

MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council

June 30, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Boardroom, Metro Counties Government Center, 2099 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

Attendees

Members: Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead; David Arbeit, MnGeo; Will Craig, University of Minnesota; Rebecca Foster, City of Edina; Rick Gelbmann, Metropolitan Council; Patricia Henderson, ARDC; Brian Huberty, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; John Mackiewicz, WSB & Associates; Haila Maze, City of Minneapolis; Robert McMaster, University of Minnesota; Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County; Terry Schneider, MetroGIS; Rick Schute, Minnesota National Guard; Dawn Sherk, White Earth Nation; Steve Swazee, SharedGeo; Gary Swenson, Hennepin County; Mark Thomas, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; Sally Wakefield, Envision Minnesota; Ron Wencil, U.S. Geological Survey.

Non-Members: Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Nancy Read, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District; Howard Veregin, Wisconsin State Cartographers Office (via phone).

Welcome

Chair Victoria Reinhardt called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.

Minutes of March 31, 2011 Meeting

Motion to approve the March 31, 2011 [council meeting minutes](#) (Craig/Gelbmann). Motion carried.

State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

Foster reported that the May 31 State Council meeting agenda was similar to today's council meeting.

Committee/Workgroup and Project Communications

Members discussed the question of how communications could be improved between the council and MnGeo's committees, workgroups, and projects.

- Goals of the smaller groups should be integrated with the larger goals of the councils and MnGeo.
 - Ensure that each group has a concise workplan for the coming year. It should include milestones, deliverables, products, challenges and a general timeframe. These need not be super-detailed.
 - Each group should keep the Outreach Committee informed about any "stories" that come out of their efforts that could be used to illustrate the benefits of GIS to citizens.
 - Periodic reports should emphasize what's new and what helps to meet priority goals. These could be organized by the goals set at the start of the year.
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MnGeo Update (Shutdown and Legislation)

Arbeit confirmed that all state agency websites and services, unless they are deemed a "critical service", are being taken down today and will be unavailable during the Minnesota state government shutdown that begins July 1, 2011. The MnGeo Image Server will remain available, although no MnGeo staff will be available to support it during the shutdown since they will be officially laid off. The geocoding service will not be available.

Most legislation and state agency budgets are not yet determined, including the proposed executive branch IT consolidation initiative, the proposal to move MnGeo from the Department of Administration to the Office of Enterprise Technology, as well as requested funding to complete Minnesota's LiDAR data, to collect additional leaf-off imagery to support wetlands delineation, and to develop geological atlases for additional counties as well as other soil and water data.

MnGeo's two main priorities are the development of the parcel business plan and the Geospatial Commons (both covered below). Other priorities are continued coordination of orthophotography and LiDAR.

Parcel Business Plan Project

Logman reported that work on the project [A Business Plan for Statewide Parcel Data Integration for Minnesota](#) has begun. Pro-West and Associates, Inc. just completed a telephone survey of the status of county parcel data; 82 of 87 counties responded (missing: Cook, Dodge, Pennington, Red Lake; Stearns). He distributed a handout of the questions. This survey included more policy questions than were contained in [previous surveys](#). The survey results will be available after they have been compiled. Since the status and policies vary widely between counties, the business plan will have to propose different strategies to account for these differences. The Digital Cadastral Data Committee will be a core advisory body for this project.

Metadata Workgroup [presentation slides](#)

Rader summarized the purpose and activities of the new [Metadata Workgroup](#). The workgroup formed in response to changes in the way ArcGIS 10 handles metadata; these changes mean that the MGMG Editor, customized for use with the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines (MGMG) in ArcGIS 8 and 9, no longer works. A promising option is to customize the [EPA Metadata Editor](#). In addition, the workgroup will evaluate MGMG to see whether changes are needed to match new international and national metadata standards and to incorporate new elements that describe web services. Any proposed changes to MGMG would be released for public comment before being recommended to the Office of Enterprise Technology as a state standard.

Geospatial Commons [presentation slides](#)

Kotz provided an update on the [Geospatial Commons project](#), intended to create and maintain a "single place we all go to find and share geospatial resources". The test implementation work confirmed that, although there is no perfect tool, the Esri portal product is still the best choice for our needs and that the idea is worth pursuing. The project sponsors indicated that the project should be more encompassing; a steering committee is being formed to develop a project charter and detailed workplan for the next phase.

Discussion:

- Would the data be screened for quality?
Policies would need to be developed about quality standards for both data and metadata to be included on the site.
- How would the Commons get data for counties that don't submit it?
Use of the site is voluntary. If the site proves useful and if other counties are submitting data, then over time more counties are likely to participate. Also, data providers do not have to be government units.
- What security measures would protect sensitive data? What mechanism could be used to stop unauthorized people from posting licensed or sensitive data such as TLG street centerlines or endangered species locations?
Only registered account holders would be allowed to post data. Further security measures are policy questions that will need to be addressed.

Remote Sensing Discussion: Letter to Federal Government

At the March 31, 2011 council meeting, Brian Huberty had provided the Council with a draft letter to Mr. John Holdren, Director, President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, that he proposed be sent

from the Council regarding federal remote sensing programs and priorities. An edited version of the letter was submitted for the council's approval.

Motion: Approve sending the revised letter about federal remote sensing programs and priorities to John Holdren (Schneider/Swazee). Motion carried.

Commendations

The deadline for nominations for Governor's Commendations was originally July 15; however, it likely will be extended due to the state government shutdown. For more information, check the [webpage](#) once the shutdown is over.

Discussion: Council: What Went Well and What Could Be Improved?

Members contributed a number of suggestions:

- Meeting notes should be distributed more quickly.
 - Meetings could have a theme. For example, "education" could include the nature of GIS education, federal initiatives that would impact what is taught, and examples of budget savings from using GIS in education (e.g., more efficient bus routing).
 - Demonstrate the value of hiring GIS personnel; collect real-life examples of budget savings to promote GIS use in counties.
 - Travel outside the Twin Cities, either as a full council or as subgroups. The Governor's Council on Geographic Information used to hold at least one meeting per year in Greater Minnesota which was well-received.
 - The council's purpose is to advise MnGeo and help set goals and directions. How can the council provide better advice and not meet just to share information?
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Informational Items and Announcements

- Swazee: The Emergency Preparedness Committee has launched a [new blog](#). It will include general items about the use of geospatial technologies for emergency preparedness and response, as well as information on related training events, webinars, and meetings.
 - Swazee: The Twin Cities will be hosting a two-day GECCo (Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration) event this fall to provide infrastructure and emergency response related geospatial training. It will be a GITA event, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. Details are still being determined and will be posted [here](#).
 - Veregin: The Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council ([WIGICC](#)) is seeking permanent status via legislation. Curt Pulford, Wisconsin GIO, helped the National States Geographic Information Council compile information on what authorizing mechanisms have worked in other states; the topic will be discussed at the September NSGIC meeting in Boise, ID.
 - Wencl: The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater has begun a new [GIS center](#) that focuses on economic development.
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Future Meetings

- The four meetings in 2012 will likely return to the 5th Wednesday of the month. The September 29, 2011 meeting may need to be rescheduled, depending on when the FY2012-13 members are appointed. At the next meeting, members will select a chair, vice-chair and liaison to the State Government Geospatial Advisory Council. Members thanked Foster for serving as the liaison for the past two years.
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Meeting Adjourned. Minutes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.