

MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

February 6, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Participating

Members: Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Mary Emerson, Human Services; David Fawcett, Pollution Control; Brian Johnson, Health; Jennifer Johnson, Corrections; Greg Klinkhammer (Employment & Economic Development); Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, MnGeo (Chair); Karen Schirle, Human Services; Paul Weinberger, Transportation; Diane Wells, Commerce (for Greg Fetter).

Non-members: Brad Henry, University of Minnesota; Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Carolyn Parnell, MN.IT; Nancy Rader, MnGeo.

Ross called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves. Karen Schirle will be the new representative of Human Services since Mary Emerson is retiring. Minutes for the [November 13, 2012 meeting](#) were accepted.

Committee and Workgroup Guide (Logman)

The draft guide clarifying structure and process for MnGeo's [committees and workgroups](#) was modified in response to suggestions from members of both the State Government and the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Councils. Logman reviewed a [handout](#) which summarized the suggestions and the responses; he also provided a [revised guide](#). There will not be a fixed number of committees that MnGeo will support; instead, MnGeo will attempt to support those groups that it feels are needed.

The next step will be for MnGeo to draft templates for each group to use when creating or revising their charter, work plan, reports and website. MN.IT is creating a charter template that we plan to use.

Logman and Ross asked members to suggest ways that news could best be communicated to the geospatial community. Member comments:

- RSS feeds are easier than maintaining mailing lists
- SharePoint:
 - Allows users to choose alerts based on their interests
 - Has several levels of access:
 - "Inside" (for MN.IT staff): This currently exists and is active.
 - "Connect" (for state government staff): Some of these sites are being set-up; they incur a cost based on the number of people who have access.
 - "Partner" (for staff outside state government): These are planned but not yet available. Microsoft will host these in the Cloud – security and cost questions remain. Work being done by a MN.IT "Active Directory" group will facilitate setting up these sites.
- Blogs:
 - The [MN GIS/LIS Consortium](#) is transitioning from a newsletter to a blog format to get news out more quickly. Since urls that contain the word "blog" are blocked by many organizations, the Consortium will choose a url that is less likely to be blocked.
 - The [EPC Blog](#) is a model for disseminating geospatial news, in this case about emergency preparedness.

- Many blogs have built-in RSS feed capabilities.
- The “[Basecamp](#)” online project management application is an alternative to SharePoint for collaboration among non-state agency partners. Hennepin County uses it, and the Metropolitan Council is considering it.
- More regular reporting in advance of meetings would be helpful (PDF on web with RSS notification that the report has been posted)
- More regular meetings between the CGIO and the chairs of each committee and workgroup would be helpful (this used to happen during Executive Committee meetings of the former MN Governor’s Council on Geographic Information).

ACTION ITEM: MnGeo will send the revised guide to committee and workgroup chairs, Statewide Council members and to Geospatial Technical Committee members for any final questions or comments.

Legislative Session (Ross) ([slide 4](#))

Geospatial Commons: The request for funding for the Commons project was not included in the Governor’s budget. Other avenues for resourcing the project are being explored.

MnGeo housekeeping language, the elimination of the State Government Geospatial Advisory Council, and the data sharing proposal are being forwarded from the Governor’s Office to the legislature.

Data Sharing Proposal: A draft handout of talking points about the data sharing legislation was distributed to council members for their input. Local governments that charge for data have not yet provided quantitative measures of the financial impact they anticipate if the proposal is adopted.

Member comments:

- Make sure that is clear in the talking points that this proposal does not dictate that local governments store data in a particular format.
- Data exchange standards would make the data transfer process easier (but use of these standards would not be mandated).
- A benefit of this proposal is that it would eliminate multiple requests from individual state agencies to local governments for the same data.
- Gary Shelton from Scott County is the local government representative on the [MN.IT Technology Advisory Committee](#) – he can provide additional input.

ACTION ITEM: Members should review the draft talking points on the proposed data sharing legislation; if they have questions or comments, they should contact Ross.

Standard Data Disclaimer: Logman reviewed a [draft disclaimer](#) that MN.IT’s legal counsel, David Rowley, has reviewed and edited.

ACTION ITEM: Members should review the draft data disclaimer and redistribute it to appropriate staff within their agencies to see whether it would meet their agency’s needs.

Master Purchase Agreement (Ross) ([slide 5](#))

Esri is moving toward managed services in the Cloud; organizations would still purchase licenses from Esri, but they could store data, access software, and do most other processes in the Cloud. The MN.IT security team is reviewing any security concerns with these services. Esri is advocating that their

professional services should be included in the MPA; currently they are not in the Enterprise License Agreement, but they could be added in the future as an amendment.

The ASAP list (a means for state agencies to select a vendor to augment staff within about 48 hours) doesn't currently include geospatial services, but at MnGeo's request, it is expected to with the next set of bids.

Member comments:

- Other non-Esri cloud platforms are available.
- Do K-12 schools have any special agreement with Esri? No one at the meeting was sure of the answer.

Optimization ([slides 7-10](#))

Ross provided an update on the geospatial part of MN.IT Services' [Tactical Plan](#). The initial focus is on making sure we use the same terms and service definitions.

For Infrastructure and Data, the [Geospatial Commons group](#) is defining requirements and testing candidate solutions. One of the candidate solutions is CKAN, which [Data.gov](#) is going to migrate to soon.

For the Service Catalog, the group is starting with MnGeo's catalog and augmenting it with additional geospatial services provided by other agencies.

SharePoint sites are set up for the above projects. A project manager will be hired for these optimization efforts; this 3-year position will be based in MN.IT Central's portfolio group but will emphasize geospatial.

Optimization needs to be completed by June 2014.

Geospatial Technology Committee (Ross) ([slide 11](#))

Membership of the new Geospatial Technology Committee, chaired by Dan Ross and Robert Maki (DNR), is complete – members are listed on slide 11. The first meeting will be February 20, 2013 and every third Wednesday thereafter. The first two meetings will focus on an introduction to GIS for members who are less familiar with it.

Update on MnGeo's Current Project Priorities (Ross) ([slides 12-25](#))

Ross (with additional input from others noted in parentheses) reviewed the following projects:

- LiDAR
- Geospatial Commons (Kotz)
- Statewide Aerial Imagery Program
- Statewide Parcel Integration Project Business Plan Development (Logman)
- Street Centerlines (Weinberger)
- National Hydrography Dataset
- Statewide Altered Watercourse Layer

See slides for details.

Member comments:

- Elevation data needs to be available as services, in addition to being downloadable.
- Will need to determine how to deal with multiple LiDAR data collects becoming available for some areas, e.g., flights conducted to assess flooding in the Duluth area, and possible assessments of areas affected by mining fracking sand.
- Would the Geospatial Commons replace [MetroGIS](#)? No, but it would be intended to replace [DataFinder](#), MetroGIS's GIS data and services portal.

Announcements

- [Governor's Commendations](#) are due June 28, 2013. No nominations were received last year.
- Council member terms end June 30, 2013. No appointments will be made for next year pending the outcome of the proposed legislation to dissolve this council.

Future Meetings

- No more State Government Council meetings will be scheduled pending the outcome of the proposed legislation to dissolve this council.

Meeting adjourned. Meeting minutes by Nancy Rader.