

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Policy Board
Metropolitan Counties Government Center
2099 University Avenue, St. Paul
April 29, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked each of the members and visitors to introduced themselves.

Members Present: Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey County), Molly O'Rourke for Dennis Hegberg (Washington County), Jim Kordiak (Anoka County), Tom Egan (Dakota County), William Brown for Randy Johnson (Hennepin County), Dave Hinrichs for 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: Randy Maluchnik (Carver County) and Jim Joseph Wagner (Scott County)

Coordinating Committee Members Present: Will Craig, Rick Gelbmann, Peter Henschel, Randy Knippel, Nancy Read, and Sally Wakefield.

Support Staff: Randall Johnson

Visitors: Mike Dolbow, (Co-Chair GCGI Strategic Planning Committee and GIS Manager Manger, Dept of Agriculture) and Lee Munich, Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, University of Minnesota)

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

Member Egan moved and Member Schneider seconded to approve agenda, as proposed. Motion carried, ayes all.

3. MEETING SUMMARY

Member Egan moved and Member Kordiak seconded to approve the January 28, 2009 meeting summary, as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

4. GIS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

Lee Munnich, Director of the University of Minnesota Humphrey Center's State and Local Policy Program provided an overview of the Safe Road Map Project, for which he serves as project manager. The Safe Road Map Project makes use of “mash-ups” of traffic accident data with Google’s map technology to provide a platform from which to engage the public in dealing with traffic safety policy issues. The online application that supports the mash-ups can be viewed at <http://www.saferoadmaps.org/home/index.htm>. Mr. Munnich closed his presentation with a demonstration of “hot spot” mapping of traffic fatalities that utilizes a GIS density mapping technique.

Member Elkins commented that this type of application requires standardized data formats across jurisdictions, noting that this does not happen without deliberate actions to achieve collaborative solutions such as those fostered by MetroGIS. The Staff Coordinator also noted that the question before the Board is to what extent should MetroGIS seek to define shared application needs and foster solutions to them in addition to regional solutions to shared data needs?

Mr. Munich’s presentation slides can be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/09_0429/4%20Presentation%20srm_v2.ppt.

Chairperson Reinhardt thanked Mr. Munnich for sharing this information with Board member, noting that the tool is clearly useful for better utilizing available data to improve policy making.

5. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Election of Officers for 2009

Chairperson Reinhardt introduced this topic by noting she remains interested in the work of MetroGIS and will remain active members but believes it is time for others to assume leadership of the Board. Vice Chairperson Kordiak concurred.

Motion: Chairperson Reinhardt called for nominations for the role of chairperson. Member Egan moved to nominate Member Schneider to serve as chairperson. Chairperson Reinhardt called for additional nominations three times. Hearing none, she closed the nominations. Motion passed, ayes all, to elect Members Schneider to serve as Chairperson for 2009.

Motion: Chairperson Reinhardt called for nominations for the role of vice chairperson. Member Kordiak moved to nominate Member Egan to serve as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Reinhardt called for additional nominations three times. Hearing none, she closed the nominations. Motion passed, ayes all, to elect Members Egan to serve as Chairperson for 2009.

The members thanked former Chairperson Reinhardt and Vice-Chairperson Kordiak for their service and providing critical leadership. Member Reinhardt noted that Chairperson Schneider had deferred to her to conduct the remainder of this meeting.

Certificates of Appreciation from the Coordinating Committee were presented to members Reinhardt and Kordiak by Coordinating Committee Chairperson Sally Wakefield and Vice-Chair Peter Henschel. Both members reiterated they have no intent to leave the Board, only to step down as leadership and thanked those involved for the recognition.

Chairperson Schneider asked Member Cook to clarify his status as the TIES representative to the Policy Board, as he had announced that the January meeting would be his last meeting. Member Cook commented that although he is no longer an official member of the TIES Board, the members invited him to continue to represent school districts on the MetroGIS Board because no one on the current Board felt they could had sufficient understanding of the technology relative the issues and opportunities that pertain to school districts.

b) Mn Drive to Excellence Initiative Update

David Arbeit, Director of the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis and project manager for this initiative, provided Board members with:

- A summary of milestone accomplishments, dating back to 2004, that set the stage for proposing legislation currently being considered by the Legislature to create a Mn Geospatial Information Office (MGIO).
- Brief highlights of the results of the investigation conducted by the project consultant team from which the components of the MGIO legislative recommendation were developed, most notably:
 - Upwards of \$20 million is invested annually in geospatial technology by state agencies and these investment have growing at an annual rate of 10-15 percent.
 - This study represents the first comprehensive inventory of how state agencies are using geospatial technology and what they would like to do but are not currently able to do so.
- A high-level overview of the objectives to be accomplished via creation of a MGIO, most prominently a vehicle to coordinate investments across state agencies.
- A progress update on the status of the proposed legislation (passed out of all committees in both houses required for a floor vote with only minor differences.
- Anticipated next steps, if the proposed legislation is enacted.

Alternate member Hinrichs asked about the staffing proposed for support the proposed functions. Arbeit commented that the consultant had estimated that 8 FTE will be needed to support the complete set of proposed functions, but that the proposed legislation does not include a funding request. The current Mn Land Management Information Center staff is expected to initially provide support to the extent possible.

A question from Chairperson Schneider about the composition of the statewide advisory body was deferred to the next presentation. No further questions were asked.

c) **GCGI Strategic Planning Committee: Governance Recommendations for the MGIO**

Mike Dolbow, GIS Manager for the Mn Department of Agriculture co-chair of the GCGI Strategic Planning Committee with Chairperson Reinhardt, provided Board members with context for the proposed legislation from the non-state agency perspective and offered two examples of how the proposed MGIO might work to address shared geospatial needs.

Mr. Dolbow stated that he believed that the membership of the proposed statewide coordinating group would have a policy focus in response to Chairperson Schneider's early question. Dolbow also offered several examples of how he believes MetroGIS's efforts will be leveraged in the new structure. He closed by stating that an outreach initiative will be the immediate next step upon passage for the proposed Legislation. There were no further questions.

Mr. Dolbow's presentation slides can be viewed [here](#)

(http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/09_0429/5c%20Dolbow%20MGIO%20Governance%20Recommendations%20-%20April%202009%20MetroGIS.ppt)

d) **GCGI Response to Two Recent Recommendations from MetroGIS**

Rick Gelbmann, Chair of the Governors Council on Geographic Information, summarized the information outlined in a letter to Chairperson Reinhardt dated March 26th (Attachment A to the agenda report) in response to two requests made of the GCGI by the Policy Board in January. The requests involved: implementing a state-wide geocoder service and a tracing tool for storm and service water. In each case, Gelbmann noted that the GCCI had concurred that these projects would be best addressed from a statewide, as opposed to a regional perspective, and, as such, delegated responsibility to a willing entity to devise a project scope for consideration by the GCGI. Gelbmann also qualified these actions with a statement that currently the GCGI is a voluntary organization with limited resources but will do what it can to move forward on these needs as rapidly as possible.

Gelbmann then summarized specifics outlined in the referenced letter regarding each topic. He closed his remarks by noting that this process represents a real world example of how substate needs with broader implications can be/should be addressed at a statewide level. Member Reinhardt added that the GCGI's response illustrates how coordination can make a difference.

Member Reinhardt thanked David Arbeit and Mike Dolbow for their presentations.

6. **MAJOR ACTIVITY UPDATES**

There was no discussion of the items presented in the agenda report

7. **INFORMATION SHARING**

There was no discussion of the items presented in the agenda report other than Member Reinhardt called attention to Will Craig's election as Chair-Elect of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for July 22, 2009.

9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Members Reinhardt and Kordiak commented that it had been a pleasure and an honor to serve as chair and vice chair and that they intended to continue to serve on the Board and to advocate for the work of MetroGIS.

Prepared by:

Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator