

**Meeting Summary
MetroGIS
Policy Board
November 18, 1998**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Reinhardt began the meeting at 7:20p.m. A quorum was not present.

Members Present: Chairperson Reinhardt, Terry Schneider, Conrad Fiskness and Alternate Richard Johnson for Bill Schreiber. *(Need seven of twelve members in attendance to act on business items.)*

Coordinating Committee Members Present: David Arbeit, Rick Gelbmann, Patrick O'Connor, and Gary Stevenson

Visitors: Don Yeager (LMIC), Tanya Mayer (Metropolitan Council) and Tera Maganue (City of Minneapolis).

Support Staff: Randall Johnson and Theresa Foster

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

No discussion or action

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

No discussion or action due lack of quorum

4. DEMONSTRATION --ORTHOIMAGERY

State of Minnesota: Don Yaeger, with the Minnesota Land Management Information Center, explained the term "orthoimagery" and called attention to the general need for increasingly higher levels of imagery resolution and positional accuracy as one moves from federal to state to metropolitan to uses by local units of government. Minnesota is the one of two states that has a complete state coverage of orthoimagery. The state's coverage has a resolution of about one meter (can distinguish features one meter to greater in area) and positional accuracy of plus/minus 40 feet of (about 1:12,000 scale), whereas, local government often requires submeter accuracy and the ability to distinguish smaller than one meter of area to support their needs. The USDA is a predominate user at the federal level and is the lead agency to obtain a national coverage. DNR is the predominate user among Minnesota state agencies. MN/DOT uses it to support preliminary highway design and LMIC has used it to map pipeline locations.

Metropolitan Council: Rick Gelbmann and Tanya Mayer, demonstrated how the Council is using orthoimagery to support updating of a regional existing land use database. This orthoimagery was produced from an April 1997, 20,000-foot altitude flight that includes the entire seven county area. The flight lines were the same as used for the 1991 imagery acquired for the state to provide an opportunity for comparison. The specifications for the Council's 1997 flight included 2-feet of resolution (distinguish features with 2 feet and greater area) and a positional accuracy of plus or minus 40 feet to the actual location on the earth's surface. The 1997 imagery has been registered to the same base coordinates as other regional datasets (e.g., The Lawrence Group's Street Centerline dataset) so they can be used together. This imagery is available free of charge to government on CD-ROM. Over 1000 CD's have been distributed by the Council since mid-summer (the entire region comprises a set of 77 CD's or about 3.5 gigabytes of data) to government and private sector interests. The Council uses orthoimagery to support a variety of functions, including first time use of on-screen capture of land use information as opposed to interpreting aerial photos and digitizing the distinct land use areas (planimetric information) derived from the aerial photos. .

City of Minneapolis: Brad Henry and Tera Maganue explained and demonstrated the use of low level (about 6 inches of resolution – features with 6 inches or more area can be distinguished) and highly positionally accurate (plus/minus 6 inches of the true location on the ground) color

orthoimagery to support City of Minneapolis business uses including site plan review, street design, street and utility facilities management, property inquiries, etc. Tera demonstrated a number of the planimetric (captured from orthoimagery) features maintained by the City (e.g., signs, fences, driveways, trees, bridges, building footprints, curbs). Brad noted that a major expense involved in the development of orthoimagery is the need for an elevation model. Once produced, production of orthoimagery from subsequent flights is substantially less expense where the elevation model can be reused (areas with little construction that changes the lay of the land since the previous flight).

Brad Henry estimated a cost of about \$1.00/parcel to produce their low-level imagery now that the elevation model is in place. He also noted that the amount of data storage needed to support low level imagery is substantially greater than for the higher-altitude imagery used by the Council and the State. The possibility was raised of flying once to accomplish each of the three flights discussed. It was noted that lowering the flight level from 20,000-feet would substantially increase data storage requirements and the number of images. These consequences are currently unworkable for areas much larger than a county and that flights higher than 1,500 to 2,500 feet generally are not adequate for design uses needed by Minneapolis.

Rick Gelbmann noted that a combination of a low-altitude flight in urban areas and a higher-altitude flight in rural areas will be considered for the next flight of the metro area in the year 2000. He noted that the Council's goal is to fly the entire metro area in 2000 to correspond to the 2000 census and that coverage of the entire metro area all at the same general time is needed to effectively create a year 2000 existing land use database. He also expects to seek out partners, as was the case with the 1997 flight, who are also in need of a year 2000 flight. Gary Stevenson noted that by the year 2000, imagery from satellites might be of a quality that can effectively replace the current technology that uses jets and airplanes to capture the imagery. The combined cost of the Council's cooperative project to capture the 1997 20,000-foot imagery and process it to create orthoimagery for the entire metro area was approximately \$125,000.

Policy Board members agreed this demonstration provided them with useful and interesting information and that the Coordinating Committee should plan a similar demonstration this coming spring when more members can attend.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5a) 1999 Meeting Schedule

No discussion or action due lack of quorum, except it was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 1999.

5b) Exemplary GIS Award from Governor – MetroGIS Street Centerline Data Project

Brad Henry explained that he received this award on behalf of MetroGIS at the 1998 State GIS/LIS Conference. He stated this is an important acknowledgment of the public-private partnership formed to address a priority data need of MetroGIS stakeholders and because a substantial number of the organizations have taken advantage of access to this regional street centerline database made possible through the partnership.

5c) Preliminary 2000 MetroGIS Budget

Staff noted the current plan is for the Coordinating Committee to endorse a year 2000 budget recommendation at its December 17th meeting for Policy Board consideration on January 27th. Chairperson Reinhardt asked if any of the Board members had any comments they wanted to forward to the Coordinating Committee.

Member Schneider commented he supports adding a subscription fee for cities to the MetroGIS revenue sources for year 2000. His philosophy, which the others concurred with, is some fee is better than giving the data away. If a unit of government must budget for a subscription fee they will likely discuss the value-to-cost which will be a healthy for MetroGIS.

5d) Use of Funds Donated to MetroGIS

No discussion or action due lack of a quorum.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Staff was encouraged to investigate the option of distribution of the MetroGIS newsletter. No other discussion.

7. NEXT MEETING

January 27, 1999. Staff was asked to begin a policy of sending Board members a meeting reminder a couple weeks before each meeting.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

Prepared by,

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