

MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes (Approved 03.27.14)

January 9, 2014, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Metro Counties Government Center
2099 University Avenue, St Paul, MN, 55104



Attendees:

David Bitner, dbSpatial (Chair)
David Brandt, Washington County (Vice Chair)
Jon Hoekenga, Metropolitan Council
Ben Verbick, LOGIS
Gary Swenson, Hennepin County
John Slusarczyk, Anoka County
Jim Fritz, Xcel Energy/Utilities
Len Kne, U-Spatial, University of Minnesota
Dan Ross, MnGeo
Ben Butzow, MnDOT
Tiffany Dagon, MnDOT
Brad Henry, University of Minnesota
Eric Haugen, Resource Data, Inc.
Joella Givens, MnDOT

Gordon Chinander, MESB
Randy Knippel, Dakota County
Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council
Pete Henschel, Carver County
Jesse Reinhardt, Hennepin County
Jeff Matson, CURA/University of Minnesota
Jim Bunning, Scott County
Mark Maloney, City of Shoreview/Metro Cities
Ron Wencil, U. S. Geological Survey
Mike Reynolds, MnDOT
William Brown, Hennepin County
Erik Dahl, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Sally Wakefield, SharedGeo/Non-Profits

Staff:

Geoff Maas, MetroGIS Coordinator

1) Chair Bitner called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM

2) Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Motion: Knippel, Second: Kotz, motion carried.

3) Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2013

Motion: Kotz, Second: Brandt, motion carried.

4) Election of Officers for 2014-2016

Motion to approve candidate Erik Dahl as new Committee Chair and approve David Brandt in a second term as Vice Chair: *Motion: Read, Second: Henry, motion carried.*

5) Presentation of Leadership Service Award to David Bitner

David served a two-year term (2011-2013) as Chair of the Coordinating Committee. Coordinator Maas presented David with the Leadership Service Award and expressed his gratitude for David's assistance and guidance of MetroGIS and his steady presence with the collaborative during the transition of the Coordinator position.

6) General Committee Business

6a) Re-instatement of Sally Wakefield as Non-Profit representative

Former member and Committee Chair Sally Wakefield gave a brief statement about her new position as Development Director for SharedGeo, her on-going connections to the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits and her experiences during her last tenure on the Coordinating Committee. As per Article III, Section 2(e) of the Operating Procedures and Guidelines, a motion and second was required for her re-instatement. *Motion: Read, Second: Wencil, motion carried.*

6b) MetroGIS Social Media Discussion.

MetroGIS currently maintains a LinkedIn site (active) and a Twitter feed (inactive). In an effort to reduce duplication of social media presence; a recommendation was advanced to 'sunset' the MetroGIS LinkedIn page and direct its traffic to the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium LinkedIn site instead. The Consortium's social media presence would be capturing the same audience as that of MetroGIS. The MetroGIS Twitter feed is to remain dormant until suitable circumstances arise to activate it. *Motion: Brandt, Second, Read, motion carried.*

6c) Discussion of moving meeting times from existing time of 1 pm

Several members had informally mentioned the possibility of moving the Coordinating Committee meeting start time from the existing 1 PM to 2 PM, after a brief discussion, general group consensus was to **retain existing meeting start time at 1 PM**. *No formal motion required.*

7) Roundtable Update

Brandt: No major updates from Washington County.

Knippel: Discussions continue with the Eight County Collaborative/Data Producers Work Group on the potential for inter-county shared servers and various issues.

Kotz: The Metropolitan Council is finding that using UTM coordinates is problematic for its base map services, and will be looking modifying the coordinate system to match other web services around the world. Kotz encouraged anyone with questions to contact Matt McGuire (Metropolitan Council GIS Staff)

Hoekenga: Attending the meeting to provide an update on Address Point Aggregation later in the agenda.

Read: Participating on the MnGeo Emergency Preparedness committee, working on lining more speakers and webinars related to emergency preparedness, possibly including Google on web mapping and crisis web mapping.

Verbick: Revealed that the GIS/LIS Consortium has released its new website (<http://www.mngislis.org/>) design and encouraged the group to visit the site.

Swenson: Introduced GIS Staff Jesse Reinhardt, encouraged him to cover updates at Hennepin County

Reinhardt: Provided a brief overview of GIS business services at Hennepin County including their efforts to deploy ArcGIS online to collaborate with other county departments and to build capacity within the

county for using the technology. Hennepin County is embedding GIS Coordinators within various county lines of business to increase efficiency.

Slusarczyk: Described how Anoka County 911 is working with TriTech for its Computer Aided Dispatch system and is prepping its data (response zones, address points, centerlines) for that system and is looking for collaborating and insight from other counties and agencies using TriTech.

Matson: Indicated that he is on the Steering Committee for the Census American Community Survey (ACS) Data Users Group, there will be an on-line user forum and series of webinars for the ACS; provided handouts and is looking for members to join the group.

Fritz: Announced that Xcel Energy is ramping up its use and deployment of ArcGIS OnLine.

Bunning: Announced a GIS position opening with Scott County.

Kne: Indicated that he has student help available through the course he teaches and is looking for potential projects for his students.

Maloney: Reiterated the growing need for consistent and reliable inter-agency data, specifically stormsewer data as cities need to meet the MS4/NPDES permit process requirements.

Ross: Indicated that 2013 aerial image collection for the state is complete and the results are quite good. The LIDAR viewer and download tool will be ready by the end of the month. Next major project will be development of a single hydrography dataset, this will be ramping up in the next six months. A statewide parcel collection is planned for Summer 2014; MnGeo is partnering with the Department of Revenue ramping in several stages to 2016; approximately forty (40) counties have indicated their willingness to share parcel data so far.

Wencl: Reiterated that the Minnesota 1:24K topographic series is complete and available from USGS. Provided timeline summary of the of the federal budget sequestration and indicated that the NGIA (1 foot imagery available every 2 years) would be coming to an end, with lack of funding identified as they key issue to its closure.

Butzow: Introduced and welcomed Mike Reynolds and Tiffany Dagon and their presentation on traffic impact management.

Henry: Reminded the group that the Minnesota Technology conference was coming up in two months; this is to be a 3 day event with many valuable presentations, encouraged the members to participate. Stressed the increased need for awareness of the value of asset management, increasing its profile in the state, everything from roads, bridges to subsurface features. Encouraged members of the Committee to contact him with info about jurisdictions and agencies engaged in asset management.

Dahl: Indicated that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has rolled out its interactive ArcGIS OnLine maps; widely in use by staff.

Haugen: Reminded the group of the incoming Minnesota High Tech Association Conference coming up (May 6) and that there was a notable lack of GIS last year, putting out call for programs, educations sessions, program: get out and maybe collaborate with Feb 28 dead MEGH site and collect more info.

Givens: Indicated she was glad to be back here as a 'guest' to catch up with the group.

Chinander: Indicated that the MESB is working on reconciling 911 GIS databases with local addressing authorities, working to find and repair discrepancies, will be working with MetroGIS and the Statewide Centerline group to reduce redundant effort. Looking to send around findings, get approval from the group and determine how to best line up with Department of Public Safety work.

Koukol: Described how Ramsey County was continuing to work its parcel fabric, that it also is working to line up its data for use in the TriTech system for E911 response. Indicated that he is active with continuing to advance the Statewide Centerline Initiative and that Ramsey County continues to roll out more mobile work and applications.

8) MnDOT Special Presentation

Mike Reynolds and Tiffany Dagon of MnDOT's Metro Office gave a presentation of their developing Traffic Impact Analysis tools and data. MnDOT see's MetroGIS' Address Point tool as a potential model for how many agencies that have road construction and event impact data could contribute and share so conflicts and impacts could be better anticipated, detected and mitigated.

Key goals for a potential initiative would be the shared data and common services which could arise and be utilized as well as significant benefit to the counties and cities with enhanced ability to glance at the next year's upcoming events and construction for scheduling or re-scheduling of maintenance or projects.

Emphasis is not on 'control', rather, on connecting the right people at each agencies and having reliable centralized data available to all; heightened awareness of the activity of other agencies for anticipatory planning and a more deliberate inter-agency planning process.

The presentation given by Reynolds and Dagon is available at the Agenda link for the January 9, 2014 meeting on the MetroGIS Website in PDF format. Please contact Geoff Maas for a copy of the presentation in PowerPoint format.

This project arose at MnDOT three years ago as MnDOT was seeking to better coordinate its work internally, minimize conflicts and redundancy by developing a systematized method for finding projects.

As MnDOT is seeking external partners, it may be better to develop and deploy a tool and resource not centralized at MnDOT (to avoid firewall issues).

Questions for MNDOT from the Group:

Henry: Have your reached out to the cities and counties already for this project?

Dagon: Our Area Managers have begun to talk with the counties, taking this in steps rather than trying to do everything at once At present, the most frequent and largest conflicts are between MnDOT projects and county projects on the road network of the Metro.

Henry: This kind of work needs to take place at the municipal level as well, very interesting tool, very useful for detecting other agencies projects.

Maloney: I can certainly see future uses for this tool for to a wider range of stakeholders interests especially private utility companies, this could be critical for the timing of projects., the early inclusion of cities would be very helpful.

Dagon: A MnDOT-City-County collaboration would be ideal, MnDOT wants to contribute not be the main controlling interest; everyone needs to enter in, contribute their data, monitor and report issues as they arise, all parties would be getting the same benefit and intelligence from the tool.

Chinander: Has there been thought about the impact to evacuation routes, I would hate to see those missing, they are part of the transportation management plans, might be good to include the point of contact that is mobilized for evacuation Impact system: currently looking evacuation routes fromt eh cities.

Knippel: I would hope this is not a duplication of effort of the existing Road Mapping Application. We (counties) would hate to have to submit information twice or duplicate effort on our end.

Reynolds: Not a duplication of the existing application, would replace it. Hoping ArcGIS online would be the platform to work on this in.

Givens: We know we need to modernize or retire the existing road closure application; this would be a means to do that. One of the good features is the ability to reuse data for known events, like a place where annual flooding or a parade is known and repeats; can reuse that data from year to year.

Brown: Given the public's ability to consume the information this would improve the way government can communicate what is being done.

Reynolds: Yes, significant benefit to have agencies use the same end point rather than an separate application for everyone; we don't want people checking a city, then a county, then MnDOT; has the ability to go to one place.

Swenson: This is good, and that you are seeking assistance on this. We (counties) need to know what to set up on the 'back end' to support this, so you can have many applications drawing off the same core dataset.; we would be interested in seeking what contacts you already have inside our organizations. County staff will need to know who the area managers are, directing them to come to the county's appropriate staff.

Dagon: Our area managers likely don't want to act as 'go-betweens', rather, we need to make this as smooth as possible. We agree getting the right contacts at the outset is essential.

Kotz: It is obvious this is a great idea, makes a lot of sense and there is real value to all involved, and partnering through MetroGIS may be the way to go. Let me give you a better understanding of MetroGIS, we are a voluntary group with limited funding, a particular organization will take the lead and invite others to join, if the Coordinating Committee decides this is a priority then it gets added to our work plan and we assess what available resources (funding, part of Geoff's time, roles of participating stakeholders) can be allocated.

Maas: Thanks to Mike and Tiffany for preparing and presenting to the group, we can follow up further in the coming weeks.

9) Policy Board Activity Brief

A brief summary of the recent activity of the Policy Board from their last meeting on October 23, 2013, this included:

Adoption of a Resolution of Support for Free and Open Data;
Direction of a Letter of Support to metro county Board Chairs and Administrators for county governments to adopt policies to make public their 'public geospatial data'; outreach to city and other agencies to follow through 2014.

Next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2014; this will only be convened if there is a *clear need* or *relevant policy matter* for consideration, otherwise the Coordinator will direct a summary update notice email to the Policy Board members in lieu of a meeting.

10) Existing Project Updates

10a) MetroGIS Website

Contract with vendor (High Monkey, Roseville, MN) signed in December,
Production on new site began on Dec 18
Target dates for User Experience Testing: Feb 24 through March 7, 2014
Target date for site launch: April 1, 2014

10b) Statewide Centerlines Initiative

Pilot Plan Phase 1: Collection and documentation of MnDOT Business Requirements
MnGeo setting up an instance of ESRI's Roads and Highways Module for testing

10c) Address Point Editing Tool Version 2.0

User acceptance testing in January
Expected completion in February

10d) Address Point Aggregation Project

Successfully tested aggregating data from Dakota County using DNR GDRS technology
Working toward aggregation test with Carver County

11) 2014 Work Plan Review and Approval

Maas walked the Committee through the items on the proposed Work Plan and the anticipated funding levels available from the Metropolitan Council.

Key points included:

Need for a Work Group and Champion for the Public/Private Data Sharing work and possible summit.

Beyond the Metro outreach would be primarily concerned with building awareness and relationships and not focused on a particular set of work in 2014.

Stormsewer Dataset work will be focused on continued research, development of business needs to be served and outreach; not focused on technology or tools yet.

Maas reiterated that the MetroGIS Work Plan is a living document and open to continual review and revision at each meeting through the recommendation of any stakeholder and approval of the Committee.

*Motion to approve the 2014 Work Plan: Motion, Kotz, Second, Chinander, motion carried.
Adopted 2014 Work Plan document is to be publicly available on the MetroGIS website.*

12) Minnesota Geospatial Commons Release 1.0 (Internal)

Dan Ross presented the first iteration of the forthcoming Geospatial Commons to the Committee, demonstrating the overall view, functionality and features to be part of the Commons.

The Commons will be a single place to get shared geospatial data, resources and web services, applications and to exchange knowledge and ideas. The commons will essentially replace the major state agency sites. Ross stressed that the success of the Commons will depend on the entire geospatial community

Group: A group discussion about the GDRS (Geospatial Resource Site) technology behind the Commons including concerns the ability of the GDRS to serve the variety of stakeholder needs to populate and provide data to the Commons. Ross made the distinction between the GDRS technology and an instance of the GDRS applied to a specific use. Ross also indicated that a non-GDRS solution of web-enabled folders will be available. If a publisher's data is in a standard format, it can be pushed to the Commons.

In developing the Commons concept, over several years MnGeo has reached out to the community to get information about what is desired and collected a significant list of items and user stories about what the community wants to see. As we started to build it, we re-examined those priorities again.

At present the Commons is developed with CKAN, open source and written in Python (familiar to a large share of the GIS community) and has a strong user group out there in this environment (driven by the Federal usage of CKAN);

We anticipate opening it up in early July, each agency will have its own site and will control of their own data; we will support more than just geospatial data if that is desired by the community. As you dive into each dataset there will be stronger descriptor language and metadata available. Metadata is a must; we cannot include data without accompanying metadata. We will deploy 'geo-broker' tools to put administrators on the data coming in; we want to make it easy for your agency to get data in.

We have not incorporated a 'clip and ship' feature as this wasn't originally requested; if this is important to you please let us know. There will also be available the place to post comments, discuss the data, provide ratings and discussions.

The site is available, however, it is not formally or openly public yet, we will be working on branding and logos as well shortly to 'pretty it up'. I would encourage members of this group to check the progress of

the site over the coming weeks and months. By the [GIS/LIS] conference this fall, we should be well populated, up and running.

Bitner: When searching for data, will it be tagged or distinct?

Ross: Good question, data will appear in multiple categories; make it easy for you to find things, searchable by category. Again, watch the URL, send us comments, tell us what you like, tell us what is missing, that needs to be built in the future. [Geospatial Commons URL: **gisdata.mn.gov**](http://gisdata.mn.gov)

13) Next Meeting

Scheduled for **Thursday, March 27, 2014**

14) Adjourn

Chair Bitner adjourned the meeting at 3:26 PM