



Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data

TO: Coordinating Committee

FROM: MetroGIS Support Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Information Sharing

DATE: March 17
(For the Mar 31st Meeting)

a) Certificate of Appreciation – Retired Member Aichinger

Cliff Aichinger resigned for the Coordinating Committee this past December. He was a charter member of the Coordinating Committee and participated in the December 1995 Strategic Planning Forum that launched MetroGIS. The attached Certificate of Appreciation was given to Cliff following the January Policy Board meeting. Ned Phillips, with the Rice Creek Watershed District, will be replacing Cliff on the Committee.

b) Presentations / Outreach / Studies *(not mentioned elsewhere)*

The following activities occurred since the Policy Board last met.

- 2003 MetroGIS Annual Report
- Article Published in Winter Issue of GIS/LIS Newsletter
- Keynote – Western Michigan GIS Conference – June 10th.
- Update on County-GIS Based User Group Activities

2003 MetroGIS Annual Report

During the first week in March, notice of MetroGIS's 2003 Annual Report was distributed to approximately 1900 persons – 900 by email notice (300 more than last year) and 950 by mail. Another printed 50 copies were hand delivered or mailed to members of the Policy Board, Coordinating Committee and Metropolitan Council. Beginning with last year's report, we switched from mailing the report to relying on the Internet as the primary means for distribution, substantially reducing distribution and printing costs. Extra copies of the report and brochure are available upon request.

Article Published in Fall Issue of GIS/LIS Newsletter

Four articles summarizing major MetroGIS activities, since the last newsletter, were submitted for the Spring 2004 issue. They can be viewed <http://www.mngis.org> (go to newsletter –current).

Keynote Speaker – Western Michigan Regional GIS Conference.

The Staff Coordinator has agreed to present the keynote address at a June 10th conference hosted by REGIS (<http://www.gvmc-regis.org>), an Agency of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC). GVMC is located in western Michigan. REGIS, an acronym for "Regional Geographic Information System," provides a common database, infrastructure, and suite of applications used for spatial data management for its members. The conference theme is how GIS technology can be used to effectively facilitate collaboration necessary to address regional/issues that cross county boundaries related to growth and development, improving the quality of life, and coordinating governmental services.

Information Sharing via County-GIS Based User Groups

See Item "f"

c) **State Geospatial Initiatives Update**

1) **Contract with Syncline to Expand DataFinder Café Statewide**

See Agenda Item 6C.

- 2) **GCGI Updating Website** - The Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) is updating its website at www.gis.state.mn.us. According to GCGI staff, "The look of the site has changed already and our intention is to make it more useful to users. Current users are the general public and the GIS professional. We want to add IT professionals as a major client, to help build GIS/IT relations."

d) **Federal/National Geospatial Initiatives Update**

- 1) **SALIS Journal Article** - The December 2003 SALIS Journal (Surveying & Land Information Science) was a special issue on "Cadastral Development and Issues in the U.S." The issue shows the importance of parcel mapping and makes it clear that MetroGIS is on the cutting edge of this area. The lead article was co-authored by Will Craig, immediate past chair of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee. For a full list of articles, along with abstracts, see <http://www.acsm.net/salisdec03.html>

- 2) **Congressional Breakfast** - The University Consortium for GIS held its annual Congressional Breakfast on February 5 in the Rayburn Building. Seven speakers presented research results showing the value of GIS for Homeland Security. Shashi Shekhar, Computer Science at the University of Minnesota, showed a real-time system for managing evacuation -- with the example of the Monticello nuclear power plant. Thirty congressional staff people were in attendance, including those from Minnesota. For more details, see <http://www.ucgis.org/winter2004/program.htm>.

- 3) **The National Map (TNM)** – TNM is currently using four Web Mapping Services distributed via MetroGIS DataFinder. They are: Functional Class Roads, Major Highways, Hiawatha Corridor Light Rail Line, and County Boundaries. USGS's Cooperative Topographic Mapping (CTM) Program has asked MetroGIS staff to complete a survey, along with many other state/local contacts throughout the country, to provide input regarding The National Map.

- 4) **I-Teams** - The Staff Coordinator and David Arbeit, with LMIC, are serving on a Minnesota Governor's Council Committee responsible for consolidating all of Minnesota's individual, theme-based I-Plans in a document that sets forth a cohesive strategy to guide investments in geospatial technology and data within Minnesota. Plans for the 8 data themes are in various stages of completion. A draft "wrapper" document is being drafted by the workgroup. The target is to consolidate all of the individual I-Plans into a single document for submission to the federal Office of Management and Budget in early 2004. The document will also include a strategy for next steps by Minnesota interests necessary to achieve the vision.

- 5) **Upcoming grant announcement for geospatial data activities**- A new grant program announcement will combine ongoing efforts of the FGDC GeoSpatial One Stop (GOS) and the USGS. Components of the announcement will include FGDC Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) funding for "traditional" metadata activities and new web mapping services, GOS efforts related to Framework data services, and USGS implementation efforts for The National Map. The grant announcement is scheduled for mid-March via the grants.gov website.

- 6) **2004 USGS Central Region State Mapping Workshop** - This biennial workshop is designed to provide information about USGS mapping-related activities and programs. It will be held in conjunction with the Mid-America GIS Consortium Symposium April 18-22 in Kansas City, MO.

e) **County-based GIS User Group Activity**

On March 1st, each County-based GIS User Group was invited to share information with the Coordinating Committee about their respective activities. No responses were received.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

presented to

Cliff Aichinger

Ramsey-Washington-Metro Watershed District

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the development and realization of the MetroGIS vision. You distinguished yourself as a willing and active participant of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee and several special-purpose workgroups from December 1995 to December 2003.

Your dedication to acceptance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology as a standard business tool of government throughout the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area has helped to bring together the MetroGIS stakeholder community to improve the way we share and use geospatial information.

On behalf of the MetroGIS community, thank you for your valued contributions and we wish you the best in your next endeavors.

January 2004

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair
MetroGIS Policy Board

Jane Harper, Chair
MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator