MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council
July 13, 2010 Meeting Notes

Participating

Members: David Arbeit, MnGeo (Chair); Mary Arvesen, Human Services; Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Jessica Fendos, Employment and Economic Development; Greg Fetter, Commerce; Jennifer Johnson, Corrections; Tim Loesch, Natural Resources; Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Denton Peterson, Health; Scott Freburg, Education (for Craig Rhombs); Tad Schindler, Pollution Control; Bryan Priem, Labor and Industry (for Cindy Valentine); Ed Valencia, OET; Dan Ross, Transportation and Michelle Weber, Management and Budget. Rebecca Foster, City of Edina, represented the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.

Non-members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Jessica Deegan, Metropolitan Council; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo

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

Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the May 11, 2010 meeting notes.

Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing: Technology Governance

Ed Valencia highlighted three OET initiatives:

1. **Enterprise Architecture**: In consultation with stakeholders, OET is currently fine tuning the way decisions are made regarding IT standards, policies, and guidelines. There is an Architectural Review Board which reviews proposals and makes recommendations to OET. David Arbeit is a member and represents the geospatial community. There are three standards currently going through the process. Geospatial standards would go through the same process.

2. **Data Center Consolidation**: The State has 40 to 70 "data centers" or "server rooms" and OET is determining how best to consolidate or "co-locate" them. The current thinking is OET would provide physical space in four computer rooms for agencies' servers that would continue to be managed by the respective agency technical staff. OET is looking at different physical environments designed to fit the varying agency needs. OET does not have any new funds for this effort and likely will once again seek additional legislative appropriations.

3. **Enterprise Assessment**: The Legislature directed OET to conduct a study to identify potential cost savings for consolidating all Executive Branch IT functions either into OET or outsourcing it. The OET report looked at how IT services would be provided – federated, consolidated or outsourced. Other states fall about one third into each of these groups and are experiencing mixed success with all three models. Utah has the most consolidated IT environment of the 50 states. There is no clear best approach. OET favors the federated model. The report is not an action plan or a recommendation.

Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council Report

Rebecca Foster, the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council liaison, highlighted a few items from the June 30th meeting:

1. Discussion about where MnGeo should be located and its resources.

    a. Concern was voiced for considering a move from Administration to OET at this time. A new governor and administration will be in place in January and things are bound to change.

Concern was also voiced about MnGeo getting "lost" within OET.

b. A suggestion was made that MnGeo have 1 to 3 FTEs dedicated to emergency management. This generated a lot of discussion about the current MN governmental budget situation. Several Council members stated they felt budgets would be even tighter in the next couple of years with little opportunity to expand programs. Some members felt organizations would be doing well if they were able to maintain the status quo.

2. Governor's Commendation Awards.

a. David Arbeit told the Council that the Governor's Commendation Awards that had begun with the former Governor's Council would continue. This is an award from the Governor not a council. Nominations should be sent to MnGeo by Friday, July 23rd.

b. The Statewide Advisory Council was asked to form a committee to review nominations and make recommendations to David Arbeit. A review committee was formed consisting of: Rebecca Foster (chair), Will Craig, Bob McMaster, Bob Meeks, Terry Schneider, Sally Wakefield and Ron Wencl.

For additional information please see the meeting notes for the June 30, 2010 MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.

MnGeo Briefing
Arbeit covered the following items:

1. **Projects** - Arbeit indicated that project updates were provided with the meeting materials. He went on to provide information about two projects.

a. **2010 Orthoimagery** – work continues on the 13 metro county high resolution leaf-off project. MnGeo recently held three meetings in southern Minnesota to inform 36 counties of the Spring 2011 flights and the option for local governments "buying up" to acquire higher resolution imagery. Additional information is in the flyer for this project.

b. **Broadband Mapping** – Arbeit provided the Council with some background on the project including:

i. Minnesota was one of the only states to have a non-state agency designated as the entity to acquire the NTIA grant. Connected Nation was designated by the Governor's Office as the MN applicant. MnGeo was able to acquire a commitment from Connected Nation to provide the data to Minnesota that is submitted to the NTIA.

ii. Applications have been made for years 3 -5 of the project. Applicants had to be the same entities that acquired the original two year grants.

iii. MnGeo received data on Thursday, July 8th from Connected Nation and has begun to review it. Arbeit showed some screenshots of the Connect Minnesota website and of the data displayed in ArcGIS in a short presentation (18MB file). Arbeit noted that the data was not complete as this was a first phase delivery, FGDC compliant metadata needed to be completed, and that the data had not been verified.

2. **MnGeo LCCMR Grant Request** – Arbeit distributed a copy of the MnGeo LCCMR grant request for a Minnesota Environmental Mapping Commons which recently passed the first phase of LCCMR reviews. MnGeo partners for the project would include EQB, DNR, Agriculture, Health, BWSR, and

Met Council, among others. The grant would provide the resources to build out an Environmental Geospatial Commons based on the work of the Geospatial Commons Workgroup.

3. **Additional MnGeo Position** – Arbeit informed the Council that MnGeo was working on establishing a new FTE funded in part by project work from the MnGeo Service Bureau and funds MnGeo collects for coordinating projects such as ESRI Enterprise License Agreements and LiDAR collections. This is just in the conceptual stage and will have several steps to go before becoming a reality. This position would add to MnGeo's coordination capacity.

4. **Succession Planning** – MnGeo, like many organizations, has many staff that will be eligible to retire soon. Arbeit indicated he anticipates retiring sometime next year; he is hoping that in the next budget cycle MnGeo is able to acquire full funding for his position which is currently split between CGIO and division director for the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis that includes MnGeo, EQB, Demographer, and State Archeologist. Arbeit also mentioned that Commissioner Reger thinks MnGeo should remain in Administration for the time being.

5. **Additional MnGeo Processing Capacity** – Arbeit reported that MnGeo has ordered additional server and storage resources with FY2010 end–of-year money. The added capacity will allow MnGeo to host additional applications and data. If agencies have a geospatial need they cannot address internally, they should contact MnGeo to discuss options.

Committees and Workgroups

Arbeit indicated that updates for the committees and workgroups were included in the meeting material and asked if there were any questions (the updates also included a printout of the USNG Location Marker Proposal draft that is currently open for public review). Arbeit noted that we would likely have a presentation on one of the committees or workgroups at each of the Council meetings. The presentation this time will be on the Geospatial Commons Workgroup.

Geospatial Commons Presentation - Jessica Deegan, Met Council, provided a presentation and a handout of a GIS/LIS News article on the Geospatial Commons Workgroup which is working to implement a pilot for a single place for people to go to find and share geospatial data about Minnesota. Deegan indicated that the workgroup hopes to demonstrate a working model at the October Consortium Conference and that this project should be completed by the end of the year. This project builds on work done by MetroGIS, the Standards Committee and others over the past several years. Deegan estimated that the Workgroup would spend over 300 hours to develop the ESRI Portal product and the pilot commons.

Dan Ross stated that MnDOT has been working on a Portal for MnDOT for several months. Consensus of the Council was that this was the direction we as an enterprise should be heading. Deegan indicated that the Workgroup was planning to do an evaluation after completing the pilot and generate a report of findings. The statement was made that this could help agencies that do not have a good way to publish and make available data they produce. It was also suggested that a parallel effort to the Commons pilot project should be looking at enterprise data needs and how they could be met.   Tim Loesch asked whether this project would promote or require a common geospatial structure (architecture) for sharing and publishing data? He stated that it is much easier to maintain a site with a standard structure rather than a heterogeneous one.   Deegan responded that, currently, the pilot is anticipating a heterogeneous site, but this is a very important issue that should be addressed. Loesch added that the staff who are most appropriate to work on this issue are currently working on the pilot project, so development of a standard structure would best be done after the initial pilot.

Discussion – ArcGIS V. 10
Chris Cialek started off reporting that the Iron Range Resources Board (IRRRB) has joined the ESRI ELA group. Cialek also said that only one agency has paid their FY2011 bill for the ESRI software and that the State needs to pay ESRI by the end of July. Members indicated they would see where the invoices were in their agencies and work toward getting them paid. Cialek also announced that Service Pack 2 was available for ArcGIS 9.3.

Cialek then provided a [White](#) Paper from ESRI titled *ArcGIS 10 Licensing Concepts and Strategies* that provided information on how to download V 10 software and discussed the process in a short [presentation](#). ArcGIS V 10 is available for download now to authorized customers with Global IDs (user names). MnGeo will receive media sometime in August. Cialek then talked about the need for Authorization Numbers to activate the new software. MnGeo will coordinate distribution of Activation Numbers. For standalone users, the ESRI Software Authorization Wizard can be used. For network and concurrent users, a license file is needed for activation within *License Manager* as with the current version. Tim Loesch indicated that he thought it would take about 6 months to roll out version 10 to all of the DNR users. Loesch also stated that DNR was moving away from single use licenses as the new "Borrowing" concept allowed users who needed a version on a laptop to check one out for a specified period of time. This allows *License Manager* to administer licenses that are not connected to the network. Several agencies expressed the desire to acquire server versions as soon as possible. Consensus of the Council was that now is the time to implement an Enterprise approach to desktop *License Manager* vs. each agency doing it themselves.

> Action Item: MnGeo call a meeting of the ESRI ELA participants to discuss version 10 and an enterprise license manager vs. one for each agency.

Discussion – Staffing Rosters/Mutual Aid
Arbeit stated that geospatial staff are thin everywhere and demand is growing. He noted that MnGeo may have an issue in the near future as one of its technical support staff will be out for period of time. He suggested that MnGeo work with stakeholders to develop a skills inventory to help address the issue, possibly leading to pooling, sharing and networking of GIS staff resources. It was noted that the Met Council has done something like this.

> Action Item: MnGeo develop a geospatial staffing and skills set survey from which a people resource inventory could be created.

Agency Issues and Needs
Denton Peterson of Health reported that MDH is beginning to look at GIS as an agency need beyond its existing programmatic silos. MDH has begun a project to develop an agency enterprise approach. Members suggested that Health could see what DNR, MnDOT, Agriculture and others have implemented to give them ideas.

2011 Legislative Session – Geospatial Initiatives
Mike Dolbow asked about updating the Data Practices Act so that MN governmental entities could not charge other governmental entities for their data. Arbeit suggested inviting Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Information Policy Office Director, to come to the next meeting to listen to member concerns and discuss the issues.

> Action Item: Invite Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske to next meeting to discuss data sharing issues.

Tim Loesch stated that DNR Waters was submitting a budgetary request to fund LiDAR for the rest of the State using Clean Water Act money. This would be a continuation of the current program.

Dan Ross indicated that MnDOT was looking at an internal funding request to support a mobile infrastructure project. Tim Loesch indicated that DNR was also working in that arena. This is an opportunity for agency collaboration.

Members should let Arbeit know of any other possible legislative and budgetary initiatives.

Informational Items

1. MetroGIS – Quantify Public Value Project Update is included in meeting materials. This project ties into the discussion about one governmental agency charging another for its data.

2. NSGIC's Annual Meeting will be in Minneapolis on September 12-16, 2010. If council members are interested in attending, they should contact Arbeit to find out about a possible reduced member rate.

3. Consortium Annual Conference October 13-15 in Duluth.

Future Meetings
Mike Dolbow requested that at a subsequent meeting we have an agenda item to discuss geospatial standards and what to do if an entity is not in compliance.

Action Item: Add "Standards and compliance to standards" to a subsequent Council meeting as an agenda item.

The next State Government Advisory Council meeting will be **September 21, 2010**. Note this is a change from the original scheduled September 14th date due to the NSGIC conference.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes by Fred Logman and Nancy Rader.