

**Meeting Summary**  
**MetroGIS Policy Board**  
**Room 1A, Metropolitan Council's Mears Park Offices**  
**April 30, 2003**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCE NEW MEMBER**

Vice Chairperson Kordiak called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Terry Schneider (AMM-City of Minnetonka), Jim Kordiak (Anoka County), Gary Delaney (Carver County), Janice Rettman for Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey County), Bob Vogel (Scott County), Dick Carlstrom for Antoinette Johns (TIES), Conrad Fiskness (Metro Watershed Districts), and Tony Pistilli (Metropolitan Council).

Members Absent: Patrice Bataglia (Dakota County), Dennis Hegberg (Washington County), Randy Johnson (Hennepin County) and Gary Schiff (AMM-City of Minneapolis)

Coordinating Committee Members Present: David Arbeit, Bill Brown, David Claypool, Will Craig, Dave Drealan (Vice-Chair), Rick Gelbmann, Jane Harper (Chair), Brad Henry, Randy Knippel, and Ron Wencl.

Support Staff: Randall Johnson, Steve Fester, and Mark Kotz.

Visitors: Ann Beckman (Policy Board Alternate - Metropolitan Council), Gary Criter (Minneapolis), and Jeff Matson (CURA)

Vice Chair Kordiak introduced Council Member Pistilli, recently appointed to represent the Metropolitan Council on the Policy Board and invited each of the members and staff to introduce themselves.

**2. ACCEPT AGENDA**

Member Delaney moved and Member Fiskness seconded to accept the agenda, as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

**3. MEETING SUMMARY**

Member Fiskness moved and Member Vogel seconded to approve the summary of the January 29, 2003 meeting as submitted. Motion carried, ayes all.

**4. GIS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION**

Nancy Read, Technical Lead for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), shared how the District uses GIS and how it has greatly improved its efficiency as a result of the existence of MetroGIS. Prior to MetroGIS, Ms Read explained that the MMCD relied upon its field staff to update its 2600 field maps by hand with colored pencils and light tables over the winter months. At best 1/5<sup>th</sup> of these maps could be updated. Since the arrival of MetroGIS's regional data solutions for parcel and street centerline data, streamlined data licensing, and one-stop access via DataFinder over the Internet, plus access to orthoimagery acquired by the Metropolitan Council, the MMCD now is able to update all 2600 field maps in approximately one week by one person. In addition to greatly improving staff efficiencies, the data sharing fostered by MetroGIS has also saved the District over \$10,000, thus far, in data purchase expenses.

Use of GIS technology by the MMCD permits storage of significantly more data for each of the 70,000+/- wetlands mapped by the District, in a readily retrieval format, which are also available for use by other interests. Access to the regional street centerline and jurisdictional boundaries datasets also make it possible to quickly address-match and map a variety of incident data, e.g., location of victims of mosquito-borne disease, as well as improve efficiencies for reporting to the Department of Agriculture. Ms Read commented that a new goal of the District is to be able to associate their wetlands data with real-time meteorological data (rainfall) to quickly identify changes in wetland water level – a primary factor

for hatching of dormant larvae. This is important because they only have 24 hours after a rainfall to eradicate the larvae before they hatch - the most effective option to control mosquitoes. She encouraged MetroGIS to investigate whether real-time weather data might be a prospective candidate for a regional collaboration and, if so, the MMCD would be very interested in participating. She further noted that the MMCD has been investigating the services provided by Meteorologix, a national firm with offices in the Twin Cities, that is a leader in the weather data industry. She also encouraged MetroGIS to investigate the possibility of a regional program to acquire and sustain compatible Digital Elevation Map (DEM) data for the entire metro area.

Ms. Read concluded her comments with two statements. First, the MMCD is willing to share their wetlands database and is currently participating in the MetroGIS Hydrology Information Needs Workgroup to see how these data might be integrated into a region lakes and wetlands solution. Second, she thanked MetroGIS for fostering an environment where knowledge sharing among disparate interests is now common place, further noting that for small organizations, such as the MMCD, the ability to learn from others and to leverage public investment is very important.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Kordiak, Ms. Read explained that access to 2-foot or better elevation data, gained through a DEM, improves the MMCD's ability to distinguish primary wetland/depression habitat ideal for mosquito breeding. This led to a comment by David Claypool about Legislation introduced this year to fund a 22-county pilot project that would investigate options for a statewide DEM, as well as leverage significant funding from FEMA. Although the project was well received by legislators and the huge payback was well understood, the pilot was not selected for funding this year.

Member Delaney asked Ms. Read if the MMCD would be open to training and providing oversight to employees of local government to supplement the MMCD field staff. She noted the proposal has merit and is worth looking into.

Member Vogel noted that a DEM had just completed for all or part of Scott County and he encouraged Ms. Read to contact him about possibly obtaining access.

Board members thanked Ms. Read for her presentation.

## **5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a) Election of Officers**

Vice Chairperson Kordiak commented that both he and Chairperson Reinhardt, who could not attend this meeting, would be willing to continue to serve as officers if the members so desire.

Member Schneider moved and Member Fiskness seconded to elect Member Reinhardt by acclamation to serve as Chair of the Policy Board. Motion carried, ayes all.

Member Delaney moved and Member Vogel seconded to reelect Member Kordiak to serve as Vice Chair of the Policy Board. Motion carried, ayes all.

### **b) 2003 Budget and Work Planning Update**

Staff Coordinator Johnson summarized the effects of the recent budget cuts that were incurred as part of the Metropolitan Council's efforts to comply with a directive from the new administration. He noted that work on identifying regional solutions should not be substantially affected and that a pending partnership with the MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC) holds promise to accomplish desired improvements DataFinder Café that MetroGIS can no longer adequately fund on its own. He summarized a couple of medium-priority activities that were postponed to achieve the budget targets for 2003. Johnson concluded his remarks by stating that negotiations will begin soon on 3<sup>rd</sup> generation data sharing agreements with the counties. Funding connected with these agreements comprises a substantial portion

of the non-staff funds that have, in the past, been available to MetroGIS to improve access to and quality of data commonly needed by the MetroGIS community.

**c) Best Practices Policy Endorsement – ISO Geospatial Data Theme Categories**

Coordinating Committee Chair Harper introduced the Coordinating Committee’s recommendation that the Policy Board endorse the proposed ISO Geospatial Data Theme Categories as a best practice for the MetroGIS community. She commented that MetroGIS stakeholders who have not developed data catalogs will be able to take advantage of this well thought-out scheme that, if used widely, could make data discovery easier by having a similar look and feel to the cataloging scheme. She concluded her introductory comments by stating that she looks to MetroGIS for leadership in areas of common needs such as this and that she will promote use of this scheme in Washington County’s data catalogue to save time and effort.

Mark Kotz, MetroGIS Technical Support Staff, then explained that MetroGIS and LMIC had collaboratively derived the proposed categories from the national/international standard, but had maintained consistency with the standard with the modifications made to address local needs; that the primary use for the MetroGIS community would be the data catalogue associated with MetroGIS DataFinder; that endorsement as a best practice by the Policy Board would involve sharing the data categorization scheme for voluntary implementation by any stakeholder who wished to use it for their internal needs; and how stakeholder interests might use this categorization scheme to address their own needs, using a library metaphor.

Members Schneider and Rettman commented that more user-friendly descriptors, understandable by non-technical individuals, should be provided for the “cadastral” and “elevation and derived products” categories. Board members agreed.

**Motion:** Member Schneider moved and Member Fiskness seconded that the Policy Board endorse the table of International Standards Organization (ISO)-based themes, dated June 6, 2002, for categorizing geospatial data and related metadata and promote them for use by the MetroGIS community, with the understanding that the Coordinating Committee will provide a layperson’s description for the “cadastral” and “elevation and derived products” categories. Motion carried, ayes all.

The Board concurred that the modified version need not come back to Board prior to promoting its use among MetroGIS stakeholders.

**d) Meeting Schedule**

Vice Chair Kordiak summarized the survey information provided in the agenda materials. After some discussion, the members concluded that the current 6:30 p.m. start time is the best fit considering several factors, including avoiding, to the extent possible, traveling in rush hour traffic.

The previously scheduled July 30<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting dates also were not changed.

**e) Major Project - Progress Reports and Discussion**

Several members of the Coordinating Committee summarized information about eight projects/workgroup activities that was provided in the agenda material.

Comments from members that resulted in further direction or discussion were as follows:

- Member Rettman inquired whether the workgroup that is pursuing a regional mailing label application had thought about the pros and cons of offering access to organizations that do not currently have access to the regional parcel dataset. Dave Drealan, who chairs the workgroup, noted that the workgroup’s goal is to figure out whether the application can be provided to government organizations before it takes on a broader initiative and, if so, then seek further direction from the Board at that time.

- Board members were supportive of the Emergency Management workgroup's goal to build relationships between emergency management and GIS personnel to enable GIS personnel to better understand the data, analysis, mapping, etc. needs of emergency managers and to convey to emergency managers that significant resources are already in place. There was also concurrence with the workgroup's objective to seek out recognition of the value of the GIS technology by senior emergency managers within the key state organizations, as well as their promotion of these resources as a valuable asset among emergency managers at the local level.

Member Schneider commented that a current high priority of the MN Cities Insurance Trust is risk management, noting that funding might be available for workgroup activities consistent with the risk management objectives of the Trust.

- Following an update by Coordinating Committee Chair Harper on regional data solutions in progress, Board members acknowledged that given the number of new members, a summary of the functions and philosophies that comprise MetroGIS's core efforts would be desirable. It was decided that a short presentation would be made at a Board meeting, possibly the July meeting, and that if the members wanted additional detail that a workshop could be considered.

#### **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Vice Chairperson Kordiak asked the members to review, on their own, the other information sharing items written about in the agenda packet.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2003.

#### **8. ADJOURN**

Member Schneider moved and member Fiskness seconded to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried, ayes all.

Prepared by,

Randall Johnson, AICP  
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator