MnGeo State Government Advisory Council

December 8, 2009 Meeting Notes

Participating:
Members: David Arbeit, Administration (MnGeo) Chair; Mary Arvesen, Human Services (DHS); Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Jessica Fendos, Employment & Economic Development (DEED); Greg Fetter, Commerce; Jennifer Johnson, Corrections; Tim Loesch, Natural Resources (DNR); Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, Transportation (MnDOT); Tad Schindler, Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Ed Valencia, Office of Enterprise Technology (OET); Cindy Valentine, Labor and Industry; and Michelle Weber, Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB). Will Craig, U of M; represented the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council at this meeting.
Non-members: Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; and Chris Cialek, MnGeo.

David Arbeit called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.

David Arbeit indicated that the first part of this meeting was going to be a brief background and history of MnGeo and the remainder was going to be discussion and information sharing. Arbeit provided MnGeo's mission statement developed with help and input from the Governor's Council on Geographic Information Strategic Planning Committee: ***Improve services statewide through the Coordinated, Affordable, Reliable and Effective use of GIS.*** The emphasis is on supporting business functions, not on technology.

Arbeit then provided a brief historical timeline for MnGeo:

- 1978: LMIC established – 1st state GIS program in nation
- 1990: First Strategic Plan for State GIS (PlanGraphics)
- 1991: Executive Order creates Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI)
- 2004: Second Strategic Plan for State - GCGI
- 2006: FGDC CAP 50 States grant
- 2007: *Compass Points* retreat recommends priorities
- 2008: Enterprise GIS adopted as DTE Subcabinet initiative
- 2008: Applied Geographics Study
- 2009: Legislation creating MnGeo enacted

Arbeit provided a short overview of the MnGeo enabling legislation and MnGeo's mandates indicating that with current budget, MnGeo is not able to fully address them all:

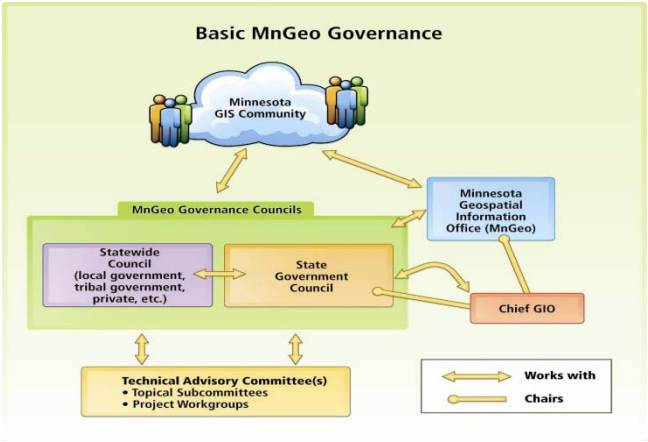
- Review state agency and inter-government geospatial technology, data, and services development efforts involving state or inter-government funding, including federal funding.
- Provide information to the legislature regarding projects reviewed, and recommend projects for inclusion in the governor's budget under section 16A.11.
- Coordinate management of geospatial technology, data, and services between state and local governments.
- Provide coordination, leadership, and consultation to integrate government technology services with GIS infrastructure and GIS programs.
- Work to avoid or eliminate unnecessary duplication of existing GIS technology services and systems, including services provided by other public and private organizations while building on existing governmental infrastructures.

- Promote and coordinate consolidated geospatial technology, data, and services and shared geospatial Web services for state and local governments.
- Promote and coordinate geospatial technology training, technical guidance, and project support for state and local governments.
- Report to legislature by January 15, 2010 about statutes related to the old references to Land Management Information Center (LMIC) or the "land management information system". (LMIC was globally replaced by MnGeo in the 2009 statutes.)

A workgroup is needed to assist MnGeo in reviewing the legislative references and to developing recommendations on what should be done with the old LMIC references. Arbeit indicated that several of the references were for data to be provided to LMIC for use in the "land management information system". As many of the references relate to water and wetlands issues, MnGeo anticipates needing to work with DNR, PCA, Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Environmental Quality Board, and Health to develop the recommendations due to the legislature by January 15, 2010. Council members mentioned that several of these same agencies were already engaged in discussions about wetlands and water issues and responsibilities.

Arbeit then provided information about the Applied Geographic's study [1] and their recommendations. The recommended budget for MnGeo was over $3,000,000 with 16 staff to fully address all of the tasks and functions that they had identified. Applied Geographics also provided some reduced funding scenarios with the lowest being just slightly more than the $792,000 and approximately 6 FTEs in the current MnGeo FY2010/11 budget. In addition to the General Funded coordination function, MnGeo has several staff that are part of a service bureau function which provide services on a cost recovery basis. Further, a few support staff are shared with other agency units. Grants provide some additional funding for both the coordination function and the service bureau.

Arbeit then discussed the MnGeo governance structure that was recommended by the GCGI and included in the enabling legislation with its two Advisory Councils[2], committees and work groups.



Arbeit briefly reviewed the MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council mission, purpose and duties which were developed by the GCGI Strategic Planning Committee.

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[1] Applied Geographics' A Program for Transformed GIS in the State of Minnesota: Program Design & Implementation Plan is at: http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/MSDI/dte/ProgramDesign_FinalFeb09_V21.pdf.

[2] 2010/11 MnGeo Geospatial Advisory Councils are described and listed at: http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/advisory_councils/mngeo_advisory_councils.html

Mission The *State Government Geospatial Advisory Body* advises the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) on improving state government services through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of GIS.

Purpose Identify, review, and recommend geospatial coordination opportunities and efforts that directly involve interactions among state agencies and offices.

Duties

- Identify emerging opportunities, desired outcomes, and guiding principles to cultivate a strategic plan for the MnGeo
- Review and recommend statewide standards and best practices in close coordination with the MnGeo
- Identify public expenditures in geospatial data and technology that reflect the priorities of the geospatial community
- Identify and secure agency-specific resources to implement coordination opportunities when necessary
- Represent the state agencies and offices they are appointed from and serve as a liaison with their respective agency and office leaders
- Support the decision-making process for the MnGeo by involving the relevant and affected state agencies and offices
- Review state agency coordination efforts and priorities and communicate impacts of coordination opportunities
- Coordinate state government GIS implementation under the guidelines of the state's IT architecture framework
- Maintain open communications between state agencies and the broader statewide community

Chris Cialek then described three projects that MnGeo is working on:

State/ESRI Enterprise License Agreement

- In May, a single contract for most ESRI software was signed (royalty products not eligible)
- State Agencies & Governor's Cabinet organizations eligible
- One ESRI software contract signed by State with MnGeo overseeing ELA administration
- OET manages finances
- Participating agencies sign Interagency Agreement with MnGeo and OET
- ESRI receives $540,000/year through FY 2012
- Each partnering Agency pays only maintenance cost of software it deploys per state's current Master Purchase Agreement - All newly procured software is discounted 75–80%
- Some portion of fees paid will cover part of MnGeo's administrative costs
- When participation becomes larger, may be able to reduce partners' costs
- Currently 13 Agencies are participating and three others are currently considering joining
- MnGeo is working with Agriculture to establish a wiki to aid in communication

Statewide LiDAR Collaborative

- Goal: statewide high-resolution elevation data
- Some portions of State have recent LiDAR including the Red River basin and southeast Minnesota
- Last session, the Legislature allocated $5.6-million from 2008 MN Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to DNR to continue data collection over 2010/11

- Steering committee formed to oversee contracting: Tim Loesch, DNR; Pete Jenkins, MnDOT; Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Ron Wencl, USGS
- Data collection to begin in Spring 2010 in the southwest portion of MN
- Funding for the Arrowhead region is partially in place with only $500,000 needed which may come from a federal grant that has recently been applied for.
- There is $1,000,000 secured for the Central Lakes Region with an additional $770,00 needed.

2010 Orthoimagery

- Goal: Provide new high resolution aerial photography for the Metro Region
- Project Area: 13-counties; 7,000 sq mi
- Partners: Metropolitan Council, DNR, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, USGS (NGA)
- Specifications: 4-band color; leaf-off; 0.5 meter resolution; stereo imagery
- Option for 1-foot resolution in 7-county metro
- Status: RFP to be released December 14. 2009; closes Jan. 11, 2010; award expected by January 20. 2010
- Flights to take place spring 2010
- Data to be delivered late summer

David Arbeit described the project that MnGeo developed for the Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) agency to map Federal Stimulus spending in Minnesota[3]. Michelle Weber demonstrated the application, showing the spatial components as well as the attribute data that can be exposed from the maps. Arbeit indicated that this was well received by a legislative committee and staff, and that MMB is looking at some additional data and viewing options including display by legislative districts. This type of mapping may be requested for other types of state spending. Arbeit indicated that there is a January 19th legislative hearing about the publication of State government funding. Council members mentioned that the Legislative Coordinating Commission GIS Office is in the process of developing a mapping application to show the use of LCCMR funds which may be a similar application. Arbeit indicated that the MMB application was developed using FLEX which may not be as good a tool as JAVA Script if there is need for more sophisticated functionality.

Another project that MnGeo is involved in to some extent is the mapping of broad band availability across the state. This federally funded project is being done by *Connected Nation*, the Governor's designated grant requestor for the State, with the Department of Commerce being the State's focal point. Because of efforts by MnGeo and Commerce, Minnesota will receive the data that is collected and be able to make use of it. This may be an application that is of interest to several other State agencies. The first data is expected toward the end of the first quarter 2010. Earlier maps are available at www.connectmn.org/mapping.

Members then discussed projects that their agencies were undertaking or considering. MnGeo has a mandate to be aware of geospatial projects being undertaken by State government. This also is a chance to identify opportunities for agencies to collaborate on projects, technology and operational system endeavors.

[3] Minnesota Management and Budget's Stimulus Mapping project can be seen at: http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/rec-map

Jessica Fendos talked about a DEED project that is just getting underway funded by an ARRA grant to develop a workforce and employment locator system that would assist in matching potential workers with job opportunities. DEED has also applied for a grant to map and display “Green Jobs”.

Greg Fetter described a project within Commerce to show where weatherization funds were expended. This is another project similar to the MMB stimulus funds mapping application.

Dan Ross told the Council about a project that MnDOT is conducting to develop templates for field collection of asset information. They are using field devices with GPS capacity to identify physical locations of MnDOT assets and collect attribute data. MnDOT is also working with counties to develop a system for MnDOT to access county parcel and CAMA data. This application does not store the county data but accesses it on county computers. MnDOT has piloted this application in a couple of counties. One issue they have encountered is that some counties have a policy of charging for their data. Other Council members expressed interest in parcel data. Tim Loesch indicated that DNR has been developing agreements with a number of counties for parcel data access for DNR.

Tim Loesch, DNR, described their effort to update their land records system that they use to manage about 4 million acres of land in Minnesota. This will move data that is now in a tabular format on AS/400s, to newer and more compatible technology. Loesch also mentioned their support of hand held data recording/collection devices being used by their forestry division that use GPS to collect location data.

Mike Dolbow raised the issue that not all state agencies were represented on the Council and that we needed to have discussions with them so that we become aware of their projects. Ed Valencia discussed the OET technology project review process. Geospatial projects are only part of the projects that OET is mandated to identify and track.

Arbeit began to identify some workgroups that MnGeo believes are needed including: geocoding, parcel mapping and the identification and development of shared services centers. Members mentioned a MetroGIS project looking at promoting shared services. As meeting time had expired, this discussion ended. Arbeit and MnGeo will be contacting some agencies for participation on some workgroups.

Arbeit thanked members for their participation.

Next meeting will likely be scheduled for late January or early February.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Fred Logman and Nancy Rader.