subgroup should have members from both counties & cities. Everyone attending this meeting volunteered to be on the subgroup (except Jim Bunning, who is deferring Scott Co. representation to others)

Examples of other web editing programs:

- Sacramento center line editing program for cities to county (NR); uses ArcIMS (RangeEdit – see article in <http://www.esri.com/news/arcuser/1005/hsportal.html>)
- Google allows address marker edit (Josh) <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2007/11/think-globally-mark-locally.html>
- Firewise (Dave Brandt) – point edit tool using MapServer; has a lot of data (16,000 points in 2002) not all accurate. The link to “how to add a feature” is at http://maps.dnr.state.mn.us/CWPP/images/f/fd/Firewise_Level_1_Assessments_in_JavaMaps.pdf

Sample of data:



Some issues raised in the past were raised again:

- Floor level/elevation issue? – Our standard allows including floor level as an attribute of point; up to address authority whether/how to fill, guideline is to use what's marked in the building
- Where to put the Address Point, in rural areas good to have points on buildings for emergency responders? GC- right now responders don't usually have digital maps, only dispatchers.
- Multiple address points for one address? – Our standard does not have the capacity to store multiple points for a single address. [is that explicitly in standard?]
- Postal city vs site, other postal standards? – this is intended as a site address database, not a mailing address database, postal standard is not a data standard (but Gordy noted NENA has decided to accept the postal standards except for community name and Rural Route). [ed. note: will need to watch for intended uses]

General Specifications:

1. What does a city want to be able to see and do?
 - a. Many in a city will use for view only or use reports/labels, few edit
 - b. Edit point locations – some changes don't take effect until review, may need versioning or verification
 - c. Some users may edit attributes but not location
 - d. Establish who has authorization to change a record (which city/authority, who in city/authority, mass changes for annexations) and what attributes (including location) they can change
 - e. Street Centerlines– (view only for this app) use streets from county (as service) or local copy at app host location (if licensed?) or other service [note – how will this work for new streets?] [with street names – who handles new street names?]
 - f. Parcels – (view only) same as streets (service or local, may need IP address lock)
 - g. Preliminary plats – maybe as WMS (to maintain currency)
 - h. Aerial photos – can cities see county photos? (license issue...?) use WMS
 - i. App should consume any services available; if services are restricted by IP address, app needs to handle that
 - j. Check report from URS study for more city comments
2. Database design (that app will hit)
 - a. Build on our Address Points data standard -Probably will be close to national standard when that is finalized
 - b. Data content – store everything spelled out, not abbreviated. GC- NENA prefers abbreviations? This is a data standard, can adjust when transferring. This is an XML data transfer standard (??)
 - c. Synch all data nightly (to/from regional & intermediate sources)
 - d. Split or aggregated? Hit something at least county-wide? Or work on local and view entire regional? (as long as have XML transfer to synchronize parts)
 - e. Target users are cities with little in-house, so hitting county db good, but not all counties can host this (on their own servers), could do a central host with a “wrapper” that looks like a county

3. Edit process
 - a. Assign unique ID when point added – GNIS+ local ID - if local authority doesn't have a way to create ID, system needs to be able to [maybe it should check anyway?], Note that GNIS in unique ID is that when point added, persistent, stays same even if actual GNIS changes (no “intelligence”). Important KEY for synch. (note – do all address authorities have a GNIS code?)
 - b. Look for OGC standards for synch, transfer, lock; metadata about create, read, update, delete, item ID; additional data (in Address Standards format)
 - c. Build address-edit component as a stand-alone service – takes create, update, delete commands and data, and returns XML of data; possibly include authentication. Build as reusable component that can be used in other clients.
4. Could it / should it be Open Source?
 - a. Start with specifications, see what solution makes sense
 - b. If running as a service, doesn't matter, but if we want the application to be redistributable, makes a difference.
 - c. In any case, (authorized) users should be able to get at the data they want through a transfer and use copies in whatever system they use
 - d. The choice of who is hosting may make a difference (licenses, expertise)

Next Steps:

- Mark K. will set up a subgroup meeting for August [Set as Mon. Aug. 25, 1:00 pm]
- NR write up notes and NR & MK start draft RFP for subgroup to review and edit by August meeting
- Goal: have a contract out and RFP awarded by October.