

## Technical Advisory Team Meeting

**Thursday, March 29, 2001**

**Place: City of St. Paul – City Court House**

Room 40A-B

15 W. Kellogg

St. Paul, MN

*(Nearest parking Civic Center or Victory Ramp)*

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

### Agenda

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Accept Agenda**

**3. Introduction of Team Members**

**4. Accept Meeting Minutes**

(a) January 17, 2001

*action* pg. 3

**5. Action and Discussion Items:**

(a) Enhanced DataFinder Feedback and Next Steps

*action* pg. 8

(b) NSDI Vision – *Doug Nebert, NSDI Clearinghouse Coordinator*

pg. 15

(c) Data Distribution Demonstration - City of St. Paul

pg. 16

**6. Information Items:**

(a) NSDI 2001 CAP Grant Application

pg. 17

(b) ESRI Geography Challenge

pg. 18

(c) Business Information Needs Update

pg. 19

➤ Regional Public Parcel Data Users Forum

➤ Planned Future Land Use Peer Review

➤ Census Geography Data Release

**7. Next Meeting**

Joint Technical Advisory Team / Policy Advisory Team Meeting

Date: May 2, 2001

Time: 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Mn Planning - LMIC, 658 Cedar Street, Rm 302, St. Paul, MN

1) Data Distribution Demonstration – *AutoDesk*

2) Regional Public Parcel Data Needs - Recommendations

➤ Technical Specifications

➤ Policy Implementations

**8. Adjourn**

# Map Directions to the City of St. Paul, City Court House

Street Address: 15 West Kellogg, St. Paul, MN

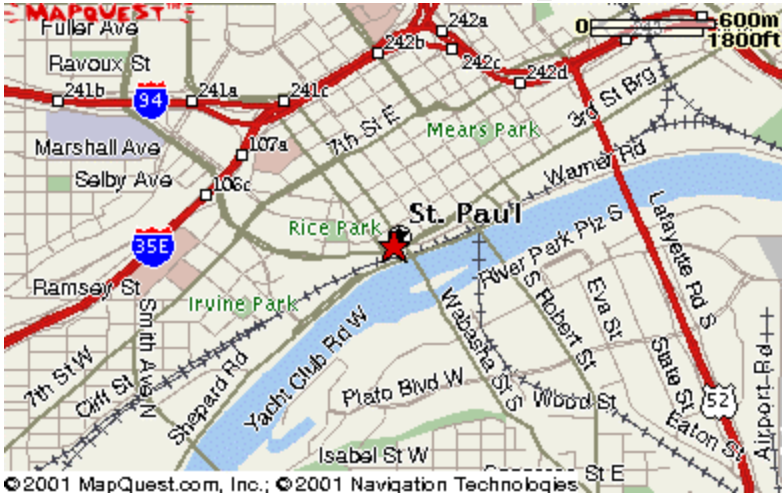
Telephone Number: (651) 266-8989 (General Number)

Map:

## Downtown Map



## Overview Map



**Meeting Summary**  
**MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team**  
**January 17, 2001**

**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m., at the City of Lakes Building in Minneapolis.

Members present: Bob Basques (City of St. Paul); Sherry Coatney (Intergraph); Will Craig (UM CURA); Dan Falbo (ESRI); Rick Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council); Jane Harper (Washington County); Jay Krafthefer (Mn/DOT); Susanne Maeder (LMIC); Jim Maxwell (The Lawrence Group); Bob Moulder (Hennepin County); Rick Person (City of St. Paul); Bart Richardson (DNR IS); Scott Simmer (Hennepin County); Ronald Wencil (USGS); Tim Zimmerman (Hennepin County)

Members absent: Roger Carlson (City of Minneapolis); David Claypool (Ramsey County); John Connelly (St. Paul & Ramsey County Charter Commissions); Bob Diedrich (SRF Consulting); Elliott Graham (Ramsey County); Blaine Hackett (PlanSight, LLC); Michael Munson (Metropolitan Council); Donna Roper (Minneapolis Public School District); Ben Verbick (LOGIS)

Visitors: Pam Siminitz (Intergraph); Roger Harwell (Intergraph); Mark O'Connor (Intergraph); Damon Dougherty (Intergraph); Brett Budrow (Ramsey County); Brad Henry (City of Minneapolis); Dan Bartholic (City of St. Paul); Scott Merkley (City of St. Louis Park); Alison Slaats (Metropolitan Council); John Lunde (MnDOT); Pat Cummins (ESRI); Don Elwood (City of Minneapolis); Gary Criter (City of Minneapolis); William Gooding (ORACLE Corp.)

Staff: Theresa Foster (MetroGIS Technical Coordinator); Randy Johnson (MetroGIS Staff Coordinator)

**2. Accept Agenda**

Member Maxwell motioned to accept the agenda as submitted, with the following agenda item change, agenda item 4b will follow agenda item 4d and agenda item 6a will not be discussed but is for reference only, Member Craig seconded.

*Motion carried.*

**3. Introduction of Team Members**

Co-Chair Maxwell welcomed team members, guests and the presentation team from Intergraph, then asked them to introduce themselves.

**4. Accept Meeting Minutes**

Member Craig motioned to accept the meeting minutes from November 2, 2000, Member Person seconded.

*Motion carried.*

**5a. Technical Team Assignments**

Member Maxwell gave a brief overview of the 2001 work plan activities for the team to focus on. Members were asked to commit to a least one activity during the year to provide organizational support from within MetroGIS stakeholders, members were asked to only volunteer for activities that either they have an in-depth knowledge of or are interested in participating from a pilot project standpoint. Member Maeder agreed to participate on the metadata workshop activity, LMIC will be doing future workshops in Minnesota and would like to coordinate activities with MetroGIS. Foster said she will be available to members before the next Technical Advisory Team to solidify the activities and answer any questions.

*No Motion Needed.*

**5c. Enhanced DataFinder Demonstration/Evaluation**

Alison Slaats, DataFinder Web Developer, gave a demonstration of the enhanced DataFinder site. Slaats stated that the changes that were made to DataFinder will reduce redundancy of metadata with other agencies. The development of DataFinder to become an FGDC NSDI clearinghouse node will greatly improve a better mechanism to search metadata; which was recently registered with the. The search interface is based upon the LMIC GeoGateway; it was agreed upon by the evaluation team (Wencil, Maeder, Gelbmann and MetroGIS staff) that the

continuity between the two organization interfaces will make it easier for users to eventually navigate. The last change that was significant is the improvement of the theme catalog for browsing of metadata records (which is generated nightly so changes in metadata and/or data are promptly updated). Also, tag lines were included to indicate which metadata sets are new or recently updated and MetroGIS endorsed. Data distribution from the metadata record is still by FTP, but this is now housed at Met Council, which eliminates the need to provide data sets to LMIC for posting on their FTP server, which are also updated nightly. A section on reference maps was changed from providing static maps to helping users orient themselves and allow them to browse the data and its contents. A resource section was added to clearly provide links to other agencies in Minnesota that provide GIS data and links to online mapping resources available. The help section was simplified to provide a single contact with a generic email that is forwarded to several people so that someone can provide information more readily. Also, the frequently asked questions underwent editing to make the content easier to understand. The enhanced MetroGIS DataFinder web site ([www.datafinder.org](http://www.datafinder.org)) should be up and running by the end of January, there will be a feedback form implemented on the site that gives stakeholders the opportunity to evaluate the new site. We will be taking feedback for a period of 30 days and then the evaluation team and MetroGIS staff will compile feedback information and make changes based upon the provided information. Only data issues not consistent with the approved site will be brought back to the Technical Advisory Team for further direction. Slaats formally thanked LMIC staff (Pete Olsen and Susanne Maeder) for the successful implementation and assistance in gearing up and implementing the DataFinder FGDC Node, they were a valuable resource.

Member Basques suggested that a symbol/color ramping be added to clearly distinguish between dates of data (age). Visitor Lunde suggested that along with the tag line UPDATED a month/year be added (i.e. UPDATED 03/01). Member Craig asked Slaats to summarize the effort it took to implement the FGDC Node in order to be NSDI Compliant. Slaats stated that you must first install the indexing software ISITE, second index all metadata records, then last but not least develop an interface mechanism to successfully search for metadata, which LMIC previously did on their new GeoGateway site.

#### **5d. Data Distribution Demonstration - Intergraph**

Member Maxwell reminded members that MetroGIS will be looking at different data distribution mechanisms for larger data sets based upon future needs of MetroGIS users. The basis for each demonstration will be on the capabilities of accessing and distributing large data sets, architecture of their system, technical tools, benefits, data security and access, and any data standards that are in place and/or required to support each system.

Sherry Coatney, Damon Dougherty, Pam Siminitz, Roger Harwell and Mark O'Connor demonstrated the WebMap and WebEnterprise Products as well as the future of Intergraph's Web/Wireless Technology.

Intergraphs' demonstration focused on the following agenda items:

- GeoMedia Technology Overview
- Web Map Demonstration
- MetroGIS Parcel Dataset Demonstration
- Other Web Map Sites
- Standards
- Future of Mobile Workforce Management

#### **Questions and Answers (During Meeting):**

Q: What types of extraction file formats can WebMap/WebEnterprise distribute data in?

A: Microsoft Access, MicroStation, Oracle Spatial, shapefile, SQL Server, MapInfo, AutoCAD, and raster image. Attribute data may be exported via cut-and-paste to Windows products such as Word, Excel, etc.

Q: What types of input data file formats can map server read?

A: MGE, FRAMME, Arc/Info, ArcView, MicroStation, Field View, MapInfo, AutoCAD, Oracle Spatial, Microsoft Access, SQL Server, MGD, InRoads, many raster file formats, and tabular data from any ODBC-compliant data store. Other formats are supported through services and special arrangements, including Smallworld, Genamap, VPF, etc.

Q: Can you extract data by Polygon; ad-hoc Polygon?

A: Yes.

Q: What controls on the datasets due you have to provide users/dev. Access and editing features? Are their any limits on the details to limit access?

A: Dependent on business rules which trigger operations in an application. For example record editing done in GeoMedia will trigger update information in the data store. WebMap does have enabling tools; WebMap does not over ride Oracle Business Rules (SC can you elaborate this better?)

Q: Can you provide users with write only access?

A: Look into example provided with GeoMedia Transaction Tools, due out this year.

Q: Does your export extraction tool deliver data in single layer or in multiple layers?

A: Dependent on output format. You can control the output format and data translation definition.

Q: Is one of your choices a shapefile for single and multiple layers?

A: Dependent on coding and access capabilities.

Q: What are the differences between WebMap and WebEnterprise?

A: WebMap lets you communicate through maps, make simple queries, and browse GIS information (i.e. buffers). WebEnterprise is the method for distributing data, allows network analysis, routing capabilities and read/write with data services (spatial query, buffer zoning, geocoding, network analysis and coordinate transformation).

Q: What are your licensing arrangements?

A: Map server packaging in the following increments, 2, 12, 96. Two Map Server Executables can handle up to 20 users comfortably (ie. 20 map requests per instance).

Q: What is the initial price of WebMap?

A: List Price \$10,000 for the 2 Map Server version, maintenance usually runs 20% of list per year but is optional (covers unlimited software problem resolution, operating system upgrades and product upgrades).

Q: What operating system does your web product run on?

A: Designed for Windows 95, 98, Windows NT Workstation and Server, Windows 2000. Standards based upon OLE/COM. While this is the preferred platform now a few years ago this was UNIX. Microsoft claims that in Windows 2000 99.9% uptime has been demonstrated.

Q: Do you handle SmallWorld extractions and input?

A: This is covered by project ware; complex transactions for SmallWorld products, Intergraph does support but it is not plug 'n' play.

Q: How do handle projections on the fly? Particularly county coordinate systems?

A: WebMap handles over 40 standard coordinate systems on the fly, without altering the original data sets' coordinates. County coordinate systems are supported, including custom datum transformations. This has been tested on a number of Minnesota County Coordinate System definitions. Some data formats expose coordinate systems definitions for WebMap to use, for others there is a one time definition of the data set coordinate system when you set up the data for use in WebMap. Can use a drop down list to alter user's preferred viewing coordinate system (regardless of the data's original coordinate system) once the data's coordinate system is defined.

Q: How does the Oracle license treat WebMap Server? I have heard this is by user, which is costly.

A: Oracle defines user, Intergraph goes along with definition.

#### **Questions and Answers (Post-Its):**

Q: Does GeoMedia support Small World formatted data?

A: Through projectware and services. Intergraph has written a Smallworld data server that is available with services.

Q: What kind of controls are available for datasets being edited on the web?

A: The security of the data is controlled by the processes that are enabled by the WebMap implementation. In addition, WebMap can never override the security that is set up by the data store itself. For example, if the data to

be altered is in Oracle, the person changing the data via WebMap must have the required username/password and privileges to change the data that any normal Oracle user would have.

**Overall Evaluation:**

Question:	Ability to access and distribute large data sets	Architecture of the system	Technical tools of the system	Benefits of the system	Information about data security and access	Data Standards required to support system	
<b>Participant</b>							
<b>1</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4	<b>4.00</b>
<b>2</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	<b>2.00</b>
<b>3</b>	3	2	3	2	1	2	<b>2.17</b>
<b>4</b>	2	3	2	3	2	3	<b>2.50</b>
<b>5</b>	2	2	2	3	3	3	<b>2.50</b>
<b>6</b>	3	3	3	*	2	4	<b>3.00</b>
<b>7</b>	2	3	2	4	3	2	<b>2.67</b>
<b>8</b>	3	3	3	3	2	3	<b>2.83</b>
<b>9</b>	3	4	2	3	2	4	<b>3.00</b>
<b>10</b>	*	3	*	3	3	4	<b>3.25</b>
<b>11</b>	4	3	3	3	3	4	<b>3.33</b>
<b>Avg</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>2.82</b>

Score based upon 4 pt scale (Needs Improvement = 1.0, Average = 2.0, Good = 3.0, Excellent =4.0)

**Would you like to see more demonstrations on data distribution? 4(Y) 5(N) 2(No Answers)**

**Comments on Evaluation Forms:**

Presentation included broad overview of multiple Intergraph products and issues (i.e. OGC & Wireless). Interesting session (not too much of a sales pitch, but not too heavy on pure technical items either).

Appears to be very flexible across data sets in various native formats, for display as well as windowing and downloading.

**5b. School District Boundaries Recommendations**

Member Harper updated the team on the progress of the Washington County School District Boundary Pilot Project and on the recommendation by the Peer Review participants on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000, on the data specifications, roles and responsibilities for primary and regional custodians. At this time all seven counties maintain a school district boundary, it is not know at what accuracy, data attributes or completeness the files are in, staff will be making an attempt to do a data comparison assessment by the end of January. Harper briefed the team on the primary custodian roles which clearly state that the current process of creating/updating school district boundary information lies within the jurisdiction of the county board in Minnesota ((Minn. Stat. § 123A.45, Minn. Stat. § 123A.46, Minn. Stat. § 123A.48). Also the pilot study concluded that the Land Management Information Council should be the regional custodian because in the past LMIC has contracted with CFL and the Office of Legislation to

update/maintain the school district boundaries by census block. Member Harper noted that under the responsibilities of the counties, the notification to the regional custodian is provided for when the regional custodian annually contacts the primary custodian for an update. Please change addendum with this update. Member Maeder noted that in the case of number 1, under Regional Custodian identification, she would like the statement to read, In 1990, LMIC was contracted by CFL to produce a state-wide jurisdictional map of school district boundaries by census boundary, it does not currently maintain this data set. Under number 2, it should read change standards of mapping to entail providing a regional school district boundary set at parcel level in the metro area, in the past it was maintained at the census block level. Add Number 4 that states, the regional custodian is the compiler of county data sets, no jurisdictional changes in boundaries will be performed by the regional custodian. The MetroGIS Policy Advisory Team, CFL and LMIC well need to negotiate the duties performed and finalize responsibilities as stated.

Member Craig motioned to accept the agenda item with the aforementioned changes, Member Gelbmann seconded.  
*Motion carried.*

### **6a. Information Items**

Member Maxwell stated previously during the acceptance of the agenda, that the following information items are for your information only and will not be discussed today.

### **7. Next Meeting**

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> (time/location - TBD)

*Member Craig noted to staff this is the same date as the Governors Council meeting.*

*Meeting rescheduled to March 29, 2001, City of St. Paul (1-4 p.m.)*

### **8. Adjourn**

Maxwell moved and Moulder seconded to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

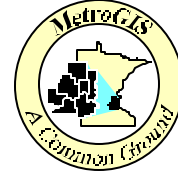
*Motion carried unanimously.*

Prepared by,

Theresa K. Foster  
MetroGIS Technical Coordinator

# MetroGIS

## Agenda Item 5a



*Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data*

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**TO:** MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team

**FROM:** Metropolitan Council Staff – DataFinder  
Alison Slaats (651) 602-1561

**SUBJECT:** Enhanced DataFinder Feedback and Next Steps

**DATE:** March 20, 2001  
(For the March 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

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### **Web Site Notification**

The enhanced DataFinder site was fully functional on January 28, 2001. Staff notified MetroGIS stakeholders by email on March 31<sup>st</sup>, approximately 267 stakeholders in our mailing database were notified by email. Staff also posted an information notice at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium web site on February 2, 2001 to solicit feedback from Consortium stakeholders.

### **Past Actions**

Technical Advisory Team: On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Technical Advisory Team unanimously approved the enhanced revisions to the Data Finder design. Only data issues not consistent with the approved site will be brought back to the Technical Advisory Team for further direction.

Coordinating Committee: On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Coordinating Committee unanimously recommended that the Coordinating Committee authorize the proposed revisions to the Data Finder design.

Technical Advisory Team: On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Technical Advisory Team unanimously recommended that the Coordinating Committee authorize the proposed revisions to the Data Finder design.

### **Evaluation**

The summary of all responses to the feedback form on the DataFinder web site is included in attachment A. The general findings are repeated here:

While the number of respondents was small, some general trends did surface from this feedback form. Most respondents found it easy to search for data on DataFinder and most found the data they were looking for. Most respondents tried out the interactive map and would like to see more interactive maps for both as a reference and for browsing the data. Several suggestions were made regarding the data sets that should be included in these maps.

Eight respondents create metadata and five respondents use DataLogr as their metadata tool. The response was mixed as to whether a web-based tool would be helpful in entering metadata. Perhaps the most discouraging numbers from this feedback form were that eight respondents stated that they created GIS data that are within, or cover the Twin Cities metro area, but of those eight none currently posts their metadata on DataFinder. Only one person requesting being contacted about metadata training and posting metadata on DataFinder.

The operating systems used by respondents were all Windows and most respondents used Microsoft Internet Explorer as their web browser.

The “free-form” comments provided positive feedback about the enhanced DataFinder site. For example, respondents found the site easy to navigate and use and the browse graphics that were added to the metadata records were found useful.

### Implementation

Specific improvements to make on the web site based on the response to the feedback form and comments made in the MetroGIS TAT meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001:

- Continue to support both the data catalog *and* metadata search engine
- Improve the wording on the DataFinder home page to make it clear that GIS data set are available for download
- Increase number of interactive maps and GIS data sets available in those maps
- Provide date on “new” and “updated” taglines in data catalog in better indicate how new or updated the metadata and/or data sets actually are
- Increase visibility of MetroGIS DataFinder by providing demonstrations as opportunities arise

### Web Activity Report

#### General statistics on DataFinder site

DataFinder usage information* (February & March 2001)			
Month	Average Hits Per Day	Average Visitors Per Day (weekday, weekend)	Average Visitors Session Length (minutes)
February	345	46 (57, 39)	07:29
March	288	42 (51, 40)	06:34

\* does not include NSDI Node Search

DataFinder NSDI node search usage (2/25/01 – 3/21/01)		
Search originator	Queries	Number of queries that found Metadata records
LMIC / DataFinder	505	306 (61%)
FGDC	256	36 (19%)
Other	85	22 (25%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>846 (» 32 per day)</b>	<b>364 (43%)</b>

#### GIS data Downloads

DataFinder FTP site (February & March 2001)	
Downloaded GIS data sets (February & March)	222

Top 5 downloaded files (February & March 2001)	
File	Number of downloads
Generalized Land Use, 1997	28
Counties and MCDs	22
Digital Soil Survey - Hennepin County	17
Highways	16
Watersheds - Secondary	15

**Next Steps**

- 1) Update Metadata on DataFinder (Continuous)
- 2) Enhance Interactive Maps (*Tentative - NSDI Grant – Agenda Item 6a*)
- 3) Provide DataFinder Activity Report (Every Meeting – Information Item Only)
- 4) Include web site Evaluation Questions as part of the Participant Satisfaction Survey (Fall 2001)
- 5) Make small editing changes as needed (Continuous)

**Recommendation**

Recommend that the MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team approve the DataFinder enhancements and next steps implementation.

## **Attachment A**

### **Full DataFinder Feedback Form Results**

#### **Background**

The enhanced DataFinder site was fully functional on January 28, 2001. Staff notified MetroGIS stakeholders by email on March 31<sup>st</sup> (approximately 267 stakeholders in our mailing database were notified by email). Staff also posted an information notice at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium web site on February 2, 2001 to solicit feedback from Consortium stakeholders.

The feedback form was completed by twelve people. Ten survey participants stated that they had jurisdiction within the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area, and the other two were members of the private sector (in the Twin Cities area). It was decided not to analyze the responses from these two groups separately because their responses were not significantly different.

#### **General Findings**

While the number of respondents was small, some general trends did surface from this feedback form. Most respondents found it easy to search for data on DataFinder and most found the data they were looking for. Most respondents tried out the interactive map and would like to see more interactive maps for both as a reference and for browsing the data. Several suggestions were made regarding the data sets that should be included in these maps.

Eight respondents create metadata and five respondents use DataLogr as their metadata tool. The response was mixed as to whether a web-based tool would be helpful in entering metadata. Perhaps the most discouraging numbers from this feedback form were that eight respondents stated that they created GIS data that are within, or cover the Twin Cities metro area, but of those eight none currently posts their metadata on DataFinder. Only one person requesting being contacted about metadata training and posting metadata on DataFinder.

The operating systems used by respondents were all Windows and most respondents used Microsoft Internet Explorer as their web browser.

The “free-form” comments provided positive feedback about the enhanced DataFinder site. For example, respondents found the site easy to navigate and use and the browse graphics that were added to the metadata records were found useful.

Specific improvements to make on the web site based on the response to this feedback form are:

- to improve the wording on the DataFinder home page to make it clear that GIS data set are available for download
- increase number of interactive maps and GIS data sets available in those maps

### Searching for Data

<i>How did you search for data on DataFinder?</i>	
DataFinder Theme Catalog	5
Using a metadata search (with the DataFinder GeoGateway Interface)	1
Both	4
No response	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>Did you find it easy to look for GIS data using DataFinder?</i>	
Yes	10
No	0
No Response	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>If no, how could we improve the site? (comments box as response)</i>	
No responses	

<i>Did you find the data set you were looking for?</i>	
Yes	9
No	1
No Response	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>If no, what were you looking for? (comments box as response)</i>	
10' Contours for Ramsey County	

### Interactive Maps

<i>Did you use the interactive maps on DataFinder (under "Maps")?</i>	
Yes	10
No	1
No Response	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>Would you like to see more interactive maps on DataFinder?</i>	
Yes	9
No	2
No Response	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>What purpose should be provided by the interactive maps on DataFinder?</i>	
Reference	0
Browse Data	2
Both	8
No response	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<i>Are there any data sets you would especially like to see in an interactive map? (comments box as response)</i>	

Historic and Cultural Sites
Land use, vegetation, water, soils
Users should be allowed to search on the IMS page by address. I realize that TLG would "benefit" from such a tool, but so would the user. Great Site!
surface waters (lakes, streams, wetlands)

### Metadata

<i>If your organization creates GIS data, does it also create metadata?</i>	
Yes	8
No	1
No Response	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>If yes, do you use DataLogr?</i>	
Yes	5
No	4
No Response	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Would you prefer to use a web-based metadata creation tool? (For an example, please see <a href="#">ARDC's Web-Based Metadata Entry Tool, called MetaEase.</a>)</i>	
Yes	3
No	3
No Response	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Please provide any feedback for ARDC about their web-based metadata entry tool, MetaEase: (comments box as response)</i>	
No comments	
<i>Would you like someone to contact you about metadata training (in Twin Cities area)?</i>	
Yes	1
No	8
No Response	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

### DataFinder Participation

<i>Does your organization create GIS data that are within, or cover the Twin Cities metro area?</i>	
Yes	8
No	0
No Response	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>If yes, do you currently post your metadata on DataFinder?</i>	
Yes	0
No	8
No Response	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Would you like someone to contact you about posting your metadata on DataFinder?</i>	
Yes	1

No	7
No Response	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

### Additional Comments

<i>Please provide any additional feedback, comments or suggestions: (comments box as response)</i>	
Only some minor things about the site. I found that the tabs on the op of the welcome screen seemed to be backwards. For example, the welcome tab is on the right and it just seemed to me that it should be on left. Also, it works well on my T1 line, but I have some concerns about how it will run on a modem running at a slower speed.	
I've used DataFinder before, so I had some recollection of what it is intended to accomplish. However, I don't think that the web site in its current form makes it clear that the viewer actually can download much of the data. The short introduction made me think that DataFinder is just an index that will tell me about data and where to go to get it. The entries also didn't clue me in that the data are actually downloadable until I scrolled to the very bottom of the page.	
Assuming that access to data is the primary function of this web site, you need to make it crystal clear at the very beginning of each relevant page that this is what you're delivering.	
I also have some concern about this feedback page. In my case, I only wanted to offer the feedback I'm stating here. I'm not interested right now in filling out the other items. I think you need to realize that many people may choose not to provide feedback when they see all the questions you are asking.	
In most ways, though, I applaud the direction you are moving. These comments are intended to be constructive.	
It's great to see your site maturing and progressing!	
Since the vast majority of our data are created and maintained by other organizations (e.g Hennepin County, LOGIS, etc.) we do not have much to offer. However, when there is an opportunity to assist other organizations throughout the Twin Cities metro area and the state by providing metadata, this service would be an ideal tool.	
The "sample map" [browse graphic in metadata] is a handy feature, I used it this morning to look at Metro wide prime ag. Soils	
The revised site looks good! I found it to be very user-friendly. And it was nice to see so many additional datasets available since the last time I'd used Datafinder.	
I noticed that when I was in the interactive map section that I couldn't use my (Internet Explorer 5.50)browser's "back" button to get back to the previous page. (I got an error message "Unable to display Reference Map MapService Server returns:") There is a link on the bottom of the page, though, to get back to the Datafinder home page.	
well organized; Maps section is helpful to view data before acquiring. Helpful to have links to other sites. Datafinder is very convenient to ensure we have the most recent data for our GIS.	
Data finder has improved a lot since I started in Ramsey SWCD 1.5 years ago.	
Personally, I would like to have a very simple and relatively automatic metadata generator available.	

### About You

<i>Does your organization have jurisdiction within the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area? (selection required):</i>	
Yes	10
No	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

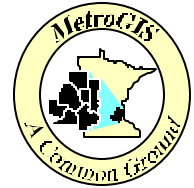
<i>Type of Organization (selection required):</i>	
Government	10
Academic	0
Non-Profit	0
	2
Not affiliated	0

<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>
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<i>If government – what type?</i>	
City	2
County	4
Federal	0
Regional	0
School	0
State	2
Tribal	0
Watershed / Water Management	2
Not Applicable	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Computer Operating System (collected automatically):</i>	
Windows NT	9
Windows 95	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Web Browser Software (collected automatically):</i>	
Netscape Navigator	10
Microsoft Internet Explorer	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>



**TO:** MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team

**FROM:** MetroGIS Staff  
Contact: Theresa Foster (651-602-1572)

**SUBJECT:** NSDI Vision – *Doug Nebert, NSDI Clearinghouse Coordinator*

**DATE:** March 22, 2001  
(For the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting)

### **Information**

Staff is pleased to announce that Doug Nebert, NSDI Clearinghouse Coordinator, will be on hand to talk about the topics related to the FGDC's mission to coordinate clearinghouse activities. We have invited representatives in the past to discuss informative issues that are important to the priority functions of MetroGIS. We will also be extending an open invitation to representatives from LMIC, DNR and ARDC to attend the meeting because of their related clearinghouse activities.

### **Topics of Discussion – NSDI Vision**

- Current Clearinghouse Activities
- Role of the OpenGIS Consortium
- Web Mapping Standards (WMS, WFS, etc)
- 2001 CAP - Clearinghouse Integration with Web Mapping
- NSDI Relationship with Mapping Vendors
- Future Clearinghouse Capabilities

### **Objective of the FGDC related to Clearinghouse Activities**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is tasked by [Executive Order 12906](#) to develop procedures and assist in the implementation of a distributed discovery mechanism for digital geospatial data. Using the data elements defined in the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata, governmental, non-profit, and commercial participants worldwide can make their collections of spatial information searchable and accessible on the Internet using free reference implementation software developed by the FGDC.

### **Biography**

Doug Nebert is the Clearinghouse Coordinator for the FGDC Secretariat in Reston, Virginia. He has worked for the past 17 years for the U.S. Geological Survey first on water resources applications of geographic information systems, then metadata standards and software, and finally, with the FGDC on standardized methods of GIS data dissemination to promote discovery and re-use. Doug is also the Technical Working Group Chair of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) activity, an outreach activity for advice internationally on establishing compatible spatial data service implementations. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from Evergreen State College (Olympia, Washington) and a Masters of Science in Geography from Portland State University (Portland, Oregon).

### **Contact Information**

#### **NSDI Clearinghouse Coordinator**

Doug Nebert  
Phone: 703-648-4151  
E-mail: [ddnebert@usgs.gov](mailto:ddnebert@usgs.gov)

#### **Federal Geographic Data Committee**

US Geological Survey  
590 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 20192  
FGDC Web Site: <http://www.fgdc.gov/>



**TO:** MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team

**FROM:** Theresa Foster (MetroGIS Staff)  
Phone: (651)602-1572  
Email: [theresa.foster@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:theresa.foster@metc.state.mn.us)

City of St. Paul, Public Works  
Bob Basques: (651) 266-6188 email: bob.basques@ci.saint-paul.mn.us  
Dan Bartholic: (651) 266-6243 email: dan.bartholic@ci.saint-paul.mn.us

**SUBJECT:** Data Distribution Demonstration – City of St. Paul, Public Works

**DATE:** March 20, 2001  
(For the March 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

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## **Background**

MetroGIS will be looking at different data distribution mechanism for larger data sets based upon future needs of MetroGIS users. We are in the early stages of the MetroGIS investigative process to look at potential options. The next few team meetings will have demonstrations about different preferred data distribution mechanisms (MapServer, ArcIMS, Intergraph etc.). A request for demonstrations (RFD) was sent out on October 9, 2000, to look at other potential distribution mechanisms. At the March Technical Advisory Team meeting City of St. Paul will host the meeting. The last demonstration will be at the Joint Technical Advisory Team / Policy Advisory Team meeting on May 2, 2001 and AutoDesk will be the demonstrator.

## **Demonstration Goals**

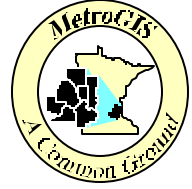
The goal for these demonstrations is to effectively communicate/display data distribution mechanisms for larger data sets. Demonstrations will focus on the following capabilities:

- To demonstrate the capability of accessing and distributing large geographic information data sets (each demonstrator will have access to the Regional Parcel Pilot Data Set for demonstration only)
- To demonstrate the architecture of their system
- To demonstrate the technical tools of their system
- To demonstrate the benefits of using their system
- To provide information about data security and access issues
- To demonstrate any data standards that are in place and required to support each system

## **Demonstration - City of St. Paul, Public Works**

Demonstration will focus on the ongoing development of a GIS Information System with the goal of using it for data management, planning, and infrastructure maintenance/management. Topics covered: institutional and organizational issues; using the Internet as a data distribution conduit; enterprise database considerations; internet forms with a GIS bent; push/pull of data to/from databases; and data conversion techniques. Hear about the benefits and pitfalls staff at the City of St. Paul encounter in building a system for St. Paul's customers, managers, maintenance staff and citizens.

Bob Basques and Dan Bartholic will demonstrate. Handouts will be provided at the meeting. You will be asked to provide staff with feedback and complete an evaluation form.



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## Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data

**TO:** MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team

**FROM:** MetroGIS Support Staff  
Contacts: Theresa Foster (651-602-1572)  
Alison Slaats (651-602-1561)

**SUBJECT:** NSDI Grant Application  
Category 3 – Clearinghouse Integration with Web Mapping Projects  
“MetroGIS DataFinder Map Service Project”

**DATE:** March 20, 2001  
(For the Mar. 29th Meeting)

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### Update on Action

Coordinating Committee: On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001, MetroGIS staff received approval from the Coordinating Committee to submit an application for a \$20,000 NSDI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure) grant.

### Project Summary and Benefit to MetroGIS

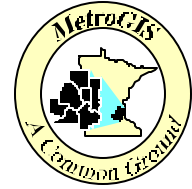
The grant would provide funding to design, install and evaluate the MetroGIS DataFinder Map Service Project, a copy of the grant application will be available for download prior to the meeting on March 29, 2001 ([www.metrogis.org](http://www.metrogis.org) > Under Supported Projects > See *Web Mapping Services (Pending)*). The result will be the successful deployment of three Open GIS Consortium (OGC)-compliant web mapping services that can send standard map images over the Web. A map service is a map that is published over the Internet. It may contain a single data layer (e.g. imagery, elevation, and land use) or a collection of complimentary data layers.

A 50% in-kind match is required, the project will leverage the grant to make a 100% in-kind match. Alison Slaats, DataFinder Manager, would be the technical lead and Theresa Foster, MetroGIS Technical Coordinator, would be the project manager. Partial staff time, time of “Property Design Team”(County GIS Coordinators), Technical Advisory Team members and Coordinating Committee members who would provide direction and comment throughout the project would comprise the in-kind match. Award money is intended primarily to support institutional (staff) capability (salary and travel) for the ongoing management and enhancement of the map service technology.

MetroGIS would thoroughly evaluate the benefits of providing map services as part of the grant process. As part of the evaluation process, a web site evaluation is proposed and a map services forum will be conducted to provide stakeholders and public education about the proposed map services. It is believed by staff and stakeholder representatives, that by providing a service to the counties and eventually the general public, through these map services, clearly demonstrates a benefit in leveraging acquired technical assistance, a reduction in deployment of duplicative services and reduced costs of hardware and software.

### Next Steps

Posted NSDI Grant Application on MetroGIS Organization Site: March 22, 2001  
Notification of Grant Funding (*Pending*): June 2001  
Notify Technical Advisory Team of Proposed Project Schedule (*Pending*): July 2001



# MetroGIS

## Agenda Item 6b

### Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data

**TO:** Coordinating Committee

**FROM:** MetroGIS Support Staff  
 Contacts: Alison Slaats, DataFinder Manager (651-602-1561)

**SUBJECT:** ESRI Geography Network Challenge

**DATE:** March 21, 2001 *(For the Mar. 29th Meeting)*

#### UPDATE ON ACTION

Coordinating Committee: On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001, MetroGIS staff received approval from the Coordinating Committee to submit an application for the ESRI Geography Network Challenge.

#### *Excerpt from Coordinating Committee Draft Meeting Minutes:*

The group concurred with staff that a benefit of the participation in the challenge would be to promote the innovative MetroGIS organization nationally even if an award is not received. The group also agreed that if an award is received that the resulting education/training credit would be a wonderful resource to distribute among MetroGIS stakeholders who have a need for it.

Wencl noted that MetroGIS needs to be careful not to promote a particular commercial product and believes that the intension to test and use of the OGC standard in the NSDI Grant is evidence of compliance with a policy of openness. He also concurred with Gelbmann that the biggest benefit of this program will be the outreach that it would foster.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Geography Network Challenge is a competition offered by ESRI, Inc. to promote the use of map services. A *map service* is a map that is published over the Internet. It may contain a single data layer (e.g. imagery, elevation, and land use) or a collection of complimentary data layers. Examples of complimentary data layers would be basic basemap layers of administrative boundaries, water features, and city points along with thematic layers such as vegetation and flood zones.

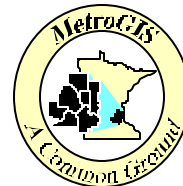
The Geography Challenge is open to all ArcIMS users worldwide. It is designed to increase awareness of Internet mapping services that enable publishing and sharing geographic information - locally, nationally and globally. There are several challenge categories, but MetroGIS DataFinder would enter under the "Data Sharing" category.

#### BENEFITS TO METROGIS

The benefits of entering the challenge are twofold. First, the prizes offered would provide MetroGIS with monetary rewards that would assist in implementing useful services for MetroGIS:

1-Grand Prize \$5,000 in ESRI credit	7-\$1,000 in ESRI credit
5-\$2,000 in ESRI credit	10-\$1,000 credit for ESRI's Virtual Campus

Secondly and perhaps more importantly, the challenge would offer MetroGIS stakeholders a new method for accessing data over the Internet for GIS mapping and Analysis. This would increase the usability of data sets offered on DataFinder and provide easier access to data by new GIS users in the MetroGIS community. In addition, MetroGIS DataFinder would receive additional exposure in the national GIS sphere and continue to expand upon a data-sharing model that other metropolitan communities could use and follow.



**TO:** MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team

**FROM:** MetroGIS Staff  
Contact: Theresa Foster (651-602-1572)

**SUBJECT:** Business Information Needs Update

**DATE:** March 22, 2001  
(For the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting)

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### **Regional Public Parcel Data Users Forum**

Work on the planning for the regional public parcel data users forum began in early March, members from the Policy Advisory Team (Craig) and Technical Advisory Team (Maxwell and Krafthefer) have agreed to participate on the planning team and actively help facilitate the forum. Gary Stevenson, Chair of the Parcel Data “Stitch Committee, will provide the basis of creating the regional parcel pilot data set. Trudy Richter and Jay Wittstock will be forum moderators. The Peer Review Forum is scheduled for April 19, 2001. The forum objectives will be to identify enhancements with the regional data set (data content, accuracy and frequency of updates, etc...); identify common uses and benefits of using the data; and to identify access related distribution mechanisms needed to share the regional data set with stakeholders. Invitations will be mailed on March 22, 2001.

### **Planned Future Land Use Peer Review**

The Metropolitan Council is nearly finished with the first phase of a pilot project, conducted on behalf of MetroGIS, to test the regional future land use coding scheme prototyped by the North Metro I35W Corridor Coalition. The prototype regional coding scheme was created by a MetroGIS work group of community development professionals who represented urban core, suburban, rural, and freestanding communities. The pilot project began last August and involves building a regional dataset comprised of the official future land use plan designations for each of the 190 municipalities in the seven county area and then “mapping” or aggregating these individual designations to the regional coding scheme derived from the I-35W prototype. Where available, digital data produced by the individual communities was used. Council staff are documenting issues with the prototype regional coding scheme as they arise during the pilot project.

From January through March, officials with each of the 190 communities were asked to comment on the accuracy of the Council’s coding of their individual community future land use plans and on the “mapping” of the their individual codes to the regional scheme. The comment/feedback process will be conducted via a questionnaire that is Internet-based. The responses will be automatically written to a database for analysis by Council and MetroGIS officials.

A Peer Review Forum is scheduled for May 17, 2001 to discuss enhancements and changes to the prototype regional coding scheme

The regional scheme and resulting regional dataset is intended to provide a means to compare the official individual land use designations adopted by each community. It is in no way intended to replace locally adopted designations.

**Census Geography Data Release**

The consultant has finalized the 1990 Census Block boundaries for each of the seven counties, and staff completed metadata documentation. Release of the data set is expected by mid-April. Data and metadata can be located on DataFinder ([www.datafinder.org](http://www.datafinder.org)). Staff will be sending out an email to MetroGIS stakeholders that have provided MetroGIS with their email address.