

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team
Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, St. Paul, MN
2:00-4:00 PM, Room 205
March 9, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Basques called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Basques (City of St. Paul - Public Works), David Brandt for Eltayeb Elhassan (Washington County), Jim Bunning (Scott County), John Carpenter (Excensus, LLC), Gordon Chinander (Metropolitan Emergency Services Board), Susanne Maeder (MN Land Management Information Center), Jim Maxwell (The Lawrence Group), Brad Rupert (Carver County), Scott Simmer (Hennepin County), and Ron Wencil (US Geological Survey).

Support Staff: Mark Kotz, Steve Fester and Alison Slaats.

Visitors: Jim Klassen and Dan Little (City of St. Paul).

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

The summary of the November 17, 2005 meeting was accepted as submitted.

4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION

No items were on the agenda for today's meeting.

5. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

a) Coordinating Committee and Policy Board Updates

Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator, was unable to attend to present updates from the most recent Coordinating Committee and Policy Board meetings. Kotz noted that summaries of both meetings are available online at <http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/index.shtml> and <http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/index.shtml>.

b) E911 Address and Street Centerline Workgroup Update

Chinander updated the Team on the recent efforts of the E911 Address and Street Centerline Workgroup. The Workgroup's most recent meeting was held earlier today, March 9. Chinander noted that the Metropolitan Council now has the authority to pursue a sole source contract with The Lawrence Group to go forward with developing an E911-compatible street centerline database.

Basques asked what other parties would be able to do with their own data in the development process. Kotz noted that the idea under discussion is for other cities to be able to supply their own data, but it would be supplemented with TLG data. Basques also stated that staff within the City of St Paul has been discussing this topic as well. The Workgroup plans to meet next in late March or early April to decide next steps. More information on this workgroup can be found at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/e911_streets/index.shtml.

c) Address Information Needs Workgroup Update

Kotz stated that the Workgroup's activities have been placed on hold lately due to limited staff time of Metropolitan Council staff supporting the team. He also mentioned the possibility of a web-based application that would be available to smaller cities that have fewer GIS resources. Chinander mentioned that the recently-endorsed vision created by the Workgroup (see below) will also have a benefit to the E911 community (example: responding to an emergency in an area of new construction without established streets.)

Note: The MetroGIS Address Information Needs Workgroup is comprised of city, county and regional government staff from throughout the metro area. In April 2005, the MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed achieving this vision as a priority for the MetroGIS community. This vision is also supported by many county and municipal government officials. For more information on the Workgroup's efforts, see http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/street_addresses/add_wkgrp.shtml.

d) DataFinder Café Upgrade Workgroup Update

Slaats updated the Team members on the progress of updating the DataFinder Café, the new release of which is tentatively scheduled for summer 2006. She noted that the upgrade took into account the preferences of Café users via a series of online surveys conducted in 2005. Certain little-used features of the original Café were excluded from the new version, while other features will be given more prominence.

In regards to the popularity of Google Earth and similar applications, Slaats asked the group if it would be worthwhile placing a KML version of certain data online, and if others had had similar requests. Chinander noted that Randy Knippel, Dakota County GIS Manager had tried this and raised some concerns about positional accuracy. Maeder noted having one such request. Brandt had received over a dozen requests, but had also found some positional accuracy concerns with viewing their data within the Google Earth environment. However, Chinander did note that such availability would likely be useful and educational to the broader public. It was decided to wait until the next TAT meeting to pursue this item further.

6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS

a) "On the Map" Web Application

Carpenter presented to the Team an overview and online demonstration of "On The Map", the web-based mapping application his company, Excensus, LLC, recently developed for the U.S. Census Bureau. Carpenter's presentation slides, which include a link to the actual online application, can be viewed at <http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/060309/onthemap.pdf>.

b) City of St. Paul Open Source Web Mapping

Basques presented a demonstration of St. Paul Public Works' newest web mapping product, Open Source Web Mapping engine. The application is currently only available internally to St. Paul city employees. The code itself will possibly be available for public download pending management approval.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

a) Round Table Information Sharing

Chinander offered information to the Team regarding a GIS data management project for reconciling the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) and GIS street centerline database that MESB (Metro Emergency Services Board) staff has been working on.

Wencl stated that the USGS will soon be acquiring orthoimagery for Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The imagery will eventually be posted on the Seamless Data server in Sioux Falls, SD.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 13, 2006, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURN

Basques adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Prepared by,
Steve Fester
MetroGIS Support Staff