

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Coordinating Committee
MN Counties Insurance Trust Bldg. – Board Room
June 25, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Wakefield called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. asked the two newest members - Ben Verbick (LOGIS) and Mike Fiebiger (Ramsey County) - to introduce themselves. She then asked the others in attendance to introduce themselves.

Chairperson Wakefield then read aloud a Certificate of Appreciation for retiring Member Claypool and presented the certificate (Attachment A) to him.

Members Present: *Academics:* Jeff Matson for Will Craig (U of M); *Counties:* Peter Henschel (Carver), Bill Brown (Hennepin), Jim Bunning (Scott); Charlie Teff for John Slusarczyk (Anoka), David Claypool and Mike Fiebiger (Ramsey), and David Brandt for Jane Harper (Washington); *Federal:* Ron Wencil (USGS); *GIS Consultants:* Larry Charboneau (NCompass Technologies), *Metropolitan:* *Metropolitan:* Amanda Nyren for David Bitner (Metropolitan Airports Commission), Rick Gelbmann and Mark Vander Schaaf (Metropolitan Council), and Nancy Read (Metropolitan Mosquito Control District) by phone; *Non-Profits:* Sally Wakefield (1000 Friends of Minnesota); *Special Expertise:* Brad Henry (URS Corp.), *State:* Bart Richardson for Tim Loesch (DNR) and Liesa Miller for Joella Givens (MN/DOT) *and Utilities:* Allan Radke (Xcel Energy).

Members Absent: *Business Geographics:* (Vacant); *Cities:* Jim Engfer (AMM: core cities - City of St. Paul) and Bob Owens for Harold Busch (AMM: suburban cities - City of Bloomington); *Counties:* Randy Knippel (Dakota); Gordon Chinander (Metropolitan Emergency Services Board); *Schools:* Dick Carlstrom; *State:* David Arbeit (GDA/LMIC); and *Watershed/Water Management Organizations:* Mark Doneux, Capital Region Watershed District.

Open Seats: *Business Geographics and Non-Profits*

Support Staff: Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator

Visitors: Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council and member of the Technical Leadership Workgroup), Bob Basques (City of St. Paul), Matt McGuire (Metropolitan Council), and David Fawcett (Mn Pollution Control Agency).

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

Vice Chair Henschel moved and Alternate Member Brandt seconded to approve the agenda, as submitted with the exception of adding an Item 5f – Change the December 2009 meeting date. Motion carried, ayes all.

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

Member Brown agreed to submit a rewording of a reference made to ongoing work by Hennepin County. Member Henry moved and Member Charboneau seconded to approve the March 25, 2009 meeting summary, subject to inclusion of the modification desired by Member Brown. Motion carried, ayes all.

4. SUMMARY OF APRIL POLICY BOARD MEETING

The Staff Coordinator commented the two main topics considered at the Board's April meeting were: 1) election of new officers (Mayor Terry Schneider, City Minnetonka as Chair and Commissioner Egan, Dakota County, as Vice Chair. 2) Learn about the proposed statewide coordinating legislation that became law in May. No questions or comments were offered.

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) **Regional Web Service/Application Solutions– TLW Recommendations**

Mark Kotz, Chairperson of the Technical Leadership Workgroup (TLW), provided background information on the Workgroup's process to evaluate the four project proposals that had been submitted – Best Image Service, Enhancements to the previously funded Regional Geocoder Service, Proximity Finder and a Contest to catalyze identification of shared application needs. He noted that the initial proposals totaled \$76,500 and, as such, the proposers had each been asked if they could reduce the scope of their proposals. Ultimately, three proposals, totaling \$35,000, were recommended for funding. Kotz commented that the Workgroup also concluded that the fourth proposal - Contest to catalyze identification of shared application needs - was premature to pursue in 2009 but emphasized that the group unanimously felt this proposal was the most interesting of the four submitted and had the most potential to catalyze innovation.

Kotz then summarized the key points of each proposal recommended for funding for Committee comment.

Best Image Service (\$15,250). Kotz noted that each faction represented at the November Needs Identification Workshop had identified this service as a need and commented that it would be valuable to their respective organizations. The purpose of the proposed service was clarified to be that of providing a background image layer for web-based applications, principally serving a cartographic function. All concurred that its existence would greatly simplify development of applications for which background imagery is desired. The members also recognized that mixing and matching of spatial accuracies to incorporate best available imagery for varying geographic extents was not a concern, given the primary purpose is a background data layer and not support of analytics. The question of “up time” reliability was raised. The proposers noted that they were aware of the importance of this factor but had not as yet addressed it. Kotz added that addressing “reliability and trust” expectations of web-service delivery is a charge previously identified as a key need delegated to the Technical Leadership Workgroup to address.

Enhancement of Regional Geocoder Service (\$1,000). The purpose of this proposal is to improve how the current geocoder application works with local data. Member Read, the lead proposer, explained that the reduction from the initially proposed \$7,500 to \$1,000 was, in large part, to recognize windows of opportunity that could be addressed with the other three proposals. No other questions were asked of the proposer.

Feature Services Contest. Kotz noted that the proposed contest is modeled after a successful venture by Washington DC whereby a \$50,000 (\$35,000 for awards and \$15,000 to hire a firm to administer the contest) investment resulted in the development to over \$2 million worth of applications. According to Kotz, the members of the Technical Leadership Workgroup agreed that this is the most interesting project proposal received and that it holds a good deal of promise to help MetroGIS define partnering opportunities and promote the development of web services. David Fawcett, representing the project team, noted that partnering to share the costs of the contest seemed to be the best approach and that the contest could serve as a valuable mechanism to promote the value possible of producers making their data available via web service technology.

Kotz stated the recommendation of the Technical Leadership Workgroup is that MetroGIS pursue this idea but not until 2010 to provide adequate time to ramp up to it right. The appropriateness of using the Council's funding was also questioned. In response, David Fawcett, representing the project proposers, commented that no assumption had been made that the Council's funds would be the only source of funding.

Member Charboneau noted that he believed this idea had great promise to engage private sector involvement. The Staff Coordinator added that the concept also presented an opportunity to begin to better understand the benefits of public organizations contributing data to a geospatial commons that is of value to private sector interests to access to run in applications who in turn make the applications available to the public providing value to the community.

The members concurred that concept approval should be sought from the Policy Board at the July meeting and that, if received, this idea should be pursued as a 2010 work objective as suggested by the Technical Leadership Workgroup.

Proximity Finder (\$18,750). Kotz and Bob Basques, representing the project team, commented that this proposal is by far the most complicated, involving not only technical design, application prototyping, and operational policies and procedures but also outreach to encourage producers to “push” their data to the application and users to define their needs, the latter two being the most challenging. Basques noted that once operational, this service would likely catalyze improved interoperability, completeness and accuracy of the underlying data. Kotz remarked that this result could catalyze work to accomplish regionally endorsed solutions for water management and school district boundaries, long standing priority needs of the MetroGIS community. Member Gelbmann added that this service might also catalyze leveraging of Web 2.0 technology.

Kotz concluded his remarks by restating the recommendation of the Technical Leadership Workgroup to: 1) seek concept approval from the Policy Board for the proposed Feature Service Contest and pursue as a 2010 initiative and 2) that the Policy Board recommend funding the other three proposals as 2009 projects as follows: Proximity Finder (\$18,750), Best Image Service (\$15,250), and Enhancement of Regional Geocoder Service (\$1,000) for a total of \$35,000.

Motion: Member Vander Schaaf moved and Member Charboneau seconded that the Coordinating Committee:

- 1) Find that each project for which this funding is sought will address an application/ web service need that has value across sectors in accordance with the “shared application needs” objective set forth in the 2008-2011 MetroGIS Business Plan.
- 2) Recommend that the Policy Board endorse the Technical Leadership Workgroup’s recommendation to fund the projects specified herein, totaling up to \$35,000, and constituting of the 2009 Regional GIS Projects program.
- 3) Understand and discuss the idea of a web feature services contest and bring the idea to the Policy Board for discussion.

Motion carried, ayes all.

b) 2008 Performance Measurement Report

The Staff Coordinator summarized the key points outlined in the agenda report, noting that resources were not available until this past May to compile the data for the metrics until May. He also noted a primary driver to for producing the report was to provide additional trend-based information for the Performance Measurement Plan Update project that began late May.

Member Charboneau offered that the proposed stakeholder survey should include a question something like “Describe the impact on your organization, if “X” service were no longer available” as a means to better under current value provided. Member Verbick asked how the term “stakeholder” would be defined for purposes of a survey. The Staff Coordinator responded that these questions would be among the first to be defined once the Policy Board agrees that the proposed survey should be undertaken. It was agreed that the definition of stakeholder includes multiple facets.

Motion: Member Verbick moved and Alternate Member Brandt seconded to recommend that the Policy Board accept the 2008 Performance Measurement Report, dated May 26 and as presented to the Committee. Motion carried, ayes all.

c) 2009 Program Objectives – Mid-Year Evaluation of Priorities

The Staff Coordinator summarized the key points outlined in the agenda report. No questions were asked. The Committee accepted staff’s recommended refinements to the adopted 2009 program objectives, as summarized in Attachment E (page 36) of the agenda packet.

d) GIS Demonstration for July Policy Board meeting

Member Verbick noted that he would be willing to make a presentation about how GIS technology is leveraged by the cities served by LOGIS, as had been requested by Policy Board Chair Schneider.

Alternate Member Brandt moved and Member Charboneau seconded to accept Member Verbick's offer. Motion carried, ayes all.

e) Open Business Geographics and Non-Profit Committee Seats

Chairperson Wakefield introduced this topic. She suggested that a "sector-based" representative should be considered, as opposed to the current focus on a "non-profit" representative. Two individuals were identified as potential candidates – Paul Wickman of North Star Geographics and Eric Moyett, with the University of Minnesota. The group acknowledged that the University is a broadly diverse organization and that affiliates should not necessarily be categorized as academics. All agreed that the objective is to add to the diversity of perspectives represented on the committee and not to focus on selecting someone from a particular sector. Staff commented that MetroGIS might want to host a forum focused on non-profit interests to define shared geospatial information needs to compliment the previously agreed upon object to define partnerships with the for-profit community.

No action was taken.

f) Change December Meeting Date

The group agreed to change the December date from the 10th to the 17th.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

There was no discussion of the items presented in the agenda materials.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

There was no discussion of the items presented in the agenda materials.

8. ADJOURN

Member Charboneau moved and Member Radke seconded to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by,

Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

David Claypool **Ramsey County**

Thank you for your invaluable contributions and leadership that have been critical to realizing the vision that grounds MetroGIS's efforts - "*organizations serving the Twin Cities metropolitan area are successfully collaborating to use geographic information technology to solve real world problems*".

Your professional skill, tireless enthusiasm, and dedication to achieving acceptance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology as a standard business tool of government, the vast additional efficiencies that can be achieved through its collaborative use; and advocacy for widespread access to geospatial data that is produced by the government community have greatly benefited our region and its citizens.

You have distinguished yourself as a willing participant serving as the first and only Ramsey County representative to the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee from December 1995 to June 2009, holding the leadership position of Committee vice chair from 1998-2001.

On behalf of the MetroGIS Policy Board, Coordinating Committee, and the broader MetroGIS community that their members represent, thank you for your valued contributions and leadership.

June 2009

Terry Schneider, Chair
MetroGIS Policy Board

Sally Wakefield, Chair
MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator