

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team
Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, St. Paul, MN
1:00-3:00 PM, Room 205
August 2, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bob Basques called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Basques (City of St. Paul), Dave Brandt (Washington County), Rick Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council), Joshua Gumm (Scott County), Bart Richardson (Minnesota DNR), Nancy Read (Metropolitan Mosquito Control District), Brad Rupert (Carver County).

Visitors: Jim Klassen and Dan Little (City of St. Paul), Jessica Deegan and Alison Slaats (Metropolitan Council)

Support Staff: Mark Kotz, Randall Johnson, and Chris Kline.

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

The agenda was accepted.

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

The summary of the March 8, 2007 meeting was accepted, as submitted.

4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION

a) Draft Strategies – Business Plan

Johnson introduced the topic, providing an overview of the Policy Board's discussion of the Business Plan on July 25, 2007 and of the Business Planning Oversight Team's work on the proposed strategies and tactics. He noted that the current strategies are posted on the MetroGIS Sharepoint site (hosted by Dakota County). Johnson noted that the Policy Board wants to pursue data interoperability with organizations outside of the seven-county metropolitan area and requested comments from the Technical Advisory Team.

Johnson explained that Policy Board desired to fast-track the creation of a Technical Coordinator resource; in order to support this function until a final determination on the nature of the Technical Coordinator's position, he asked if any TAT members be interested in serving on a new Steering Committee for Technical Leadership, as related to applications. Kotz stated that if there was a more defined nature of the goals and the expectations of members of the proposed Steering Committee, there may be more people willing to participate.

Gelbmann elaborated that the position's definition has not been fully defined and it may be a single individual, or a body of individuals with a variety of expertise. The focus should be on developing a framework with respect to application services, similar to the process that was used for developing regional data sets.

b) Technical Items in Glossary for Next-Generation Business Plan

Johnson began, explaining the purpose of the glossary in the business plan. He asked that the TAT review the technical items provided, and offer feedback on their definitions using the Sharepoint site. Basques asked how many items needed TAT definition. Johnson stated it was fewer than ten. Basques asked that the list of terms requesting definition be emailed to TAT members to solicit their feedback. Johnson replied that the purpose of the Sharepoint site is so everyone can collaborate on the definitions if there is any disagreement. The TAT eventually decided to perform both functions, with Basques

receiving an email of the terms while the entire TAT will be issued access to the Sharepoint site to participate in the creation of definitions if necessary.

5. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

a) Address Workgroup Update

Kotz explained that the workgroup had met the previous week, at which time it reviewed the results of the recent web editing application viability assessment and formed a technical subgroup to focus on a recommendation for implementation of such an application. The workgroup also talked about the database standard and desired update frequency of the proposed address points dataset. Kotz concluded by noting that the workgroup plans to give a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee at its September 12 meeting.

b) MetroGIS Geocoder Update

Read introduced the topic, indicating that a Request for Proposals would be issued after the meeting to potential contractors. She asked that if any of the TAT members had suggestions of anyone not on the provided list that should be sent the RFP to please let her know.

Gelbmann suggested that the Geocoder Team contact Tanya Mayer and Kathy Elhenz-Matson at the Metropolitan Council for input from their work on geocoding in recent weeks using the Regional Parcel Dataset and the TLG Street Centerlines. Dave Brandt also noted that Washington County has done considerable work on cascading geocoding.

6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS

a) Metropolitan Council Maps Web Site

Alison Slaats of the Metropolitan Council provided an overview of the background of GIS data on the Council's website and the desire to have a dynamic way of providing information about communities to the public. The new Maps application that will be issued with the Council's redesigned website will have community profiles, links to pre-made maps, statistical data, and the ability to create a custom map with access to over 100 datasets.

She added that the presentation was made to the Policy Board, where they asked about incorporating local datasets into the application. This query will be common in the future, she predicted, once the Maps application is launched. Slaats stressed standards are necessary to facilitate integration of data into a variety of applications that are being created.

b) GeoMOOSE

Dan Little of the City of Saint Paul introduced GeoMOOSE and demonstrated that the installation is quite simple using the stand-alone client. He provided an overview of the tools included with the application, showing that each aspect of the program is modular and can be modified. GeoMOOSE is based off accessing web services and various components can be added with ease. Since the program is modular and based off XML, each data layer used in the application is also a separate service.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

a) Round Table Information Sharing

Gumm informed the TAT that Carver, Dakota, and Scott Counties have each purchased licenses to WebGIS Solutions and were collaboratively working to implement the systems in their respective counties.

Read noted that the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's website was featured on television and that the video can still be located on the news agency's website.

Richardson asked if anyone knew of any contacts for statewide parcel datasets. Various members of TAT recommended that the DNR investigate the process that MetroGIS used to acquire the Regional Parcel

Dataset. They provided feedback and asked that they would be available for advisement when the DNR proceeds with their project.

8. ADJOURN

Basques adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Prepared by,
Randall Johnson, Mark Kotz, and Chris Kline
MetroGIS Support Staff Team

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