

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Policy Board
Room 1A, Metropolitan Council's Mears Park Offices
April 28, 2004

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Kordiak called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Members Present: Gary Delaney (Carver County), Terry Schneider (AMM- City of Minnetonka), William Brown for Randy Johnson (Hennepin County), Jim Kordiak (Anoka County); Bob Vogel (Scott County), Molly O'Rourke for Dennis Hegberg (Washington County), Dick Carlstrom for Antoinette Johns (TIES), Conrad Fiskness (Metro Watershed Districts), and Tony Pistilli (Metropolitan Council).

Members Absent: Patrice Bataglia (Dakota County), Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey County), and Gary Schiff (AMM-City of Minneapolis).

Coordinating Committee Members Present: David Arbeit, Dave Drealan, Rick Gelbmann, Brad Henry, Randy Knippel, and Nancy Pollock.

Visitors: Pete Eggimann (Metropolitan 911 Board)

Support Staff: Randall Johnson

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

The meeting agenda was accepted as submitted

3. MEETING SUMMARY

Member Fiskness moved and Member Delaney seconded to accept the January 28, 2004 meeting summary as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

4. GIS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION: Metropolitan 911 Board / MetroGIS Collaboration

Nancy Pollock, Executive Director for the Metropolitan 911 Board, and Pete Eggimann, the Board's Technical Operations Director, summarized an ambitious initiative to integrate, in a coordinated manner, GIS technology into the day-to-day operations of the 27 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that serve the seven-county, Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. (A PDF version of the PowerPoint presentation can be viewed at www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/042804/911.pdf.)

Pollock noted that Metro 911 Board is a joint powers collaboration of the seven metro area counties and that it is regarded as one of the premier organizations of its type in the country. She also noted that she and Pete immediately sought out advice from the MetroGIS staff once they recognized that GIS technology is the only option to effectively serve wireless callers with requested emergency dispatching services. When the desired GIS capability is fully implemented, all of the metropolitan area PSAPs will be able to accurately locate 911 callers, incident locations, and emergency responders. They will also have this ability even when the location in question is outside of their immediate jurisdictional boundary. And, this ability will allow for faster, more accurate emergency responses than are currently possible, making better use of the limited public safety resources and the associated tax dollars, and making multi-jurisdictional incidents easier to identify and manage.

Eggimann explained the three options considered to provide the PSAPs with the necessary GIS functionality. The 911 Board quickly concluded that collaboration with MetroGIS to leverage significant existing investments in regional data solutions and the trusted process for establishing related multi-participant policy and procedures was, by far, the most cost-efficient option to pursue. The cost for the option that is in the process of implementation is estimated to involve a one-time start up expense of around \$100,000 plus an

annual operating expense of about \$100,000. The other options ranged from a one-time start of \$600,000 to \$1.8 million and annual operating costs of \$160,000 to \$300,000. Neither of the other options would have leveraged existing investment in regional datasets valuable to the 911 Board and both would have involved duplication of current data maintenance efforts.

Eggimann then summarized benefits to the 911 Board beyond the obvious cost savings of the proposed collaboration with MetroGIS, which included overall more accurate, current data for everyone involved through standardized error correction methods and interoperability of systems. He concluded by thanking the MetroGIS organization for accomplishments both in terms of data and cooperative relationships that have been fostered and willingness of the staff to work with the 911 community.

In response to a question from O'Rourke, Eggimann commented that if they have data needs that MetroGIS has not recognized as priorities, the 911 Board is hoping that MetroGIS resources can be tapped if a satisfactory case can be made. If not, the 911 Board understands, that like any other MetroGIS stakeholder, if they have data needs that are not priorities of others they will need to address that need on their own.

In response to question from Vice Chairperson Kordiak, Pollock commented that the wireless providers have generally been responsive to providing the location of their antenna locations to the 911 Board but they have been reluctant to provide accurate information about the coverage areas. Eggimann noted that in 2005 deadlines will come due to market penetration milestones for GPS equipped handsets and that if the current pace is any indication, the providers will probably need to give away phones to meet these requirements.

In response to a question from Vogel, Eggimann commented that they do not expect technology changes to change the current two options to receive emergency calls – land line and via coordinates for wireless devices. The coordinates are however expected to become more sophisticated and include “z” values (elevation).

Vice Chairperson Kordiak reiterated that public safety / E911 matters are extremely important to organizations represented on the Policy Board and noted that he looks forward to following the progress of the 911 Board's project and wished them well as the project unfolds.

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Election of Officers for 2004

Member Schneider moved and Alternate Member O'Rourke seconded to maintain the status quo and reelect Victoria Reinhardt to serve as Chairperson and Jim Kordiak to serve as Vice Chairperson for the coming year. No further nominations were offered. Motion carried, ayes all.

d) 2005 MetroGIS Funding Request and Budget

Coordinating Committee Chairperson Harper summarized the Committee's recommendation that the Policy Board approve 2005 MetroGIS funding request as presented in the agenda materials and authorize staff to submit it to the Metropolitan Council for consideration.

Harper commented that the request would maintain the same level of support approved for 2004 (3 FTEs and \$86,000 in non-staff funding). She also stated that this level of funding would be sufficient to support MetroGIS's three core functions.

Vice-Chairperson Kordiak mentioned that the funding request before the Policy Board does not include the value of the data or human resources that are being contributed to MetroGIS's activities and endeavors by a wide variety of stakeholders. Staff further commented that no amount of funding from the Council would be able to ensure the realization of MetroGIS's data sharing objectives without these critical data resource and human resource contributions. Harper commented that over the years MetroGIS has restructured its workgroups to improve operational efficiencies to ensure that adequate progress is made without overtaxing the volunteer participants.

Member Vogel commented that, as a relatively new member of the Board, he would appreciate some background on how MetroGIS has established its priorities, which led to a comment from Member Fiskness that maybe it is time to revisit past priorities given the accomplishments that have been made over the past few years. Staff Coordinator Johnson briefly summarized the participatory processes that

were used to establish the initial priority information needs and function or service priorities. He also mentioned that the Coordinating Committee concurs with Member Fiskness's observation and will be bringing a proposal to the Board at its July meeting to host a workshop this fall to do just that – evaluate the current priorities and identify any new directions that MetroGIS should consider, such as applications to use MetroGIS-endorsed regional data solutions.

Member Schneider commented that the level budget from 2003 to 2005 does not concern him, provided we are able to accomplish priority functions. He noted that he believes that MetroGIS is close to achieving a critical mass whereby other entities will regularly choose to partner with MetroGIS to achieve common needs, such as the pending collaboration with the Metropolitan 911 Board (see Item 4). He noted that the challenges are to continually seek out ways to leverage other resources and to maintain a structure that allows MetroGIS to adapt quickly when such a partnership opportunity arises.

Member Pistilli moved and Member Fiskness seconded to direct staff to forward MetroGIS's 2005 budget request as presented in the agenda materials – 3 FTEs and \$86,000 in non-staff project funding -- to the Metropolitan Council for its approval. Motion carried, ayes all.

6. MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES (See the agenda materials for more information)

- a. Dave Drealan, Chair of the County Data Producers Workgroup, summarized the information presented the agenda packet. Staff updated the Board on the negotiations to execute the next generation data sharing agreements. A draft that addresses comments provided by all parties is expected to be distributed the week of May 3rd for hopefully final comment and approval.
- b. Randy Knippel, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup, updated the Board on the activities of the workgroup. Staff provided an update on the Address Workgroup and noted the importance to the E911 community of this effort.
- c. David Arbeit, Director of LMIC, commented on the collaborative efforts of LMIC and MetroGIS to expand the functionality of DataFinder and to migrate it the state's GeoIntegrator platform to enable sharing of maintenance expenses.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

The members were asked to review the information items presented in the agenda packet on their own.

8. NEXT MEETING

July 28, 2004. (The option of moving the meeting to August 4th was discussed but the membership elected to retain the regularly scheduled meeting on July 28th)

9. ADJOURN

The meeting concluded at 8:27 p.m.

Prepared by,
Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator