



**Thursday, August 22, 2002**  
**Centennial Office Building, Room 302**  
**(Southeast of State Capitol Building)**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approve Agenda**

**3. Approve Meeting Summary**

- a) May 9, 2002..... all

**4. Meeting Reports**

- a) June 19 Coordinating Committee Meeting .....Randall Johnson
- b) July 30 Policy Board Meeting .....Randall Johnson

**5. Items Requiring Action or Discussion:**

- a) Modifications to TAT 2002 Work Program – Need Confirmation .....Mark Kotz

**6. Project and Workgroup Reports**

- a) Regional Parcel Dataset Workgroup ..... Dave Brandt
- b) Highways and Roads Business Information Need ..... Mike Dolbow
- c) Regional Planned Land Use Dataset ..... Paul Hanson
- d) Existing Land Use Business Information Need ..... Paul Hanson
- e) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas (Census Data) Workgroup ..... Tim Zimmerman
- f) DataFinder Café Update..... Alison Slaats
- g) Hydrology Data ..... Susanne Maeder/Paul Hanson

**7. Information Sharing**

- a) MetroGIS Celebration Scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> .....Randall Johnson
- b) Minnesota GeoIntegrator Grant Presentation..... David Arbeit
- c) DataFinder Site Modifications ..... Alison Slaats
- d) NSDI CAP Grant Update ..... Alison Slaats
- e) DataFinder Web Stats..... Steve Fester
- f) Regional Parcel Dataset-Private Sector/eCommerce Workgroup.....Randall Johnson
- g) Awards and Outreach Activities .....Randall Johnson

**8. Next Meeting = November 7, 2002**

**9. Adjourn**

### 3. Approve Meeting Summary May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002 meeting

**Meeting Summary**  
MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team  
Centennial Office Building – Rm 302  
May 9, 2002

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Maxwell called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Members Present: Dave Brandt (Washington County), David Claypool (Ramsey County), Sherry Coatney (Intergraph Corp.), Bob Diedrich (SRF Consulting), Dan Falbo (ESRI), Rick Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council), Susanne Maeder (LMIC), Jim Maxwell (The Lawrence Group), Curt Peterson (Ramsey County), Gary Swenson (Anoka County).

Support Staff: Steve Fester, Paul Hanson, Randall Johnson, Mark Kotz, and Alison Slaats

Visitors: Dan Schmidt and Rich Gleason (HDR, Inc.)

#### **2. ACCEPT AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

#### **3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY**

Staff member Kotz restated the recent Team procedural changes to team members, reminding people that comments on the minutes will be requested after a draft is prepared and sent to members. Any other questions regarding the revised procedures can be directed to Kotz.

Meeting notes were accepted, ayes, all.

#### **4. MEETING REPORTS**

##### **a) March 20 Coordinating Committee Meeting and b) April 10 Policy Board Meeting**

Staff Coordinator Johnson gave a brief summary of the two meetings. Johnson noted that the counties' presentations about their GIS programs were received very well at the April 10 Policy Board meeting. Also noted were the acceptance of the Planned Land Use Dataset, an update on the Performance Measures project, and an announcement of the November 14 MetroGIS Participant Appreciation event.

#### **5. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

##### **a) TAT 2002 Work Program – Need Feedback**

Kotz asked team members to review the revised Work Program document and provide reaction and feedback. Regarding workgroups, Member Claypool noted that the Watershed Boundaries information need will need to be addressed soon. Johnson noted that Washington County has agreed to support the background research and pilot options for this information need.

Member Gelbmann reminded the group that members have stated that they are more interested in working on specific topics than sitting on long-term working groups. Johnson also briefly explained that Business Information Needs process, and how the Technical Advisory Team is the catalyst for its implementation.

#### **6. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS**

##### **a) Regional Parcel Dataset – Status Report**

**Kotz summarized the status of the Regional Parcel Dataset. (See report in meeting agenda) Kotz also mentioned that a new workgroup is needed to form to work on some existing and some new regional parcel data issues. Dave Brandt, Gary Swenson and Curt Peterson all volunteered to be part of the effort.**

##### **b) Internet Data Distribution Mechanism**

- **Summary of Responses to beta test**

Staff Member Slaats summarized the survey responses received. See the [final summary document](#). Slaats also asked for suggestions regarding a name for the mechanism, which to date has been referred to by the acronym "IEDDM". (**Note:** Following this meeting, a survey was initiated and "DataCafé" was chosen.)

- **E-Commerce Component**

Johnson gave an update on the eCommerce Scoping Study. A recommendation will be made to the Coordinating Committee in June.

**c) Regional Planned Land Use Dataset**

Johnson thanked Staff Member Hanson for his work on this dataset, noting that to MetroGIS's knowledge, no other organization has attempted a similar feat.

**d) Existing Land Use Business Information Need**

There were no discussion in addition to the information presented in the Agenda for this item.

**e) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas**

There were no discussion in addition to the information presented in the Agenda for this item.

**f) Hydrology Data Workgroup**

Co-Chair Maxwell made an open inquiry as to whether this was being conducted on the State level as well. Johnson responded that the plan was to apply the State-level work to MetroGIS.

**g) Regional 2000 Census Geography**

Gelbmann stated that progress has been going smoothly on this effort, and initial delivery is expected by end of May.

**h) Highways and Roads Business Information Need**

Johnson explained that a workgroup for this Information Need would compare existing information to what would be needed, defining dataset specifications, roles & responsibilities, and a custodian. Maxwell volunteered to be a part of this workgroup. It was suggested that the group include a representative(s) from Mn/DOT as well. Work is expected to begin on this information need in June 2002.

**7. INFORMATION SHARING**

**a) Technology Trends**

There was no volunteer for this meeting's Technology Trends presentation. Please contact Mark Kotz (651-602-1644) for more information or to sign up to present at a future meeting.

**b) Modification of DataFinder maps**

**Slaats explained that minor modifications had been made to the DataFinder maps so that they would work with the latest browsers.**

**c) NSDI CAP grant update**

The Internet-Enabled Data Distribution Mechanism project has helped the stated goals of the NSDI grant – namely that we serve OGC-compliant web map services (WMS). Slaats explained that NSDI grant funds could be used to extend the functionality of the IEDDM to allow for data download from non-ArcIMS web sites that are compliant with the Web Feature Mapping standards being finalized by the OGC. These service use Geography Markup Language (GML) to transfer geography. This would allow the IEDDM to extract data from other software such as GeoMedia Web and Minnesota MapServer. This idea will be explored as a proof of concept this summer.

**d) Web Statistics – DataFinder and MetroGIS sites**

There were no discussion in addition to the information presented in the Agenda for this item.

**Other**

Maxwell asked Slaats to follow up on an item from last TAT meeting regarding whether data being served by ArcIMS could be accessed via ArcMap. Slaats said that she had followed up on this topic with ESRI and that they had worked out a satisfactory solution. Slaats added that a document describing this issue very well is available on the ESRI web site ([http://arconline.esri.com/arconline/whitepapers/ims\\_ManageDataSharingFeature.htm](http://arconline.esri.com/arconline/whitepapers/ims_ManageDataSharingFeature.htm)). Dan Falbo, ESRI, added that the initial confusion precipitating the situation had been caused by a lack of, or ambiguous, documentation.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

~~August 8, 2002~~ later changed to August 22nd

**9. ADJOURN**

Co-Chair Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Prepared by Steve Fester, MetroGIS Support Staff

## 4. Meeting Reports

### 4a & b) June 19 Coordinating Committee & July 30 Policy Board *Randall Johnson*

#### **SUMMARY OF JUNE 19 CC AND 7/30 POLICY BOARD ACTIONS:**

- MetroGIS DataFinder Café was officially rolled-out by Alison Slaats, DataFinder Manager, at the 7/30 Policy Board. The demonstration focused on Café's functionality from both data user's and producer's perspectives. Another purpose of the presentation was to help the Board better understand the differences between data distribution and online GIS functionality, a topic that is a current Business Planning challenge area. The full meeting summary is at [http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/index.shtml#agendas\\_minutes](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/index.shtml#agendas_minutes).
- The Board accepted the eight Business Planning Challenge Areas recommended by the Committee (below) A workgroup of the Committee will continue to refine the challenge areas and develop specific strategies and tactics for endorsement by the full Committee on Sep 25. If any TAT members wishes to participate on the workgroup, contact Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator, at 651-602-1638.

#### ***Challenges Related to Ongoing Work:***

- Common Information Needs,
- Regionally Endorsed Data Solutions,
- Organizational Constraints to Data Distribution,
- Support for the MetroGIS Mission,
- Outreach and Broader Coordination

#### ***Challenges Related to Emerging Issues***

- Common Tools for Data Discovery and Distribution
  - Distribution of Parcel Data to Non-Profit and Private Sector
  - Common Geodata Application Needs
- Authorized the Policy Board Chair, on behalf of the MetroGIS organization, to submit a letter seeking designation as an I-Team. The National I-Team Coordinator encouraged MetroGIS to seek designation.

#### **COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATION: ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL PARCEL DATA SOLUTION – NON-GOVERNMENT INTERESTS**

The Board's action (one of the emerging challenge areas) resulted in the creation of a working group comprised of representatives from each county, staffed by MetroGIS. Dave Drealan, Carver County Planner, has agreed to chair the group. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 20.

The group will be investigating technical and policy modifications necessary to achieve a collaborative solution, including deploying an eCommerce extension to DataFinder Cafe, and drafting a multiparty agreement to implement the recommended solution. The group will be considering the results of scoping study commissioned by MetroGIS to add an eCommerce extension to DataFinder Café. The study identifies the design components necessary to permit access by non-government interests to parcel data via the same automated mechanism (DataFinder Café) that will be available to government and academic interests. The preliminary cost estimate is between \$38,000 and \$63,000, depending on options selected.

## 5. Items Requiring Action or Discussion

### 5a) TAT 2002-2003 Work Program Modifications– Need Confirmation - Mark Kotz

Five tasks in our workplan are proposed to be delayed from 2002 to 2003 for the following reasons:

- In May 2002, the participants at the Regional Existing Land Use Regional Planned Land Use Forum concurred that work on the Existing Land Use Information Need should be postponed until 6-9 months from the release of the Regional Planned Land Use dataset which occurred in July to give them a chance to use and evaluate it relative to whether the coding scheme could also be used for Regional Existing Land Use solution.
- Staff recommends postponing identification of “second generation” priority information needs until work in progress on the current priorities is essentially complete (see attached table)
- Staff recommends postponing the Parcel Users forum until the regional dataset has been available for 6-9 months. DataFinder Café was operation July 2002, which made possible widespread access to this dataset via the Internet.
- Staff is in the process of negotiating modifications to the objectives the NSDI grant. The original objectives have been essentially met with the development of DataFinder Café without using any of the grant funds. A one-year time extension is being sought to address Web Feature Service or GML enhancements to the Café.
- The Policy Board has directed that MetroGIS investigate opportunities for sharing development of commonly needed GIS “applications”, as an emerging challenge area.

#### Priority Business Information Needs

2003 Task	Who is Working on This? (Lead TAT Member (if any) in Bold) Other workgroup members do not have to be part of TAT	Work Group Status	Start/End
Regional Existing Land Use Information Need Peer Review Forum	Paul Hanson (Met. Council), Randall Johnson (MetroGIS)	Will need eventually	<del>May-02—June-02</del> Forum TBD Winter 03
Identify “second generation” common business information need priorities	Randall Johnson (MetroGIS)	Will need eventually	<del>Nov-02—Dec-02</del> Design (Administer 2003) Fall 2003
Parcel Data Users Forum (public/academic version)	Randall Johnson (MetroGIS) Met. Council staff member	Will need eventually	<del>Nov-02—Dec-02</del> Design (Administer 2003) TBD Spring 03

#### Enhance Access to Shared Data

2003 Task	Who is Working on This? (Lead TAT Member (if any) in Bold) Other workgroup members do not have to be part of TAT	Work Group Status	<u>Start/End</u>
Foster implementation of OGC-compliant Web Mapping Services by stakeholder organizations per NSDI grant	<b>Alison Slaats (DataFinder Manager)</b>	None Needed	<del>May-02—Sep-02</del> Sep 02 – TBD 03
Host WEB Mapping Service training/workshop per NSDI grant	<b>Alison Slaats (DataFinder Manager)</b>	Needed	May-02 Sept 02 – TBD 03

#### Share Costs Related to Commonly Needed GIS Applications

2003 Task	Who is Working on This? (Lead TAT Member (if any) in Bold)	Work Group Status	<u>Start/End</u>
Investigate benefits of facilitating development of geodata applications that address common business needs and dependent on MetroGIS’s endorsed regional datasets.	TBD (during the Business Planning Update in progress).	TBD	<u>TBD</u>

**Priority Common Information Needs and Related Regional Datasets  
as Defined by MetroGIS Community**

<b>COMPLETED*</b>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	<b>NOT STARTED</b>
Street addresses	Jurisdictional Boundaries	Rights to Property
Where People Live	Lakes and Wetlands	Land Regulations
Land Use Plans	Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas	
Parcel Boundaries	Existing Land Use	
Unique Parcel Identifiers	Highway/Road Networks	
Census Boundaries		
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

\*Regional solutions have been adopted by the Policy Board and associated datasets developed (as of July 2002).

<b>ENDORSED REGIONAL SOLUTION</b>	<b>DATASET(S) AND CUSTODIAN(S) (AVAILABLE THROUGH DATAFINDER)</b>
Street addresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Parcels (Counties-primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> <li>• Regional Addressable Street Centerlines (TLG primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> </ul>
Where People Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Parcels (Counties primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> <li>• Regional Addressable Street Centerlines (TLG primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> </ul>
Land Use Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Planned Land Use (Met Council)</li> </ul>
Parcel Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Parcels (Counties primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> </ul>
Unique Parcel Identifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Parcels (Counties primary/Metropolitan Council-regional)</li> </ul>
Census Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional 1990 Census Geography (Metropolitan Council)</li> <li>• Regional 2000 Census Geography (Metropolitan Council)</li> </ul>
Land Cover**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Land Cover (DNR)</li> </ul>

\*\*Regional solution completed, even though not among top 13 priority information needs because DNR had resources to sponsor the work.

## 6. Project and Workgroup Reports

### 6a) Regional Parcel Dataset Workgroup *Dave Brandt*

Workgroup was formed and consists of Dave Brandt (Washington Co.), Curt Peterson, (Ramsey Co.), Gary Swenson (Anoka Co.), Bob Moulder (Hennepin Co.), Kent Tupper (Dakota Co.), Mark Kotz (Met. Council)

Notes from 06/04/2002 workgroup meeting.

#### 1. **Should we attempt to account for multiple parcels in the same 2D geography (e.g. condos)? If so, how (e.g. points layer)?**

There are a few different situations in which this issue arises (i.e. condos, manufactured home parks, etc.). Different counties use different methods to handle this situation. Dakota, Ramsey and Hennepin have separate point datasets with a point for each of the “parcel” features that are not represented by a one-to-one relationship with a polygon in the polygon dataset. Anoka county cuts the larger polygons into smaller “pseudo parcel” polygons so that they can still be represented in the polygon dataset. Washington county uses PIN ranges to indicate the range of possible PINs associated with a polygon.

All agreed that counties should be allow and encouraged to supply a parcel points dataset in addition to the polygon dataset. This points dataset should include all parcels (not just the parcels that are not represented by a one-to-one relationship with a polygon) and should include the exact same 24 standard attributes as the polygon shape file. However, this point dataset should have one additional attribute that would allow counties to flag which of the points is and is not represented by a one-to-one relationship with a polygon in the polygon shapefile.

**Action: MetroGIS staff will make a recommendation for this field structure to the Parcel Workgroup for approval.**

All also agreed that some form of documentation should exist that explains some of the subtle differences in the way that each county collects and stores GIS data for these kinds of parcels. It is unclear if this should go into each counties own metadata, or into the regional metadata, or into some separate document describing parcel data. Perhaps this should wait for feedback from the users at the parcel data user forum (scheduled for Spring 2003).

**Action: MetroGIS staff will clarify this issue by e-mail with the workgroup.**

#### 2. **Should we including rights-of-way, lakes and other "non-standard" parcels?**

If counties have polygons in their parcel dataset for rights-of-way, lakes or other “non-standard” parcels, these should not be removed from the regional parcel dataset. Counties do not have to go to any extra lengths to create polygons where they do not already exist in their parcel dataset.

#### 3. **Should we accommodate counties that voluntarily want to including additional attributes? If so, how will this work?**

There are several ways to accomplish this.

1. Allow counties that want to provide additional attributes to just add more fields onto the end of the attributed table. All agreed that this would cause the shape files to no longer be standardized, which would not be a good idea for anyone that wanted to combine datasets from multiple counties.
2. Allow counties to provide two data sets, one with the standard MetroGIS attributes, and another with whatever attributes the county wants to provide. Both would be available to all licensed parcel data users. (If the county also provided a parcel points file, this could result in 4 datasets being served (two point and two polygon).
3. Allow counties to provide a table of additional attributes that could be joined by the unique parcel identifier to either the parcel polygon or parcel points datasets. This seems to be the best solution, however, the MetroGIS DataFinder Café currently does not handle the download of non-geographic data (i.e. just tables).

**Action: MetroGIS staff will investigate ways to handle #3 and respond to the Parcel Data Workgroup.**

**4. Should there be a process for “data anomaly/error feedback” to counties? (Is this an issue? If so, should there be a formal feedback mechanism?)**

All agreed that MetroGIS should investigate the idea of putting up a web form that would allow parcel data users to type in comments about perceived errors, etc. with parcel data. The person filling out the form would be required to indicate which county’s parcel data they are writing about. That information would then be used to send the comments to that counties supplied e-mail address. MetroGIS would ask each county what e-mail address they want the comments sent to.

Action: MetroGIS staff will investigate the feasibility of putting up such a form and respond to the Parcel Data Workgroup. Workgroup members will be asked to aid in designing the form.

**5. What should the quarterly release dates be? Is there one date each year when all counties have value and tax data for the same year?**

All counties seem to be working on processing their new valuation and tax data between January and March each year. All counties present said they would be able to have the new valuation data for the year by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thus, the quarterly update schedule will be based on that date (April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>).

So, valuation and tax information in the Regional Parcel Dataset will be updated with the April first release, and will not be updated again until the following April. New parcels will of course be added during that time and will show up in the subsequent quarterly updates. Each county will provide the assessed values as of the current year (for taxes payable the following year). The total tax and tax capacity fields will reflect the tax for the current year.

**[Note: Quarterly updates will begin with the October 1<sup>st</sup>. update.**

Meeting was adjourned with no perceived need to meet again.

**6b) Highways and Roads Business Information Need - Mike Dolbow**

Met Council staff have re-examined the original business needs study with respect to the Highways and Roads BIN. We have tentatively categorized the needs, and are meeting with Jan Vanderwall from Roseville Schools and Tom Glancy from MnDOT to refine the categorization and to set up a forum for defining the business need.

The Highways and Roads Peer Review Forum is tentatively planned for late October.

### **6c) Regional Planned Land Use Data - Paul Hanson**

On May 18, 2002, the MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed proposed solution for the Regional Planned Land Use dataset (GIS). The endorsement includes the data structure of the dataset, the Regional Planned Land Use Coding Scheme, having the Metropolitan Council serve as the Regional Custodian, and the Roles and Responsibilities of the Regional Custodian.

On May 23, 2002, MetroGIS, MnAPA, Sensible Land Use Coalition, North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition and the Metropolitan Council co-hosted a forum to announce to the planning community the availability and specifics of the Regional Planned Land Use dataset. An announcement of the Forum was sent to all MnAPA members and other community development professionals encouraging them to attend.

Participants were informed of the significance of the Regional Planned Land Use GIS in terms of its ability to provides users a means to quickly view the vision of the 190 communities in the region and were shown that without jeopardizing the integrity of the locally adopted land uses designations, the GIS provides a means for users to compare and contrast, on a like-to-like basis, planned land uses across the entire Minneapolis – St. Paul Metropolitan Area. Attendees were informed that this accomplishment, to our knowledge, is unprecedented at this scale, in the country.

The May 23 forum represented the culmination of several years of effort by the metro area planners and the GIS professionals to address the MetroGIS community's need for easily accessible and easily usable planned land use data for the seven county Metro Area.

On June 13, 2002, the regional Planned Land Use dataset (GIS) was made available on DataFinder. The next quarterly update is scheduled for September.

The Regional Planned Land Use GIS Project was submitted to MnAPA (Minnesota Chapter of the American Planners Association) as a candidate for MnAPA's 2002 Outstanding Project Award. The award will be made at the September 11-13 MnAPA Conference in Minneapolis.

### **6d) Existing Land Use Information Need - Paul Hanson**

The May 23, 2002 forum, co-hosted by MetroGIS, MnAPA, Sensible Land Use Coalition, North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition and the Metropolitan Council, also served as a launching vehicle to begin public discussion on fulfilling the MetroGIS's Existing Land Use information need. Although the needs of a regional existing land use dataset have already been outlined in earlier forums (1997), participants were told that MetroGIS is now able to help them outline a solution for this need. As stated above, invitations to this "launch" forum were sent to all MnAPA members and other community development professionals.

Participants were shown by the Design Center for American Urban Landscape on how the North I-35W Corridor Coalition is using both Existing and Planned Land Use to enhance Smart Growth opportunities within their core communities. The intent of this demonstration was to illustrate how regional datasets can enhance sub-regional growth opportunities and improve market awareness and to encourage participation in coming workgroups that will help outline the Regional Existing Land Use data solution.

The Metropolitan Council proceeded to announce that they hoped to release their 2000 Generalized Land Use dataset in the coming weeks. They explained that a change in the Council's internal needs for specific and spatially "accurate" data had prompted changes in the way they collected and classified land data from versions past. Council representatives explained that the refinements in their land use categories approach the local units' need for more specific land use categorization. Attendees were encourage to uses the 2000 Generalized Land Use dataset and evaluate it in terms of how it fulfills their individual business need for land use data. Upon a review period of a few months, MetroGIS will establish a workgroup to begin developing the regional solution for the Existing Land Use dataset. Unfortunately, the Met Council has yet to make the 2000 Generalized Land Use available to the public. This delay will likely translate into a delay in the establishment of the MetroGIS workgroup.

Preparation for the Existing Land Use Peer Review Forum is expected to begin in late Fall.

## **6e) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas** - *Tim Zimmerman*

See handout at meeting.

## **6f) DataFinder Café Update** - *Alison Slaats*

- The DataFinder Café went live on the DataFinder web site in July 2002.
- Syncline delivered the final code modules for the Café in early August. These modules included a few bug fixes and more importantly a Metrics component. The metrics component measures which datasets are viewed via the Café and how many data extractions occur, also including download format. A user feedback survey was also added as part of the download process. This will give users a chance to provide any comments and/or feedback on how the Café is working.
- Mark Kotz and Alison Slaats submitted applications to do presentations on the Café to both the national URISA conference and the MN GIS/LIS conference. Both were accepted. The URISA presentation also required a written paper, which we are also augmenting to create a White Paper about the Café. The white paper will be available on the MetroGIS web site.

Ongoing issues with the Café:

- Some users may have noted that downloading sections of large datasets (such as land use or parcels) takes a very long time. This is due, we think, to the use of file-based GIS data (i.e., shapefiles). We plan on storing some test datasets in SDE and anticipate that this will speed up the extraction process. If it does, then we will work out a migration plan to store larger datasets in SDE.

## **6g) Hydrology Data** - *Susanne Maeder/Paul Hanson*

See handout at meeting.

## 7. Information Sharing

### 7a) MetroGIS Celebration Scheduled for November 19th - *Randall Johnson*

Please mark your calendars. Each of the 470+ individuals who has participated in one or more of MetroGIS's 23+ forums and/or any of the standing committees or major workgroups will be mailed an invitation in mid-September. Individuals who have made significant contributions will be recognized. Nancy Tosta has agreed to keynote the event. She is nationally known for her work in the geodata community. She has been asked provide a glimpse into a future world where sharing of framework geodata is the norm and is playing a vital role in day-to-day decision making of the public and private sector interests. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a light buffet in Room 40A of the Ramsey County Court House. The program will be gin at 6:30 p.m. RSVPs will be due by a date certain in mid October.

### 7b) Minnesota Geointegrator Grant Presentation - *David Arbeit*

See presentation at meeting.

### 7c) DataFinder Site Modification - *Alison Slaats*

Several changes were made to the DataFinder web site since the last TAT meeting:

- Addition of a home page link to the DataFinder Café
- Addition of a DataFinder Café launch page (including installation instructions)
- Changes in wording on front page. Now the three main functions of DataFinder, catalog, search and Café, are grouped together and all prefaced with the word "DataFinder." This is to emphasize that these are a suite of tools that users can employ together to meet their data search, browsing and download needs.
- The "interactive maps" link which previously was on the home page moved to the resources page. The DataFinder "interactive maps" page provides five interactive ArcIMS HTML viewer maps. The reason for doing this was to emphasize Café.
- Several more links to interactive mapping applications were added. If you know of any more that should be listed on this page please let Alison Slaats know.
- DataFinder Catalog and DataFinder Café thematic categories were changed use the Minnesota Geospatial Data Categories that are based on ISO 95115 Topical Category Definitions. Thus, they are official state, federal and international categories. A few of the ISO categories were expanded by the federal and state governments to provide meaningful categories at the local level

### 7d) NSDI CAP Grant Update - *Alison Slaats*

MetroGIS was awarded an NSDI grant to implement web map services that are compliant with the standards from the OpenGIS Consortium (OGC). Many of the requirements of this grant are being met by the "behind-the-scenes" functionality of the MetroGIS DataFinder Café.

On August 1, a request was submitted to FGDC for an extension (until December 2003) to complete the grant requirements. While we have verbal approval of the grant extension, a written approval has not yet been provided.

While there was an idea to use some of the grant money to pay for a GML extraction to the Café (to allow for data extraction from non-ESRI-based web servers), the discussion with Syncline proved that we would not have enough money in the grant to complete this project. However, by extending the grant deadline, we may be able to combine the money from the grant with other funding sources (such as the LMIC GeoIntegrator grant) to pursue this goal in 2003.

7e) Web Stats – DataFinder and MetroGIS Site - Steve Fester

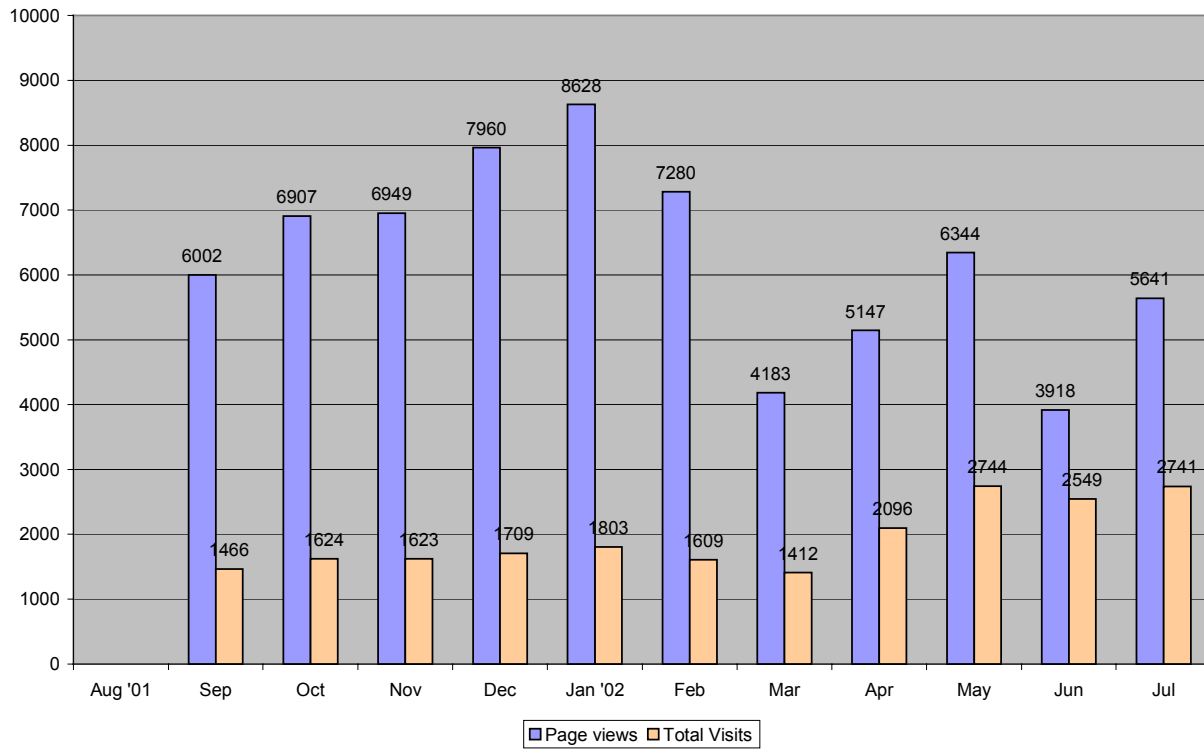
2002 DataFinder Web Activity Report

General statistics on DataFinder site (www.datafinder.org)												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July					
Average Hits Per Day	681	749	2,718	3,469	2,503	2,566	2,011					
Average Page views Per Day	365	383	1,145	1,496	1,112	1,058	814					
Average Visitors Per Day	106	114	126	143	131	123	128					
Average Visitors Session Length (minutes)	6:31	6:49	8:14	10:31	9:40	10:24	8:08					
Unique visitors per month – Total for the month	1,389	1,450	1,811	1,839	N/A	1,490	1,633					
Visitors Who Visited Once – Total for the month	1,059	1,123	1,398	1,394	N/A	1,101	1,260					
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once – Total for the month	330	327	413	445	N/A	389	373					
<p><b>Total number of hits</b> shows all successful hits including HTML pages, pictures, forms, scripts and files downloaded each day on average.  <b>Average Page Views (Impressions)</b> tells how many pages were by all visitors combined each day on average.  <b>Average Visitor Sessions Per Day</b> tells how many visitor sessions your site had each day on average.  <b>Average Visitor Session Length</b> tells how long the average visitor session was (in minutes).            Unique visitors are a count of unique IPs for the period of the report.  <b>Number of Unique Users</b> tells how many visitors visited your site determined by IP addresses &amp; domain names  <b>Number of Users Who Visited Once</b> tells how many visitors came to your site one time by counting single occurrences of visitor sessions.  <b>Number of Users Who Visited More Than Once</b> tells how many visitors came back to your site by counting repeated visitor sessions.</p>												

GIS data Downloads

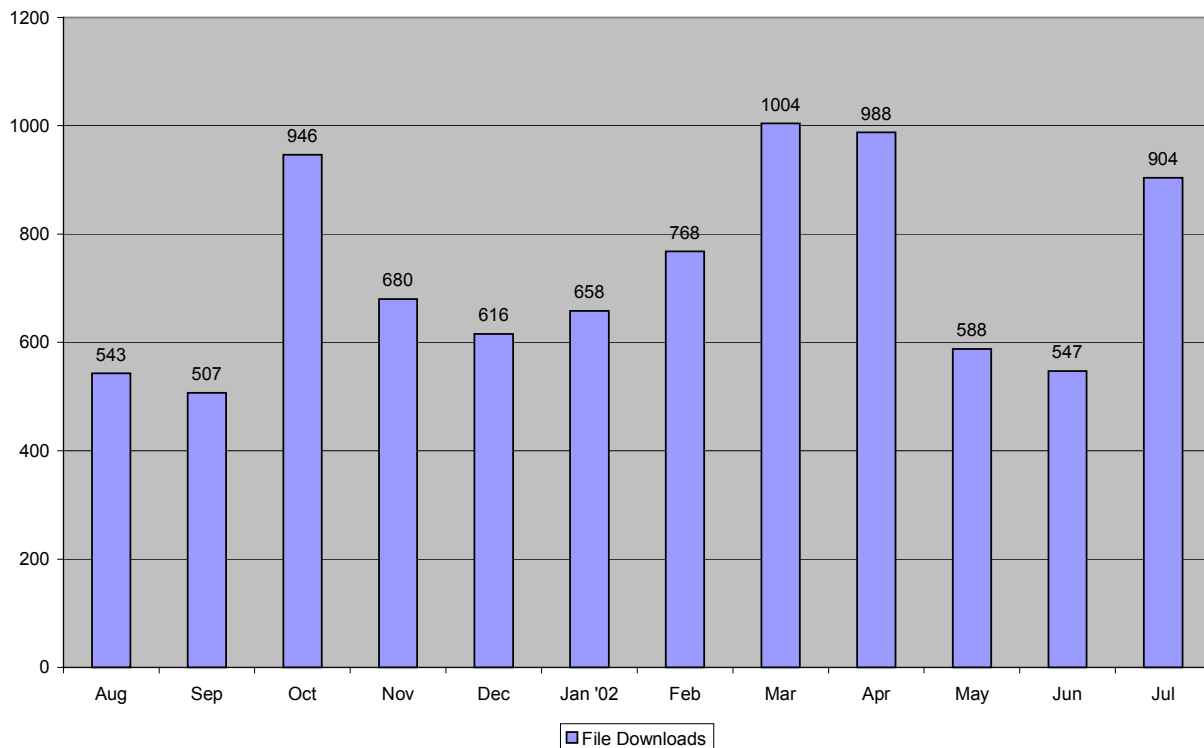
DataFinder FTP site		
Month	Total Downloads	Top 3 downloads
July	904	County/MCD Boundaries (82) [funcls_roads.exe] (35) Planned Land Use (24)
June	547	County/MCD Boundaries (53) [population_2000.exe] (48) [dnr_rsnra.exe] (29)
May	588	County/MCD Boundaries (62) [population_2000.exe] (30) N/A
April	1,008	County/MCD Boundaries (74) [soils_rams.exe] (66) [population_2000.exe] (47)
March	1,004	County/MCD Boundaries (72) 1997 Land Use (57) Bus Routes (55)
February	768	County/MCD Boundaries (75) 1997 Land Use (43) [soils_rams.exe] (36)
January	658	County/MCD Boundaries (38) Bus Routes (33) [population_2000.exe] (32)

**MetroGIS statistics by month**



\*Page views decreased in March 2002 due to redesign of website, which consolidated many pages on the web site

**DataFinder downloads by month**



## **7f) Regional Parcel Dataset-Private Sector / eCommerce Workgroup - Randall Johnson**

On July 30, the Policy Board directed creation of a workgroup to investigate a collaborative solution for the distribution of parcel data to non-government interests including expanding DataFinder Café to support an eCommerce capability. (See the meeting minutes at [www.metrogis.org](http://www.metrogis.org) for more information.) The workgroup is comprised of the seven county representatives to the Coordinating Committee. Dave Drealan, Carver County Planner is the chair. The first meeting is proposed for August 27.

## **7g) Awards and Outreach Activities - Randall Johnson**

### **AWARD APPLICATIONS**

#### **URISA's ESIG Award**

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, MetroGIS learned that it has been selected as the 2002 recipient of URISA's prestigious ESIG (Exemplary Systems in Government) Award. In May, MetroGIS staff submitted an application to URISA, as directed by the Policy Board in April, for this award. The 40-page application can be viewed and downloaded at [http://www.metrogis.org/esig\\_2002.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/esig_2002.pdf). Staff encourages the Technical Advisory Team to review the application because it contains MetroGIS's core philosophies, objectives, accomplishments, and recognized benefits all in one comprehensive document. The award presentation will be made on October 28 at the National URISA Conference in Chicago.

#### **MnAPA Outstanding Project Award**

An application was submitted August 9 for the project that resulted in MetroGIS's Regional Planned Land Use Dataset. Announcement of the winners will be made at the State MnAPA Conference, September 11-13 in Minneapolis.

### **OUTREACH EFFORTS – OTHER THAN CONFERENCES**

#### **Metro Area**

The City of St. Paul is considering use of MetroGIS DataFinder Café to serve its internal and external geodata distribution needs. MnAPA, the Sensible Land Use Coalition and I-35W Coalition co-hosted the May 23 launch forum for MetroGIS Regional Planned Land Use dataset. During the recent interviews of county staff concerning MetroGIS's eCommerce scoping study, MetroGIS staff had an opportunity to inform county staff, not generally involved in GIS matters, about MetroGIS's objectives and accomplishments. Three testimonials to the benefits of MetroGIS have been posted at <http://www.metrogis.org/benefits/testimonials/index.shtml>.

#### **Beyond the Metro Area**

Primarily in conjunction with the Staff Coordinator's involvement in the GCGI's initiative to devise a statewide parcel data policy, contacts have been established to share geodata lessons and needs have established with Chisago, Goodhue, and Wright County staff as well as the ARDC (Duluth) staff. These coordination opportunities will continue to be fostered in accordance with MetroGIS's outreach plan. Alison Slaats, MetroGIS DataFinder Project Manager, also participated with LMIC staff in a May 22 forum hosted by Goodhue County to explore data distribution options for which LMIC and MetroGIS have expertise. The Staff Coordinator also participated, on behalf of MetroGIS, in a study being conducted by Dr. Francis Harvey with U of M Geography Department, which is seeking to better understand data sharing initiatives.

#### **Governors Council on Geographic Information (GCGI)**

##### **Land Records Modernization Committee – Progress on Statewide Parcel Dataset Policy**

The Land Records Modernization (LRM) Committee of the Governors Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) has been delegated the task of investigating a statewide parcel dataset solution. Several individuals on the LRM Committee are also active in MetroGIS's activities: David Arbeit, Will Craig, David Claypool, and Randall Johnson. Johnson is also a member of the Parcel Data Policy Vision workgroup. The LRM and vision workgroup have met on four occasions in 2002. A draft vision has been agreed up and will be incorporated into a preliminary I-Team Plan for the state. This Plan will include vision statements for all seven NDSI Framework data themes (parcels or cadastral data being one of the seven), plus soils. The goal is to submit the I-Plan to the federal OMB this fall.

## CONFERENCES

### **2002 Excellence in Government National Conference – Washington D.C., July 15-17**

The MetroGIS Staff Coordinator participated on panel entitled “Ramifications of Data Sharing. The other panelists are Ronald Matzner, I-Team Coordinator and Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget.

### **MnAPA State Conference – Minneapolis, September 11-13**

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association (MnAPA) co-hosted with MetroGIS the May 23 MetroGIS Regional Planned Land Use Dataset Launch Forum. While preparing for the forum, MnAPA invited MetroGIS to make a presentation in conjunction with the I-35W Corridor Coalition at this year’s state conference regarding the recently completed Regional Planned Land Use dataset. (See [http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/planned\\_land\\_use/index.shtml](http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/planned_land_use/index.shtml) for information about this dataset.) Paul Hanson, GIS Specialist with Metropolitan Council and lead staff for the development of this unprecedented dataset, will present on behalf of MetroGIS.

### **2002 Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference -- September 16-19, Budapest Hungary**

MetroGIS was invited and has submitted a paper describing its vision, accomplishments, and keys to its success. The paper conveys much of the same information as the MetroGIS section in the *Lessons from Practice: A Guide to Organizing and Sustaining Geodata Collaboratives*, published in September 2001. David Arbeit and Randall Johnson co-authored both pieces. Dr. Francis Harvey, University of Minnesota Geography Department, will be presenting the paper at the conference. The paper can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.metrogis.org/documents/presentations/index.shtml>.

### **GIS/LIS State Conference – Duluth, October 2-4**

Two MetroGIS related presentations are planned:

- Alison Slaats, Manager of MetroGIS DataFinder and technical manager for development of MetroGIS’s DataFinder Café (Agenda Item 4) and Mark Kotz, GIS Database Manager for the Metropolitan Council, will be giving a talk on key aspects of this state-of-the-art application for customized viewing and downloading geospatial data.
- Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator has been invited to participate in a panel that includes David Arbeit and Chris Cialek from Mn LMIC, and two others from Illinois and New Jersey to discuss policy and organizational aspects associated with developing Internet-based data distribution mechanisms.

### **2002 URISA National Conference – Chicago, October 26-30**

Two MetroGIS related presentations are planned (a copy of each paper is posted at <http://www.metrogis.org/documents/presentations/index.shtml>):

- The first is for a panel presentation entitled “Lessons from Practice: Organizational Aspects of Data Sharing”. Randall Johnson will be teaming up with Dr. Zorica Budic, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana for this presentation. The focus is on the conclusions of the “Lessons from Practice: A Guide to Organizing and Sustaining Geodata Collaboratives”, which the presenters co-authored last summer. This presentation is also the subject for MetroGIS’s presentation at the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Conference in Hungary, September 16-19. Dr. Francis Harvey, U of M Geography Department, has agreed to present MetroGIS’s paper.
- The second will focus on the new state-of-the-art data distribution capabilities of DataFinder. Mark Kotz will be the presenter.