

**Meeting Summary**  
**MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team**  
**Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, St. Paul, MN**  
**10:00-12:00, Room 205**  
**December 10, 2008**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dave Brandt called the meeting to order.

Present: Dave Brandt (Chair), Washington County; Alison Slaats, 1000 Friends of MN; Steve Jakala, Scott County; Josh Gumm, Scott County; Pete Henschel, Carver County; Nicole Roepke, Carver County; Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering; Bob Basques, St. Paul; John Sluszczych (SP); Anoka County; Curt Peterson, Ramsey County; Rick Gelbmann, Met. Council; Bart Richardson, DNR; Ron Wencil, USGS;

Support Staff: Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council). Randy Johnson, MetroGIS.

**2. ACCEPT AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted.

**3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

**a) Meeting Schedule for 2009**

It was agreed to setup the next meeting for late February or early March and then meet every 3 months after that. Kotz agreed to schedule the meetings.

**b) Elect Chair for 2009**

Dave Brandt was unanimously elected as chair of the TAT for 2009.

**c) Applications and Web Services Needs Forum – Results and Recommendations**

Mark Kotz presented the results of the recent Geospatial Applications and Web Services Forum conducted by the MetroGIS Technical Leadership Workgroup. The same presentation would be given to the Coordinating Committee that afternoon. The turnaround document from the forum can be found here: [http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/shared\\_app/forum\\_11-20-08/Forum\\_Turnaround\\_Document.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/shared_app/forum_11-20-08/Forum_Turnaround_Document.pdf). Kotz's presentation can be found here [http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08\\_1210/TLW\\_Recommendations\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08_1210/TLW_Recommendations_Presentation.pdf)

**5. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS**

**b) Address Points Editing Tool Update**

Kotz reported that the Address Points Editing Application project is moving along. Proposals were received and a proposer was chosen. The project will begin in 2009 and a prototype application is hoped to be ready by summer of 2009. Nancy noted that the planned solution requires ArcGIS Server Enterprise Advanced.

**c) Parcel Point Data Synchronization Project**

Peter Henschel introduced the project. Nicole Roepke then gave a technical presentation on the synchronizer project. She gave an overview of how the synchronization process was developed and how it works and how the services interact. The application assumes the use of SDE, SQL Server and .NET framework. The service uses the MetroGIS Address Workgroup draft data specifications.

The process provides feedback to the local source organization to indicate the status of the updates, including, who sent update, sent and received date, does it match the schema, and a more detailed data

validation rules (for example status field can only be A,P or H). It sends one email for every file that it attempts to synchronize. Each submitting organization must be put into the system with an email contact so the application can send them notices of update status. It includes information about errors found. It can also send emails to administrators for certain kinds of errors found.

Next steps: To move forward, a regional host is needed to verify that the synchronization really works as designed. Additional next steps are:

- Regional host configuration
- Final functional validation between Carver and regional host
- Final compilation and last deployment package build
- Submitters work on data mapping

Roepke's presentation can be found at [http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08\\_1210/MetroGIS-Synchronizer\\_Presentation-20081210.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/ta/meetings/08_1210/MetroGIS-Synchronizer_Presentation-20081210.pdf)

Questions.

Curt Peterson asked how do we handle it if a county has data it wants to submit, then a city comes in later as the official address authority with data for the same area?.

Mark Kotz noted that was an excellent question. The Address Workgroup vision wants data from the official address authority, but it might be better to have some data from the county than no data if the address authority is not providing it. Ultimately it would be great if cities and counties agreed how they want to proceed.

Roepke: The synchronizer was built to be flexible and allows authority for a particular address point to change.

Read: Does the submitter need SDE or just need to create the XML?

Roepke: submitter just needs to provide a specific schema of XML.

Basques: Does it allow additional address attributes?

Roepke: It uses the MetroGIS Address Workgroup data specifications.

#### **a) MetroGIS Geocoder Update**

Nancy Read provided a report on the MetroGIS Geocoder. The project got started over a year ago. It uses the Postal Address Geo-Coder (PAGC). There is quite a bit of interest in PAGC nationally and internationally as an open source product. The MetroGIS geocoder service will geocode on parcels and TLG streets. It is geared to use address points when they are available. A service is now running at LMIC. There are some issues with inconsistent parcel data that we are working on. MetroGIS web site has a page with info about the Geocoder. <http://www.metrogis.org/data/apps/geocoder/index.shtml>

Use: you can use LMIC's service or download the software and create your own internal service. The service could be setup to use frequently updated data, not just quarterly updates. The workgroup is looking at the idea of more frequent updates of TLG data.

The next step is to look at geocoding landmarks, which is a project funded by MetroGIS for 2009.

#### **Using the Geocoder**

It gives feedback for geocoded address, for example, it will tell you if it got the match from parcels or TLG, the match score and the parcel ID from the parcel it matches. The web site has a sample form and technical documents.

## **6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS**

### **a) Developing with the Geocoder**

**Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering:** What does the geocoder mean to people using an application? Brian showed how the geocoder was programmed into the MMCD web application. The users like that it

quickly gets a result from a known dataset. Brian would like it to be a little more selective. It seems to return more hits than it needs to. The street intersection geocoding is very useful too. Fischer explained many technical details of the application.

Basques mentioned that St. Paul is creating a batch process for geocoding. Peterson is interested in a batch geocoder for his county.

**Steve Jakala, Scott County:**

Jakala created a tool to use the geocoder in ArcMap. One can drag and drop the tool icon into the ArcMap toolbar and then use it. There is also an online help page to further explain how to use it. You can get there from the MetroGIS Geocoder web page <http://www.metrogis.org/data/apps/geocoder/index.shtml>. The tool was built using Visual Studio. Steve showed the code.....

Questions: Nancy: How do you decide what part of what is entered is house number or street name, etc. Both used everything in front of first space as the house number.

Folks suggested a number of ideas for enhancements

**7. INFORMATION SHARING**

**a) Round Table Information Sharing**

Bob B. mentioned that there is discussion around the geocoder functionality on many different forums on the national level.

**8. ADJOURN**

Brandt adjourned the meeting at 12:00

Prepared by,  
Mark Kotz