MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council
March 12, 2010 Meeting Notes

Participating
Members: David Arbeit, MnGeo (Chair); Chris Buse (for Ed Valencia), OET; Jennifer Johnson, Corrections; Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, Transportation; Tad Schindler, Pollution Control; Cindy Valentine, Labor and Industry; Michelle Weber, Minnesota Management & Budget; and John Wiersma (for Mary Arveson), Human Services. Rebecca Foster, City of Edina, represented the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.
Non-members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Dan Falbo, ESRI; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo

David Arbeit called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves. The agenda was accepted as presented.

Meeting Notes:
There were no changes to the January 20, 2010, meeting notes.

Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing: Technology Governance
Buse, OET's Chief Information Security Officer, reported that OET now has a written process for making enterprise-wide decisions. The process was first implemented for security issues and has expanded to encompass all technology areas; it is used to establish policies, standards, and solutions. Proposals begin with an appropriate group of subject matter experts, are next reviewed by chief information officers, and then may either go directly to the State CIO for action, or, if there are significant financial implications, they are reviewed by the Program Review Team (deputy commissioners) before being sent to the CIO. Find more information on OET's website under "iGov".

Arbeit noted that OET's technology governance process will apply to the establishment of future geospatial standards and security protocols needed for geospatial efforts. Proposed GIS standards go first to the Data Domain for review and action. Arbeit serves as a member of OET's Enterprise Architectural Review Board representing the geospatial community and welcomes advice from both geospatial advisory councils.

NSGIC Briefing
Arbeit reported on highlights from the midyear (March 7-10) meeting of the National States Geographic Information Council in Annapolis, Maryland:
- Will Craig, University of Minnesota, is NSGIC President this year.
- **FGDC Liaison and CAP Programs:** President Obama's proposed budget includes a $3.4 million cut to the USGS liaison and CAP grant programs. If the proposal passes, Minnesota's liaison, Ron Wencl, could be assigned to additional states, reducing the time he could spend on Minnesota efforts. The state also has benefited from the CAP grant program – reductions would reduce our ability to accomplish innovative projects. NSGIC is strongly advocating reinstatement of the USGS funds. Victoria Reinhardt has written to Rep. McCollum to support the liaison and CAP programs; Arbeit is exploring channel(s) by which he as CGIO can also express support for these programs.
- **Imagery for the Nation:** The 1-meter leaf-on imagery NAIP program retains support. The 1-foot leaf-off imagery in urban areas may be done by the private sector; Microsoft and Digital Globe is proposing a "Clear30" program to do this. Google may also offer a program.
- **Broadband Mapping:** A National Broadband Plan will be announced on March 17. All 50 states have received federal stimulus grants to create or update broadband maps; Minnesota's grant was awarded

to Connected Nation. The Federal Communications Commission has its first GIO, Mike Byrne (previously California's GIO).

- **FGDC 2010 CAP Awards:** See announcement of awards.
  - o MnGeo received a Category 7 grant to work with partners to create an authoritative geospatial dataset of Minnesota's municipal boundaries and to streamline the process to maintain the data.
  - o The Category 7 application to build on DEED's M3D project was not selected this year.
  - o Category 5 projects have not yet been selected, so MetroGIS's proposal to determine the value of GIS data, in particular parcel data, to other entities awaits a final decision.
- **NSGIC's Annual Meeting** will be in Minneapolis on September 12-16, 2010.
- **California has implemented a geocoding standard** based on postal address standards.

Spring 2010 Floods and GIS Activities
Coordination: Arbeit reported that MnGeo is determining how best to work with Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HSEM) State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the geospatial community to coordinate support for this spring's flood response. SEOC focuses on state agencies – it does not assist local governments except through a specific chain of command. See handout for a diagram showing efforts that HSEM will lead and that MnGeo will lead, a list of areas expected to flood, and descriptions of a proposed "GIS Operations Center" at MnGeo and a "GIS Desk" staffed by MnGeo at the SEOC.

Arbeit emphasized that MnGeo cannot staff these efforts alone – other state agency staff are needed. Ross indicated that the next step would be a letter from either Arbeit or Kris Eide, Director of HSEM, to agencies requesting resources. Another handout describes the DisasterLAN software which manages information in an EOC; the handout includes an application for approval to register as a DisasterLAN user.

Minnesota HSEM Web Viewer: Falbo, ESRI's State Government representative, demonstrated a web viewer that ESRI is creating (at no charge to the state) to provide a Common Operating Picture for Minnesota's flood response. The viewer is intended to show a general picture for decision support; it is not intended for high-fidelity modeling. It includes reference information such as roads, air photos, and demographic data, as well as current weather and flood warning information. Mn/DOT will soon be adding road closures; MnDNR will be adding elevation data; Clay County is providing parcels. Collaborations with North and South Dakota are expanding information for the Red River Basin.

The application is Flex-based, and information can be brought in from parsed RSS feeds and WMS services. As appropriate, information can be shown as map displays, reports, or links to relevant websites. Users can add services on-the-fly to the catalog. Tools such as a "sandbag calculator" are built-in, a help manual is being written, and commonly needed functions are being bundled to make them more efficient to use.

OET is considering hosting a virtual server for this service which could provide a back-up for the server running at SEOC; OET's server could offload site traffic from SEOC and could provide a place to test new features before they are added to the SEOC version. Next steps: 1. HSEM needs to provide an official request for assistance. 2. OET needs detailed technical specifications for what is required, a key contact, and a date when the environment is needed.

What other data should be added? What information is most needed by responders? Ross noted that during last year's floods, a frequent question was "where are the state facilities?" One source for four types of facility locations – fire stations, hospitals, police stations, and schools – is in a new structures service described here (note that this project, a partnership between MnGeo and the Emergency Preparedness Committee, was made possible by FGDC's CAP grant program). The structures data is largely drawn from the federal *HSIP – Freedom* dataset which may not include all facilities; plans call for this data to be augmented by information from local

governments. Hoshal noted that Jim McCloskey, from the Department of Administration's Risk Management Division, was geocoding additional state structures.

Members were asked to volunteer relevant data from their agencies – if they need help with providing the data as a service, agency staff with experience will assist.

Members were also asked to think beyond this emergency. Could this viewer be modified to serve as a "Minnesota Geospatial Viewer" in future? What reference data should included as a basemap? More discussion on this at future meetings.

Project updates
Cialek reported on four projects:

1. **Statewide air photos from the Farm Service Agency**: NAIP2009 photos are now available from MnGeo's website as downloadable county files and as a WMS service. Minnesota is scheduled to be reflown in 2010, all with federal funding.

2. **Spring 2010 leaf-off imagery** for 13 counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area: The contract was signed yesterday and the project will begin April 7. If additional funding is received from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, imagery resolution in the 7-county metro will be improved from the current 1.5 foot to 1-foot.

3. **LiDAR elevation project**: Eight proposals are being evaluated to create the list of pre-qualified vendors who will provide LiDAR data. Southwest Minnesota is scheduled to be flown this spring; currently, central Minnesota is scheduled next, to be followed by the Arrowhead region. These priorities may change if additional funding sources are identified. It appears likely that USGS will fund LiDAR collection for the portion of the Minnesota River drainage basin in South Dakota so basin-wide modeling would be possible.

4. **ESRI Enterprise License Agreement**: 13 state agencies are now part of the ELA. They are inventorying their current software licenses in order to assess the costs to each agency for next year's maintenance fee of $540,000.

Weber reported that enhancements to MMB's Recovery website, created in partnership with MnGeo, have improved Minnesota's ranking from 34th to 4th in the nation for transparency (see report). More enhancements are in progress. A legislative bill introduced last night [HF3449] specifies that a similar mapping application be created to track capital budget expenditures.

Ross reported that Mn/DOT has improved its road closure information service. Previously, local governments reported closures to Mn/DOT staff who updated the service – now, locals can edit the service directly. This means the updates are timelier and done more efficiently.

2010 Legislative Session
Arbeit updated the Council on HF2557 / SF2188 which would create a State Webmaster under the State CIO, require enhanced public access to state government electronic files, and require use of an "approved metadata model" and an "approved state geocoding model." This is further evidence of the need for a geocoding workgroup. The legislation provides some funding for the effort.

Workgroups
See handout for updated list of committees, workgroups, and communities, as well as a new graphic to represent the relationships between these groups, the geospatial advisory councils, the GIO, the Commissioner of Administration, OET, and the Minnesota geospatial community.

The Geospatial Commons workgroup (a joint effort of the MetroGIS Technical Leadership Workgroup and the MnGeo Standards Committee) has drafted a charter. It would be helpful for other committees and workgroups to consider creating charters as well.

Agency Issues and Needs
Johnson voiced the need for help for agency staff who are new to GIS. Many of these staff need to track people and projects, and especially need help with geocoding. Who do they call? Might a user group be a good way to connect new people with experienced staff? Council members suggested a number of experienced staff who could assist. Her questions, and general agreement from other members, support the need for a workgroup to articulate training needs and possible solutions.

Johnson also noted that ESRI was hosting a free seminar "Explore Available Data and Tools" on April 8 in Minneapolis.

Future Meetings
Presentation Ideas:

- How to prepare data for geocoding: This could be a popular topic, so the meeting should be held in a bigger room.
- Mn/DOT's pilot system to directly access county parcel and CAMA data for use in right-of-way projects.

The next state government council meeting will be May 11, 2010.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.