

**Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Policy Board
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Offices
October 22, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members Present: Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey County), Molly O'Rourke for Dennis Hegberg (Washington County), Gary Swenson for Randy Johnson (Hennepin County), Jim Kordiak (Anoka County), Tom Egan (Dakota County), Tony Pistilli (Metropolitan Council), Steve Elkins (Metro Cities – City of Bloomington), Terry Schneider (Metro Cities - City of Minnetonka), Dan Cook (School Districts - TIES), and Roger Lake (Metro Watershed Districts).

Members Absent: Jim Joseph Wagner (Scott County) and Tom Workman (Carver County)

Coordinating Committee Members Present: Rick Gelbmann, Randy Knippel, Nancy Read, Mark Vander Schaaf, and Gordy Chinander.

Support Staff: Randall Johnson and Jonathan Blake (MetroGIS Staff Support Team)

Visitors: Alison Rojas (University of Minnesota), Dave Hinrichs (Metropolitan Council), Carrie Mack (Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District), Dick Carlstrom (TIES), and Hazel Reinhardt (Demographic Consultant).

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

Member Kordiak moved and Member O'Rourke seconded to approve the proposed agenda, as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

3. MEETING SUMMARY

Member Egan moved and Member Kordiak seconded to approve the July 23, 2008 meeting summary, as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

4. GIS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

Regional Data Sets and Analysis of School District Housing Stock

Dick Carlstrom, GIS Coordinator with TIES and Coordinating Committee member, and Hazel Reinhardt, demographic consultant to school districts, used a housing study they had developed for the Osseo Area School District as a case study to demonstrate the value that school districts receive when they leverage the Regional Parcel Dataset and GIS technology for their decision making, in particular school census projections.

Carlstrom noted that studying the housing characteristics within a district (type, age, cost, and location) provides valuable insight to policy makers, a source of which is the Regional Parcel Dataset. Carlstrom and Reinhart then talked about three misconceptions that commonly are overcome when policy makers are presented with the actual facts; each of which resulting in fewer students than one would think the case. Refer the presentation slides at

http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/08_1022/4_Technology_Demo_Schools.ppt for the specifics).

They closed their presentation by thanking MetroGIS for its efforts to bring about the Regional Parcel Dataset.

In response to several questions from Board members, a wide ranging discussion ensued. It was recognized that the results of the case can also help cities evaluate impacts of alternative redevelopment strategies, leverage GIS technology to visualize the current housing situation and impacts of alternative action strategies. Member Cook offered that school districts can utilize this service even if not a member of TIES.

5. **Data Sharing / GIS Coordination Experience During the RNC**

Gordon Chinander, GIS Coordinator for the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board and member of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, was invited by Chairperson Reinhardt to talk about the GIS community's experience at the RNC. He began his comments by stating that this was the first time that local GIS capabilities had been invited by the federal establishment to participate in the on-site management of a major event of this type and that the commanders were so impressed that GIS related procedures implemented for support of the RNC will be used for future such events. MetroGIS's efforts were complemented in terms of: 1) establishing regional datasets – interoperability is critical; 2) fostering an environment where data sharing is valued and the norm; 3) establishment of communication links, establishment of a standard metro area coordinate system. (The slide presentation can be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/08_1022/5_slidesPolicyBoardRNC.ppt.)

Chinander commented that data licensing requirements required significant effort over a period of several weeks to work through; the point being that in times of emergencies the time horizon is minutes not weeks. He suggested that establishment of a 2-tier access scheme whereby emergency access is differentiated from other forms of access as strategy to resolve this problem. Chinander also commented on two other items for which this community could improve: 1) establish a better communication tree to make sure that everyone with a need to know is contacted and 2) improve the currency of framework emergency preparedness datasets. In response to comment from Vice-Chairperson Kordiak that the licensing concerns raised are within the purview of the counties to resolve, the members agreed that the Coordinating Committee should be asked to propose a recommended course of action. Others also concurred that the Committee should work with the Governor's Council on Geographic Information on this recommendation and that emergency managers from all forms of government should be involved in the evaluation of options and eventual recommendation.

Member Schneider also encouraged the Committee to investigate a legislative solution wherein the counties would receive the protections they are seeking via licensure and wherein the penalties for noncompliance are stipulated in state law.

Motion: Pistilli moved and Vice-Chairperson Kordiak seconded to direct the Coordinating Committee to recommend a course of action to resolve data access issues that arose in preparation for the RNC, specifically considering but not limited to the following outcomes (all options on the table):

- Creation of a 2-tier scheme in which emergency preparedness and response authorities have expedited access,
- Streamlining processes to obtain authority to access as well as physical access to the data,
- Consider a legislative solution that would provide the producers (e.g., counties for parcel data) with the protections they are seeking via licensure and wherein the penalties for noncompliance are stipulated in state law,
- Investigate if there is a more efficient means than the current licensure process to achieve the protections needed by the producers from government in non-emergencies and non-government entities.

Motion carried, ayes all.

6. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a) **Use of Uncommitted 2008 Regional GIS Project Funds**

Staff Coordinator Johnson presented the recommendation as outlined in the agenda report and summarized the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, including the finding that the subject expenditure was critical to the functioning of the Regional Geocoding Service as originally conceived

Motion: Member Pistilli moved and Member Egan seconded that the MetroGIS Policy Board concur that \$1,400 in 2008 Regional GIS Project program funds should be authorized to rectify unanticipated programming issues encountered during development of the 2007 Geocoder Service Project, on the basis that rectification of the subject unanticipated programming issues is critical to proper functioning of the Regional Geocoding Service with regional datasets, as originally conceived. Motion carried, ayes all.

b) Exploring Shared Needs with Non-Government Interests

Staff Coordinator Johnson provided context for the proposal and summarized the Coordinating Committee's recommendation to proceed as outlined in the agenda report. Member Schneider commented that to accomplish MetroGIS's goal of seeking out partnership opportunities with the private sector, the Policy Board needs to send the message that it is serious about pursuing collaborative solutions. He commented that he hoped that several individuals in the private sector will get serious and create a coordinating committee of their own to compliment and interact with the existing MetroGIS Coordinating Committee.

He went on to comment that the biggest obstacle to the success will be that the private sector thinks in terms of days and weeks not months and years. To overcome this difference of culture, the individuals involved will need to have a passion for achieving collaborative solutions to shared needs. If so, the road blocks should take care of themselves. Member Schneider also suggested that the dynamics of the conversations should be relied upon to define the test cases but okay to offer the land information system and emergency management themes as examples of the possible collaborative ventures.

All concurred that representatives from the utility and real estate sectors need to be involved. The utility interests have resources and understand the benefits of collaborating. Real estate interests have data but often lack the tools possessed by the geospatial community. Both situations possess collaboration potential.

Alternate Member Swenson commented that public-private partnerships are often wrought with concerns that some interests are treated differently than others or that a partnership with one entity results in a competition issue for another. Member Schneider responded by stating that these are valid concerns but should not distract MetroGIS from investigating possibilities. Coordinating Committee Read offered that with the increasing use of web services that physical access to data, for which an access fee is charged, may no longer be needed for non-government interests to obtain valuable information from these data. And as such, a valuable middle ground may already be in play.

The conversation then shifted to the topic of non-government access to parcel data for which a fee is currently charged. Member Schneider responded that the premise is that all parties will benefit from any collaborative solutions pursued. In the case of the counties, he reiterated that a value equal to any fees foregone would need to be apart of the package. Chairperson Reinhardt added that a quid-pro-quo philosophy is at the foundation of this proposal and that the Policy Board, in approving this proposal, would be committing only to talk with non-government interests.

Member Schneider concluded his remarks by conjecturing that the sharing opportunities might evolve to involving funding from state and federal government interests if the solutions result in regional or higher value.

Motion: That the Policy Board approve the methodology presented in Attachment A of the agenda report to explore potential collaborative solutions to shared information needs with non-government interests though bundling of capabilities (e.g., data, web services, applications, infrastructure, and support) across sectors.

Motion carried, ayes all.

c) 2009 Meeting Schedule

Staff Coordinator Johnson proved the following meeting dates for 2009: January 28, April 29, July 29, and October 28.

Motion: Member Pistilli moved and Member Elkins seconded to set the meeting dates for 2009 as presented in the agenda report. Motion carried, ayes all.

d) Leadership Development Plan

Jonathan Blake, member of the MetroGIS support team, summarized the purpose of the proposed plan and explained several of the key provisions. He was thanked for his excellent work on identifying the defining key elements that should be elaborated on in the subject plan.

Motion: Member Pistilli moved and Vice Chairperson Kordiak seconded to approve the proposed key elements upon which to base a MetroGIS Leadership Development Plan listed in Attachment A of the agenda report, dated September 17, 2008. Motion carried, ayes all.

e) Mn Drive to Excellence: State Agency GIS Coordination

Fred Logman, member of the support team, updated the Board on the status of recommending a mechanism to ensure that State Agencies coordinate on matters related to use of GIS technology. He commented that a legislative proposal is expected to be available for review in late November through which a proposal will be made to achieve the desired coordination through assignment of cabinet level responsibility. This proposal will be submitted for consideration during the 2009 session. He also shared the results of the workshop held in June to obtain input from non-state agency stakeholders (see http://www.gis.state.mn.us/committee/MSDI/dte/D2E_stakeholder_nonstate_turnaround.pdf for the complete report).

Member Pistilli asked if the proposed legislation will build upon the accomplishments of MetroGIS, to which Chairperson Reinhardt, a member of the non-state-agency steering committee providing input to this initiative, stated that she personally has made sure that the MetroGIS experience has been taken into consideration.

Logman agreed to contact MetroGIS leadership when the pending legislative proposal is available for comment. The members agreed that this topic should be an action item at the January meeting, at which time the Policy Board would consider a recommendation concerning the proposed legislation.

6. MAJOR ACTIVITY UPDATES

There was no discussion of the items in this section of the agenda

7. INFORMATION SHARING

There was no discussion of the items in this section of the agenda.

Member Cook announced that this would likely be his last meeting as he is no longer a member of the Anoka Hennepin School District. He wished the group continued success.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2009.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Prepared by:
Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator