

Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Technical Advisory Team
Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, St. Paul, MN
2:00-4:00 PM, Room 205
July 13, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Basques called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Basques (City of St. Paul), David Brandt (Washington County), Jim Bunning (Scott County), Gordon Chinander (Metropolitan Emergency Services Board), Dan Falbo (ESRI), Jim Maxwell (The Lawrence Group), Bart Richardson (Minnesota DNR), Brad Rupert (Carver County) and John Slusarczyk (Anoka County).

Support Staff: Mark Kotz, Polly Townes

Visitors: Bruce Milligan (Autodesk)

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

The summary of the March 9, 2006 meeting was accepted as submitted.

4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION

a) Feedback on June 1 Imagining Possibilities Forum

Mark explained that Randy Johnson wanted feedback on whether the draft Summary included all of the “Big Ideas.” All agreed that the “big ideas” were all included correctly. David Brandt commented that many of the questions asked at the forum weren’t answered and wondered what an appropriate follow-up would be. There was some comment that the Notes from the forum should be combined into one section rather than listed in separate areas of the Summary – the current arrangement is confusing.

b) Federal Enterprise Architecture, Geospatial Profile – Direction from CC

The Coordinating Committee requested that TAT review this document with attention to the questions: Does it have any relevance to GIS? Should any action be taken? If so, what?

Most had not read the document. Mark Kotz suggested that a sub-committee be formed to review it and offer recommendations to the Coordinating Committee before the Strategic Directions Workshop in September. Volunteering for the sub-committee were Bob Basques, Mark Kotz and Ron Wencl (who had sent an e-mail saying he was interested in being on this workgroup). Mark suggested that the sub-committee work with the Governor’s Council Geospatial Architecture Committee on this.

Basques suggested that that a link be created from the TAT web page to the Governor’s Council Geospatial Architecture Workgroup and to the FEA Geospatial Profile.

5. PROJECT AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

b) Address Information Needs Workgroup Update

Mark Kotz reported on the pilot project in which some cities, counties and other organizations will be testing putting a sample of their occupiable unit address point data into the National Street Address Standard. The deadline for this project was July 7, 2006 – but pilot datasets continue to trickle in. In response to a question, Kotz commented that it is less important what the data look like, and more important to get feedback on the issues participants encountered when attempting to comply with the standard. Kotz also noted that the draft National Street Address Standard will be submitted to the FGDC soon and will then undergo a final broad public review. Estimated completion data is November.

a) E-911 Street Centerline Workgroup Update

Gordon Chinander reported that the workgroup met on June 30th. At that meeting the group's workplan was finalized as was a set of specification for the next generation regional street centerlines dataset that will also be used by the Metro Emergency Services Board for 911 purposes. These specification will then be sent to policy makers for each potential data producer to determine which might be participants in the development/maintenance of the new regional dataset now and in the future.

c) DataFinder Café Workgroup Update

Alison Slaats was not present. Mark Kotz reported on her behalf that Alison went to Vancouver to train for GeoCortex. Council staff are still working on getting the new server up and running. Work has been hampered by the loss of GIS staff at the Council.

Basques asked if WMS and WMF had been discussed as services that could be produces/distributed from the new DataFinder Café. Brandt responded that the map services had received a very low response on the use and needs survey conducted by the workgroup, but that the workgroup had decided to make them a high priority anyway. Kotz reported that WMS is a requirement in the design of the new Café, but he wasn't sure WMF was going to happen, at least in the first phase.

d) Coordinating Committee and Policy Board Updates – There was no report other than some discussion about links to websites. Mark Kotz reported that the Coordinating Committee approved two regional GIS projects. \$20,000 was approved the registry and catalog of geospatial services, work that will be conducted by LMIC. \$21,000 was approved for a needs assessment for a potential regional occupiable units online editing application that would be intended for small cities (address authorities) that do not have internal GIS capabilities. These proposals go the to Policy Board next week.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

a) Round Table Information Sharing

Basques told the committee that they are one week away from making GISmo publicly available as open source.

Kotz noted that the Metropolitan Council's 2005 Generalized Land Use dataset is now available on DataFinder.

Brad Rupert said that Scott, Carver and Dakota Counties recently went through training for their grant project to emulate the North Carolina website.

Bart Richardson said that they have received an LCMR grant of \$250K to complete the Minnesota Land Cover Classification system in the metro area. This will be used in Scott, Hennepin, Carver and Washington Counties. One purpose is to update the MNRRRA corridor and both sides of the St. Croix River corridor.

Gordon Chinander mentioned that there is a request from law enforcement people that deal with emergencies on rivers to establish clear jurisdictional boundaries on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. There is no accurate information on boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin since the records are from 1845-1847 and are unclear. LMIC instructions are to follow the 1847 main channel but no-one knows how to define that with all the changes which have occurred in the river boundary since then. This involves legal questions of concurrent jurisdiction on the water and on islands.

Bob asked if there were any ideas for future technical presentations.

Brandt said that there has been interest in new soil surveys in Ramsey and Washington Counties.

Gordon – would like a presentation on the National Weather Service new program for SmartWeather – more precise location of storms, etc. Brandt noted that Washington County had tried that system and found the satellite connection to be problematic. Basques mentioned a new system from NOAA which involves only a 6-7 minute delay. He suggested that a presentation/demo be arranged.

6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS

a) Beyond MapServer: An Introduction to Open Source GIS Applications

The scheduled presenter, Paul Wickman, cancelled so Basques presented a few of the currently available open source applications including the Open Layers Project, GPS Visualizer, uDig, GeoServer and MapServer.

9. ADJOURN

Basques adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Note: The next meeting will be Thursday, November 16, 2006, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Prepared by,
Polly Townes and Mark Kotz
MetroGIS Support Staff