MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council
May 11, 2010 Meeting Notes

Participating:
Members: David Arbeit, MnGeo (Chair); Mary Arveson, 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; Craig Rhombs, Education; Tad Schindler, Pollution Control; Cindy Valentine, Labor and Industry; Ed Valencia, OET and Paul Weinberger (for Dan Ross), Transportation. Rebecca Foster, City of Edina, represented the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.
Non-members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Dan Falbo, ESRI; Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Kent Treichel, Revenue

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

Meeting Notes:
There were no changes to the March 12, 2010 meeting notes.

Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing: Technology Governance
Valencia summarized three main OET initiatives:
1. **Governance (iGov)**: This effort provides a concrete plan of action via seven strategies. Four strategies (architecture; IT products and standards; information security; project and portfolio management) will be ongoing and three strategies (data center consolidation; enterprise email; e-licensing) are project-oriented and will sunset as they are completed. Find more information on OET's website under "iGov".
2. **Data Center Consolidation**: The State has approximately 70 data centers and OET is determining how best to consolidate many of them. Outsourcing may be an option for some State needs.
3. **Enterprise Architecture**: In consultation with stakeholders, OET is currently developing procedures to make architectural policy decisions.

Valencia then asked for feedback on what council members most wanted to learn about from his OET report. Cialek asked how data standards will be handled within the architecture? Valencia replied that the process for developing policies, standards and best practices will be worked out with stakeholders, and OET will be asking the affected GIS community to provide feedback on what is needed.

Arbeit noted that MnGeo recently shut down its data center and moved it to OET. OET provides 24/7 power, backup and staffing; MnGeo manages the site remotely and has saved money with the new arrangement. MnGeo can help arrange co-hosting of GIS servers and data for other state agencies that want either to start services or to move their services from in-house to OET.

Arbeit reminded the council that he is a member of OET's Enterprise Architectural Review Board representing the geospatial community and seeks and receives advice from both geospatial advisory councils. Valencia chairs the Board and has added GIS as a standing item on the Board's agendas. Maintaining communication between the GIS advisory councils and the Board is very important.

MnGeo Briefing:

Arbeit covered the following items:

- **Spring 2010 Floods and GIS Activities**: During the recent flood, much progress was made in building a GIS response team to work with Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HSEM) State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). A number of state agencies provided staff (Arbeit specifically thanked Mn/DOT, DNR, and the Office of Pipeline Safety) and DNR provided a copy of their Data Resource Site. In addition to providing staff, MnGeo maintained a 24/7 phone line and hosted a daily conference call to coordinate requests for imagery with federal agencies and other states. More training and standardization is clearly needed, but HSEM and SEOC staff are increasingly seeing the value of GIS for their work.
- **Central Minnesota Orthophotos; 2010 FSA Orthophotos; LiDAR**: See handout.
- **Enterprise License Agreement (ELA)**: Thirteen state agencies are currently members of the ELA. The ELA has provided significant cost avoidance to the State so far and more is expected in the coming years.   See handout.
- **NSGIC's Annual Meeting** will be in Minneapolis on September 12-16, 2010. Gopal Khanna, state CIO, has agreed to speak at the introductory part of the meeting. If council members are interested in attending, they should contact Arbeit to find out about a possible reduced member rate.
- **Grants**: Arbeit noted three recent grants that MnGeo and its partners have received from:
  1. **FGDC**: Streamlining the process of maintaining administrative boundaries for cities, townships and unorganized territories.
  2. **EPA**: Further work on National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) editing tools.
  3. **Minnesota Historical Society**: Scanning and indexing original Public Land Survey field notes. See handout.
- **LCCMR proposals**: Arbeit distributed a handout listing all the proposals submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for FY2011-12 funding. Many involve using LiDAR data. MnGeo and the Legislature are working to ensure that data created using these funds is in compliance with standards and guidelines adopted by OET and published by MnGeo and that data is accessible and free to the public unless made private under the Data Practices Act.
- **Legislative Report**: Arbeit submitted five legislative change action amendments to carry out the "housekeeping" changes proposed in the Review of Legacy Language report. They are included in House and Senate state government funding bills.
- **Diagram**: Arbeit distributed a revised diagram representing the relationships between parts of the Minnesota geospatial community. The main change from the previous version is the addition of dashed lines indicating communication between the two advisory councils and the MnGeo committees, workgroups, and communities. Logman added that committees have been asked to write quarterly reports which will be compiled and made available to the councils. All groups are encouraged to communicate in other ways as needed.
- **Feedback**: Arbeit asked for feedback on how MnGeo is fulfilling its mission and expectations so far, noting that comments are welcome at any time, and can be made offline rather than at a meeting.
  - **Dolbow**: Has any progress been made on developing committee webpages that committee members can edit directly?
    Logman replied that these are in-progress.
  - **Loesch**: Does MnGeo have a staffing plan? He expressed concern that present staff are stretched too thin.
    Arbeit replied that staffing and succession planning is in progress. As documented in the Applied Geographics report, MnGeo needs, at minimum, 2.5 more FTE in order to accomplish its core tasks, especially in the areas of coordination and of technical administration. In the current budget climate, however, that has not been feasible. To address this shortfall in the immediate term,

MnGeo applies for and receives some grants and will receive some reimbursement for administrative costs from the ELA and LiDAR projects.

- In the longer term, a possible migration of MnGeo from Administration to OET is under discussion. Succession planning is also beginning since the CGIO (Arbeit) and several other MnGeo staff will likely retire in the next several years. Currently, Arbeit not only serves as CGIO but also directs the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis (GDA), which includes the State Demographic Center, the Environmental Quality Board, and the State Archeologist's Office. When Arbeit retires, the position should become solely a CGIO and should not also include directing the GDA. The main sources of additional sustained funding would be a larger appropriation from the legislature and provision of services that people are willing to pay for.

  Dolbow suggested that we revisit the Applied Geographics report recommendations to "recalibrate and readjust" on a periodic basis.

Project updates:
- **Broadband Mapping:** (see summary in handout) Fetter reported that:
  1. ConnectMN (Connected Nation) reported to the Minnesota legislature's Telecom Committee on May 5, 2010. See a PDF of the presentation.
  2. ConnectMN submitted an initial dataset to NTIA on April 30, 2010, representing broadband data from 100 Minnesota broadband providers (83%).
     a. Initial findings include that ~2 million Minnesota households (95%) have access to broadband service of at least 768kbps downstream.
     b. BroadbandStat maps are to be publicly available the week of May 17, 2010.
     c. Two non-responding broadband providers were identified
        i. One is requesting funding for an ARRA project (an RUS BIP proposal, which requires their participation in Broadband Mapping).
        ii. ConnectMN remains hopeful they will obtain 100% participation
  3. Community Anchor Institutions (CAI)
     a. ConnectMN reported ~7,000 identified CAIs (approximately equal to the number in the structures dataset that MnGeo provided to them – see handout for entry on "Critical Infrastructure Data: Structures" – this is a prime example of data collected for one purpose being reused for another).
     b. ConnectMN is working with Commerce and associations of townships, hospitals, counties, etc., to gather contact information at CAI sites to facilitate completion of the Broadband Mapping survey.
  4. Commerce is planning to form a broadband advisory committee; its members likely will be selected via the Open Appointments process coordinated by the Secretary of State Office.
  5. FCC has proposed regulating broadband as a telecommunication service; this is controversial.
  6. ConnectMN will provide the GIS data it collects to MnGeo for distribution; Arbeit will make sure this occurs.

2010 Legislative Session:
Arbeit updated the Council on SF3134 / HF3449 which would encourage enhanced public access to information about projects receiving appropriations. The legislation, however, provides no funding for the effort. Other changes reflect "housekeeping" updates that are described in MnGeo's Review of Legacy Language report. See handout for details.

Workgroups:
See handout for updated list of committees, workgroups, and communities.

Geospatial Commons Workgroup: Cialek provided an overview of the workgroup's mission: to help streamline the process of discovery, access and use of Minnesota's GIS data. The workgroup (a joint effort of the MetroGIS Technical Leadership Workgroup and the MnGeo Standards Committee) has drafted a charter. It specifies that they will develop a prototype of a "next-generation" enterprise-focused site that will provide a single identity in one place for the public to access Minnesota GIS data, especially that from state agencies. There will still be roles and responsibilities for many agencies, and likely there will be options to host data centrally and to have a federated network of sites maintained by agencies inhouse. The workgroup is evaluating several candidate applications, including ESRI's Geospatial Portal Extension and a web enterprise suite from Compusult.

The workgroup is conducting a survey of data users, and council members are encouraged to view the survey results-to-date and to take the survey. Kotz, the workgroup chair, added that the site should be viewed as a community-owned resource that the MN GIS community can contribute to, rather than a site providing info one-way out from state agencies. For more info, including a link to the survey, see the Geospatial Commons workgroup website.

Public Review of Draft National Address Data Standard: Kotz reported that the MetroGIS Address Workgroup and the MnGeo Standards Committee are coordinating a state response to the draft FGDC United States Thoroughfare, Landmark, and Postal Address Data Standard – note that although addresses are related to geocoding, this draft standard is NOT a geocoding standard. Comments should be submitted to Kotz by May 17, the meeting will be held May 26, and final comments are due June 16. For more information, click here.

Geocoding Workgroup: Dolbow and Treichel have volunteered to co-chair this workgroup. Logman drafted a charter, based on the format used by the Geospatial Commons workgroup, and the co-chairs are refining it. They intend to focus their efforts on core needs, especially the need to batch geocode Minnesota addresses. They propose using a small "skunkworks" group of 3-4 people to work on the technical details and bring results and questions to the rest of the workgroup. Dolbow and Treichel will be in the small group, and Arvesen will ask John Wiersma from the MN Department of Human Services if he is also able to participate. Additional members are also needed for the larger workgroup to provide input on requirements from agencies that have business needs for geocoding, especially human services. The co-chairs asked: Is the charter OK? Is the approach of the small and large group OK? Members did not voice any objections.

Presentation: DNR GIS Organization, by Tim Loesch
Loesch provided an overview of how GIS is organized, governed and funded at the MN Department of Natural Resources. See slides.

Agency Issues and Needs: Datasets that do not fully comply with standards:
Discussion postponed to a future meeting due to time constraints.

2012-3 Budget – Geospatial Initiatives that MnGeo Should Carry:
Dolbow suggested an initiative to facilitate acquisition of proprietary LiDAR data from several counties not covered in the current LiDAR collect; the goal is to complete statewide coverage of LiDAR available to the public at no charge.

Members should let Arbeit know of any other possible initiatives.

Future Meetings:
The next state government council meeting will be July 13, 2010. The September 14 meeting needs to be rescheduled since it conflicts with the NSGIC Annual Meeting – Logman will contact council members about a new date.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.