

**Meeting Summary**  
**MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team**  
**Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, St. Paul, MN**  
**1:00-3:00 PM, Room 205**  
**July 31, 2008**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dave Brandt was unable to attend. Mark Kotz acted as chair for the meeting. Kotz called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Present: Chris Cialek (LMIC), Dan Falbo (ESRI), Brian Fischer (Houston Engineering), Rick Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council), Joshua Gumm (Scott County), Mary Hagerman (Dakota County), Peter Henschel (Carver County), Matt McGuire (Metropolitan Council), Jim Maxwell (The Lawrence Group), Curt Peterson (Ramsey County), Nancy Read (MMCD), Alison Slaats (Metropolitan Council), Charlie Teff (Anoka County).

Support Staff: Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council)

**2. ACCEPT AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted.

**3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY**

The summary of the April, 2008 meeting was accepted with no changes.

**4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

**a) Three MetroGIS Regional Projects Approved**

Nancy Read described the three regional projects that were recently approved for funding by the Policy Board.

1. Address Points Editing Tool:

Read described that this would be a tool targeted for smaller cities to use (cities that don't have significant GIS resources). It was recommended by the address workgroup and a previous study indicated it would be well used. The project was funded for 13,500 and will include some project management by the contractor because no MetroGIS participant had sufficient need to provide resources for that effort. Funding estimate is based on an open source solution, but we have not decided that is how we would go.

Curt Peterson asked if it would work with ESRI databases. Kotz replied that it had not yet been determined, but that it might only need to kick out an XML transfer file, so it could be sort of vendor neutral.

2. Geocoder Enhancement to Handle Landmarks:

This MetroGIS regional project proposal is to enhance the geocoder to handle landmarks data. The funding is \$5000. This has raised questions about where to find the best landmarks data. Several organizations have landmarks datasets. They are not currently coordinated. If anyone is interested in working on landmarks data issues, contact Nancy Read.

Read said that the geocoder is intended to work off of a landmark name. Jim Maxwell suggested it would be good to indicate the city too, because some landmark names are common. Chris Cialek suggested looking at GNIS as a format and feature type example. Slaats mentioned that some organization (e.g. Metro Transit) have extensive landmarks datasets, but never purge old landmarks that no longer exist.

Peterson asked if the geocoder does street intersections. Yes it does.

3. Mailing Labels Service:

Third project was presented to the Policy Board by Randy Knippel. It is to create a service for making mailing labels from the MetroGIS Regional Parcel Dataset. It was funded for \$5000.

**b) Geospatial Architecture Workgroup Formed**

Kotz mentioned that a workgroup has formed to look at a geoservices broker and web service trust issues. At the moment it is called the Geospatial Architecture Workgroup. It is a joint group of MetroGIS and the Governor's Council on Geographic Information.

**c) Next Generation Parcel Data Sharing Agreement**

Rick Gelbmann described that the current parcel data agreement with the counties expires at the end of this year. MetroGIS is looking to renew it and expand on the degree to which data fields are populated in the regional dataset. Read asked about the update process being more frequent and also about having parcels available in a service. Gelbmann mentioned that because the parcel data is licensed, the Met. Council is not allowed to serve the data through a service.

Josh Gumm mentioned that there are ways to serve data securely. Slaats mentioned that there are ways to serve data only to certain IP addresses.

**5. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS**

**a) MetroGIS Geocoder Update**

Read described that the geocoder is an open source software designed to work with MetroGIS TLG streets and county parcel data. It was funded by a MetroGIS regional project last year. She noted that DNR is now using the geocoding service provided by LMIC using the MetroGIS geocoder software. She described how MMCD is using the geocoder to meet business needs. Read showed how the service request is made and what the XML that is returned contains. A MetroGIS page about the geocoder is under development and should be available soon.

**b) Address Workgroup Update**

Kotz reported that the Address Workgroup met recently specifically to talk about the proposed address points editing tool. See 4a above.

**c) Parcel Point Data Synchronization Project Update**

Peter Henschel reported that Carver County is working on putting address points into the XML transfer standard. They are using data stored in SDE and are focusing on the detailed design now. They will start building code in August and expect testing in September and rollout in November. The project deliverables include install instructions and 5 hours of support for each county to help them set it up.

**6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS**

**a) Web Application Development using ArcGIS Server 9.3, Utilizing the REST and JavaScript API**

Brian Fischer and Peter Henschel

Henschel gave an overview of the background for the TRIP (Trail and Recreation Information Portal). It stems from an Active Living initiative at Carver County Public Health Dept. It is an online mapping application that allows citizens to find information about parks and trails. They can select from lists of parks and trails, or can enter an address and search for facilities within a buffer distance. They can also select and identify features and other functionality. This has spurred cities to want to collect more information about parks and trails so they can put that information in the application.

The map has two different cached views. One has aerial photos, the other has no photos, but includes streets and other features.

Gumm asked if the application was shareable. Henschel responded that Carver has the right to modify the code, but it doesn't own the code, so it cannot be shared.

Fischer explained some of the technical points. It was built by Houston Engineering and GeoDecisions. Requirements were Windows OS and .NET environment. They decided to use the Javascript API.

ArcGIS Server 9.3 has a new REST API. They took advantage of that to create five published services (3 are MapCache). The application uses all SDE layers, but also works with shape files.

### **b) Dakota/Carver/Scott Collaboration Project**

Mary Hagerman and Joshua Gumm

Gumm gave an overview of collaborative GIS efforts at the three counties. The intention was for all three to web applications with a common look and feel so users do not have to learn a new application when they go to another county. It also allowed the counties to pool development resources. I was a \$12,000 project.

Gumm showed how the interface looks in each county. They are very similar, but with small variations to meet each county's needs. He provided a wish list of additional functionality they would like to develop.

Compared to previous web tools, this has better drawing tools, ability to select graphics, custom themes and other function available to city/county staff.

The three counties had a joint, daylong GIS retreat at a county park that was very useful.

Hagerman gave a demo of the application. It is running live in Dakota County now, but it has not been promoted yet. They will begin promotion soon at the Dakota County Fair. It does a parcel search off of the MetroGIS parcel data format so that it works in each county. Some functionality is available internally only. It has many useful functions like measurement tools, pictometry, graphics, comparables, etc. The desire is to eventually make this the desktop GIS tool for most people at the city and county.

See presentation slides at

[http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08\\_0731/Dakota-Carver-Scott\\_Collaboration.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08_0731/Dakota-Carver-Scott_Collaboration.pdf)

## **7. INFORMATION SHARING**

### **a) Round Table Information Sharing**

Slaats: Met. Council made a SOAP wrapper for the geocoder and put a download now button on the DataFinder Catalog.

Falbo: An ArcGIS 9.3 rollout seminar will be held in September sometime.

Gumm: Implementing SharePoint now. Trying to figure out how to create custom web parts that are GIS related.

Gelbmann: Governors Council on Geographic Information update: Drive to Excellence is working on redefining how GIS is coordinated in state government, but also involving county and local governments because there is so much interaction. An update meeting will occur August 19<sup>th</sup>. It is invitation only, so contact David Arbeit for more information.

Peterson: Ramsey County just got Pictometry. They got standard orthophotos with 4 inch resolution. Very pleased with the spatial accuracy of the data. Also have been busy with RNC.

**8. ADJOURN**

Kotz adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Prepared by,  
Mark Kotz