

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Policy Board
Metropolitan Council's Mears Park Offices
October 17, 2001

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Conrad Fiskness (Metro Watershed Districts), Jim Kordiak (Anoka County), Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey County), Willis Branning (Dakota County), Lee Whitcraft for Antoinette Johns (TIES), and Roger Williams (Metropolitan Council).

Members Absent: Dennis Hegberg (Washington County) and Joseph Wagner (Scott County). John Siegfried (Carver County), Barbara Johnson (AMM), Randy Johnson (Hennepin County), Terry Schneider (AMM).

Coordinating Committee Members Present: David Arbeit, David Claypool, Eli Cooper, Will Craig, Rick Gelbmann, Jane Harper, and Brad Henry.

Support Staff: Randall Johnson and Trudy Richter (Richardson, Richter & Associates)

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 11, 2001 were accepted as submitted.

4) GIS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

Dick Carlstrom, representing TIES (Technology Information and Education Systems), thanked the Policy Board and the MetroGIS organization for the progress that has been made to foster sharing of geospatial data produced by other and fundamental to school district decision making. He stated that the advancements in GIS technology that he was about to share would not have been possible without the data sharing agreements that have been negotiated to implement MetroGIS objectives and the regional datasets, in particular street centerlines and parcels, that have been made available through MetroGIS's efforts.

Ten school districts, which are members of TIES, are currently using GIS technology to support a range of decision making and two additional TIES affiliated districts are embarking on the use of GIS technology. Mr. Carlstrom summarized examples of four major ways that these districts are using the technology: communication with public, make decisions regarding facilities management and bus routing, monitor growth within their districts, and plan for change. TIES provides support that ranges from general advice to turnkey projects to continual support, depending on the wishes of the districts.

In responses to questions, Mr. Carlstrom commented that as more and more districts begin to use GIS, the opportunity for subregional and regional analysis of issues of common interest to districts will likely be engaged in by TIES noting that regional

datasets are essential to this type of analysis. He also commented that with each new project, the district(s) involved seek the most current versions of the data they need for their analysis.

(Note: A document, which contains much of the information shared with the Board, can be viewed at http://ties.k123.mn.us/main/adminsrv/gis_toc.html)

5) ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) 2002 Meeting Schedule

The following meeting schedule was accepted for 2002 (all Wednesdays): Jan 9, Apr. 10, Jul 10 and Oct 9. Board members stated that they would like to hear about some of the county operations, in particular, how they are addressing data sharing.

b) Affects of MetroGIS Restructuring

Chairperson Reinhardt stated that she had asked staff to summarize the affect of the July 11 Board action calling for streamlining of MetroGIS's decision making structure and that she would like a report this end included prepared for each Board meeting. The Staff Coordinator summarized the affect since July, including cancellation of four meetings and reliance more on email and telephone contacts. Staff also noted that the call for restructuring came a time when much of the formative work of MetroGIS was wrapping up and that the attention is more and more moving to monitoring implementation of agreed upon solutions, which does not require the effort expended in previous years on the part of the stakeholder community. He did, however, caution that there is a need to continue to communicate effectively to ensure everyone is on the same page although there are fewer meetings.

c) Regional Parcel Data Solution: Mn GCGI Accepts Request to Investigate as Model for State Initiative

Chairperson Reinhardt and the Staff Coordinator reported that on September 19th, the Mn Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) had agreed to use MetroGIS's regional parcel dataset as a place to start to investigate the possibility of a statewide parcel dataset. Staff also reported that the matter had been assigned to the Council's Land Records Modernization Committee and that the first meeting to begin this investigation would be held on October 18th.

d) Praise from USGS Data Gathering Initiative Following September 11th.

The Staff Coordinator reported that at the September 27th Coordinating Committee meeting Ron Wencil, USGS National Mapping Division Liaison to Minnesota and member of the Committee had offered praise to the work of MetroGIS and to LMIC (Mn Land Management Information Center) for their efforts to implement Internet enabled data discovery tools and to MetroGIS for its one-stop-shop approach for any required licensing and data access instructions. David Arbeit, Director of LMIC, spoke to the "easy of access" issues that are beginning to receive more attention in the wake of September 11th. He surmised that the across-the-board affect of these issues may likely generate federal level policy discussion. The Staff Coordinator also commented that MetroGIS's proposed Internet Enabled Data Distribution Mechanism will have a robust security module that will permit the Board to easily implement any business rule(s)

concerning data access that it deems appropriate and, as such, MetroGIS's government to government data sharing objectives will be unaffected.

6) INFORMATION SHARING

a) Major Project Updates

- (1) Internet-Enabled Data Distribution Mechanism: The Staff Coordinator commented that MetroGIS had received several strong proposals and that the negotiations are in process with the top rated candidate to design and implement an Internet-Enabled Data Distribution Mechanism. The top proposal meets or exceeds all design requirements within the allocated budget. Staff emphasized that once operational which is proposed for August 2002, MetroGIS will have put into place the final tool necessary to achieve the objectives it set out to do six years ago, completing the transition from primarily definitional to operational.
- (2) Next Generation Data Sharing Agreement: Trudy Richter, of Richardson, Richter & Associates and member of the MetroGIS Staff Support Team, commented that negotiations are in process between the seven counties and the Metropolitan . The primary goal of the agreement being sought with each county is to gain permission for the Metropolitan Council, acting in its designated capacity as the regional parcel data custodian, to assemble county-produced parcel data into a regional dataset and redistribute it to the MetroGIS data user community. Another objective is to seek agreement on a single license agreement to expedite and simplify access by the user community. Ms. Richter noted that a meeting is scheduled for Oct 24 with Hennepin County to discuss their request to use their own license rather than a common license.
- (3) to (6) No discussion of these project update items.

b) Regional Parcel Dataset (Private Sector/NonProfit Version)

Member Kordiak asked staff to comment on the efforts that had been made to advertise this dataset and the lack of sales. The Board concurred with staff's suggestion to survey several prospective purchasers of this data to investigate why they have not purchased the data and report the findings to the Board at the Board's January meeting.

c-i) No discussion of these information items

7) NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2002.

8) ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Prepared by,

Randall Johnson
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator