

MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

March 15, 2011

Meeting Notes

Participating

Members: Mary Arvesen, Human Services; Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Jessica Fendos, Employment and Economic Development; Greg Fetter, Commerce; Rebecca Foster, City of Edina (liaison from Statewide Council); Kent Hranicka, MMB (for Michelle Weber); Steve Kloiber, Natural Resources (for Tim Loesch); Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Denton Peterson, Health; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, Transportation; Tad Schindler, Pollution Control; Ed Valencia, OET; Cindy Valentine, Labor and Industry.

Non-members: John Blood, HSEM; Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Dan Falbo, ESRI; Peter Fleck, Northstar Geographics; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo.

Logman called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting since Arbeit was not able to attend. Participants introduced themselves.

January 11, 2011 Meeting Notes

The Meeting notes for the [January 11, 2011](#), meeting were accepted.

Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing (Valencia)

1. **Personnel:** Caroline Parnell is the new State CIO and OET Commissioner. She was previously at MnSCU (Minnesota State Colleges and Universities) and has a breadth of experience in both technical and business aspects of IT. The CFO and the head of infrastructure have both left OET, and OET is working to fill those positions.
2. **Legislation:** HF 191 / SF 130 (“Redundant Technology Elimination Act”) proposes to aggregate all Executive Branch IT functions, including MnGeo and the Dept. of Public Safety ARMS system, under OET. The details of the bill keep changing, and, so far, there is no implementation timeline. If passed, this would be a very significant change in Minnesota’s current federated approach to IT in state government. The Executive Branch’s current position is neutral on the outcome; until the outcome is known, OET’s strategic planning is in limbo.
3. **Budget:** Any General Fund budget reductions will primarily impact OET’s security services since most other areas of OET are funded in other ways.

Spring Floods (Blood)

The current outlook indicates flooding everywhere in Minnesota this spring, except for inland in the Arrowhead region. Melting has begun, but significant flooding is not likely for several weeks. There are not enough gages to get a complete picture of where the flooding will be. Real-time tracking of ice jams is now available where cameras are in place. Weather information and flood warnings are available from the [National Weather Service website](#) and the [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#). MN DNR provides [hydrographs](#); this is not yet available as a WMS service.

The *Flex*-based viewer developed by Esri to provide situational awareness is publicly available; it includes road closure data from Mn/DOT and local governments. The *SilverLight*-based DLAN viewer is available to authorized users.

The federal Department of Homeland Security has built a huge SharePoint system to provide a whole new level of secure information sharing. The folders are well-organized. Metadata is provided but is not

searchable – currently, online viewers don't handle metadata well. Minnesota has a portal to this system but it is not yet available. FEMA Region 8 (which includes North and South Dakota) is participating. Blood encourages GIS staff to participate in the HSIN community and to share data and ask questions.

Dolbow: Flood inundation polygons are the information that is most needed. Blood: Upper Red River Valley satellite imagery is being processed within 24 hours to provide flood extents. Ross: Hyper-spectral data from the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) could be used to help define these polygons.

Homeland Security's new Interagency Remote Sensing Coordination Cell (IRSCC) is hosting daily conference calls to provide needed imagery in a timely manner, have consumable products available through HSIN, provide consistent and on-going communication, and to reduce redundant activities.

A [DFIRM status map](#) (Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps) was distributed for the meeting. Blood cautioned that the 100-year floodplains shown on FEMA DFIRM maps are based on a schedule of risks for setting insurance rates; they are NOT based on hydrology.

Hoshal: MnGeo staff will be working at the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) GIS desk. Arbeit is working on a letter to state agency heads asking for additional staff assistance for the GIS Desk. The Flex and DLAN viewers should reduce the need for GIS professionals to create maps during the emergency.

If local government staff have GIS requests, refer them to their county Emergency Manager since that is the only contact who can request assistance through the SEOC. Submit requests to the HSEM ticket system so that long-term needs are recognized and documented.

MnGeo Update (Logman)

- The new Commissioner of the Department of Administration is Spencer Cronk.
- The [General Land Office Field Notes scanning project](#) is progressing; the size of the finished files is projected to be 20 terabytes plus!
- The Federal Geographic Data Committee selected the CAP grant proposal [A Business Plan for Statewide Parcel Data Integration](#), submitted by MnGeo and partners, for funding. The project will start in July.
- The CAP grant project [Minnesota Local Government Boundaries](#), to develop processes to maintain city, township and unorganized territory (CTU) boundaries, is in progress.
- [Leaf-off imagery](#) will be collected in 36 counties in southern Minnesota this spring.

2011 Legislative Session (Logman)

- As already noted in the OET report above, HF 191 would move all Executive Branch IT functions under OET. This would include most agency GIS activities. For MnGeo, this would have a budget impact for staff positions that are partially funded by MnGeo and partially by other units within the Office of Geospatial and Demographic Analysis.
- Legislation has been proposed to continue supporting LiDAR data collection with Legacy Amendment funds.
- Proposals to update the data practices statutes and to provide for the continuation of the Advisory Councils have not yet been introduced as legislation.

Geocoding (Dolbow)

The [Geocoding Workgroup](#) was formed in response both to an identified need by many agencies for geocoding and to 2010 legislation that mandates that "all geospatial data conform to an approved state geocode model." To meet these needs, the Workgroup has developed a [Statewide Service Geocoding](#)

[Requirements](#) document, several [business use cases](#) and a draft [Request For Information](#) (RFI). The RFI asks vendors to describe how they would solve the problem and what the solution(s) would cost. The vendor that developed the [MetroGIS Geocoder](#) may be one of the responders.

Dolbow indicated that the Geocoding Workgroup was looking for something (a product, service, data bases, and/or a combination thereof) that would meet all of the identified needs and provide a statewide solution for both batch and interactive uses. The solution should not only geocode addresses but also landmarks and possibly building names.

Dolbow demonstrated the Department of Agriculture's [Gypsy Moth Treatment Areas application](#) which uses Google Maps' geocoding service for its address matching. One feature of the Google service is the ability to enter an abbreviation such as "UMD" for the University of Minnesota, Duluth and get back a point where the campus is located. Returned maps are at an appropriate scale and users can zoom in and out.

Discussion points:

- How would batch geocoding work? Probably batches would need to be scheduled and help would need to be provided.
- Could the solution include border states rather than just border counties? No, this is getting beyond the project's scope; national geocoding solutions would be appropriate to meet this need.
- Dolbow asked about the status of proposed changes to the Data Practices Act that would remove many liability issues for local government and promote the exchange of data between government entities (these changes may make it easier to share information useful in geocoding applications). Logman indicated that they have been submitted to the Governor's Office but have not yet been considered by the Legislature. It may be helpful to notify the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties about the proposed changes.

The Workgroup is now asking the Council for suggested edits to the RFI and suggestions for potential vendors; they would like to see the RFI released as soon as possible.

Action Item: *Council members review the RFI and provide any comments or suggestions for potential vendors to Mike Dolbow.*

Action Item: *MnGeo edit and release RFI with assistance from the Geocoding Workgroup.*

Agency Issues and Needs

Arvesen reported that the Department of Human Services now has a strategy document for use of GIS in the department; they have joined the enterprise license agreement and have 6 concurrent ArcView and 1 Arc/Info license. Their users are new and need training. Suggested options were to work with DNR staff; to take some of Esri's online training modules (some of which are free); and to go to the Mn GIS/LIS Consortium's spring workshops on May 26 at the University of St. Thomas.

Updates

- a) **Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council:** Their next meeting is March 31.
- b) **Enterprise License Agreement (ELA):** Membership is up to 16 agencies with the addition of the Department of Human Services. Annual software inventories are due. They are working on a fair method to reduce the account surplus before invoices are sent out. The next ELA steering committee meeting is April 6.
- c) **Standards:** Cialek presented an overview of Standards Committee work and a history of standards approval processes to the Architecture Review Board (ARB) on January 26, and to a smaller core

group on February 1. OET will be providing a template to reformat previously accepted standards; once reformatted, 9 of the geospatial standards will go to the ARB for further action. The Standards Committee met on February 8 and formed a [Metadata Workgroup](#) to reevaluate the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines before submitting for official approval. The Committee will also draft a standards compliance policy.

d) **NSGIC**: See [handout](#) summarizing the highlights of the mid-year meeting in Annapolis.

Informational Items and Announcements

- Member announcements: None.
- [Committee and Workgroup Reports](#) and [Project Updates](#) were provided in the meeting materials. If other projects should be included in these reports, please let Logman know.
- [2010 spring leaf-off imagery](#): Cialek reported that the imagery was now available via [MnGeo's WMS](#); for the [2011 flight](#), 3 counties (McLeod, Murray, and Sibley) currently plan to buy-up to obtain higher resolution imagery. Dolbow asked whether MnGeo's composite image service contains the 2010 imagery? Cialek indicated yes it does.
- [Multi-State GIS Cloud Services report](#): This report, obtained by Arbeit at the NSGIC meeting, was distributed with meeting materials. Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado had developed an RFI to obtain information on the economic and technical feasibility of government GIS services being sourced by cloud computing providers.

Future Meetings

- **Presentation ideas:**
 - After-flood assessment
 - Dolbow: Three ways to do mash-ups
 - Ross: Mn/DOT's road conditions application (linked from their [2011 flood page](#))
- **State Government** Advisory Council: 2011 Meetings will be on Tuesdays: May 10 [*rescheduled to May 31, 2011*], July 12, September 13, and November 8.
- **Statewide** Advisory Council: 2011 meetings will be on 5th Thursdays (March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 29).

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.