

MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council

January 7, 2010 Meeting Notes

Blazing Star Room, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Attendees

Members: Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead; David Arbeit, MnGeo; Will Craig, University of Minnesota; Rebecca Foster, City of Edina; Patricia Henderson, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Brian Huberty, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Stuart Lien, Clearwater County (via video); John Mackiewicz, WSB & Associates; Haila Maze, City of Minneapolis; Tim Ogg, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Mark Olsen, Pollution Control Agency; Tony Pistilli, Metropolitan Council; Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County; Terry Schneider, MetroGIS; Rick Schute, Minnesota National Guard; Dawn Sherk, White Earth Nation (via video); Steve Swazee, SharedGeo; Gary Swenson, Hennepin County; Mark Thomas, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; Sally Wakefield, 1,000 Friends of Minnesota; Ron Wencil, U.S. Geological Survey.

Non-Members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Mark Kotz; Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo.

Welcome

David Arbeit called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and noted that the day's severe snowstorm had kept several members from attending. Participants introduced themselves.

MnGeo Overview

Arbeit reviewed the process that led to the establishment of MnGeo – see handout at:

http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/councils/statewide/Statewide_AC_Briefing_09Jan07.pdf

MnGeo's mission is to improve services statewide through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of GIS. It provides coordination, guidance, and leadership to plan the implementation of Minnesota's geospatial information technology. The mandate is broad, but MnGeo's staff and budget remain relatively small. MnGeo is directed by David Arbeit, the state's new Chief Geospatial Information Officer (CGIO), is located in the Department of Administration, and works closely with the State's CIO and Office of Enterprise Technology.

MnGeo is advised by two Advisory Councils and by committees and work groups established to address specific issues. The **Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council** advises MnGeo on elements of geospatial coordination that affect or are affected by interactions between the State and the broad community of geospatial stakeholders. Its members represent a cross-section of organizations that benefit from the application of geospatial technology, especially services provided by the state. Specifically, members represent counties, cities, regional governments, tribal governments, universities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational organizations, federal and state agencies, and other stakeholder groups. The CGIO serves as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Council.

Reports to Legislature: By January 15, 2010, the CGIO must provide a report to the legislature that addresses all statutes that refer to MnGeo or the land management information system and provide recommendations (Arbeit distributed a draft of this report). MnGeo will also now have formal standing to report to the legislature – one challenge is that two different legislative committees (State Government Operations; Environment) address issues of concern to the geospatial community since they oversee different state agencies that are involved with GIS. MnGeo should also have more opportunity to work

formally with the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, the group that oversees funds for many environmental projects that involve GIS.

MnGeo website: Arbeit showed the main sections of the new MnGeo website, including links to five active committees from the sunsetted Governor's Council on Geographic Information. These committees (Digital Cadastral Data; Digital Elevation; Emergency Preparedness; Hydrography; Standards) will continue to operate and report to MnGeo. Committees are on-going long term efforts while "workgroups" will be for a shorter duration and project-oriented.

- Main website: <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us>
- Committee homepage: <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee>

Several members questioned some of the wording on the "Consulting Services" pages. E.g., the list of master contract vendors and rates should be deleted from MnGeo's site so that it's clear that OET maintains this list. Some of the language describing MnGeo's consulting services may need clarification.

***Action Item:** Arbeit will clarify wording on MnGeo's consulting services and have the webpages updated.*

Stimulus Investment Mapping: Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) has responsibility for meeting federal reporting and transparency requirements for funding to the state from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Arbeit demonstrated highlights of an interactive web mapping application (<http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/recovery/>) that MnGeo has implemented to help MMB meet this requirement. The project is guided by a steering committee that includes six legislative leaders and their staffs. The site has dramatically raised the visibility of mapping applications to the legislature. Many policymakers are seeing the potential for similar applications to illustrate and analyze other data, e.g., capital budget spending.

Broadband Mapping: The Minnesota Department of Commerce contracted with Connected Nation in 2008 for a web mapping application that depicts broadband mapping service throughout the state. In 2009, the National Telecommunications Infrastructure Administration invited states to designate applicants to submit proposals to implement an expanded program to support a national effort. Connected Nation was designated as the State's applicant by the Governor in August, with the provision that they coordinate the effort with Commerce and MnGeo. Commerce has entered into an agreement with Connected Nation that will ensure that the resulting data is made available to the State through MnGeo.

Collaboration Briefing: Elevation and Imagery Data

Chris Cialek described two projects that MnGeo is working on. Slides are posted here:

http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/councils/statewide/project_updates_07Jan2010.pptx

Statewide LiDAR Collaborative

- Goal: statewide high-resolution elevation data
- Portions of the State have recent LiDAR including the Red River Basin and southeast Minnesota
- Last session, the Legislature allocated \$5.6 million from funds received as a result of the 2008 MN Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to DNR to continue data collection over 2010 - 2012
- A steering committee will oversee contracting: Tim Loesch, DNR; Pete Jenkins, MnDOT; Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Ron Wencl, USGS
- Data collection to begin Spring 2010 in the southwest portion of MN
- For more information, see MnGeo's first-stop page about elevation data: <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/chouse/elevation/index.html>

2010 Orthoimagery

- Goal: Provide new high resolution aerial photography for the Metro Region
- Project Area: 13-counties; 7,000 sq mi
- Partners: Metropolitan Council, DNR, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, USGS (NGA), MnGeo
- Specifications: 4-band color; leaf-off; 0.5 meter resolution; stereo imagery
- Option for 1-foot resolution in 7-county metro
- Status: RFP closes January 11; award expected by end of January
- Flights to take place spring 2010; data to be delivered late summer

Elections

The council needs to elect a chair, vice chair, and a liaison to the State Government Geospatial Advisory Council. Legislation specifies that the chair may not be from state government. The liaison is expected to attend the state government council meetings (or designate a proxy) and help maintain communication between the groups. Although not specified in legislation, it is likely better if the liaison is not a state government member.

Motion (Pistilli/Wakefield): The following members are nominated:

Chair: Victoria Reinhardt
Vice Chair: Robert Meeks
Liaison: Rebecca Foster

The motion passed unanimously.

2010 FGDC CAP Grant Proposals

MnGeo is aware of three proposals (see handout for more details):

- From DEED, CURA, and Houston Engineering, a project to coordinate with partners to build upon DEED's M3D project (<http://map.deed.state.mn.us/m3d>) increasing some data sets to statewide coverage and another to major cities.
- From MetroGIS, a project to determine the value of GIS data, in particular parcel data, to other entities, including taxpayers. The effort will investigate whether the benefits of making the data freely available outweigh the benefits of charging a fee for access. The case study would be Hennepin County. The results of this project may make acquiring data from local government easier and less costly.
- From MnGeo, a project to streamline and provide greater structure to the process of adjusting local government boundaries. The project would also reduce redundant efforts and data sets by creating an authoritative map for Minnesota local government boundaries.

Discussion: Should this council provide letters of support for these projects? Is it a problem that two of the applications are within the same category? The council agreed that letters of support would strengthen all of the proposals.

Motion (Reinhardt/Pistilli): The council authorizes Reinhardt to send a letter of support on its behalf for each of the three CAP grant proposals.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Action Item:** *Arbeit and Logman will draft the letters for Reinhardt's review; Rader will submit the final letters to FGDC.*

Discussion

- All members recognize that the group is a statewide council. Even though some members are designated as “metro” or as “non-metro”, that does not mean that they will focus exclusively on their sector’s issues.
- MnGeo was encouraged to provide more detail about what the council could do for the State, “What will success look like?”
- More information was requested on committees and workgroups. Although members are encouraged to serve on these groups as their interest and time permit, it is not required. They should, however, publicize the groups’ work to their communities and help identify others who would be appropriate members. See current committee page at: <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/index.html>
- Funding for geospatial efforts needs to be ongoing rather than project-by-project since this information is vital infrastructure.
- Agendas and meeting notes for this council’s meetings will be posted on MnGeo’s website.
- Ideas are welcome from the council at any point – members do not need to wait until the next meeting in order to make a suggestion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date was discussed but not finalized.

*[Update: The remaining 2010 meetings of the statewide council will be held in the Blazing Star Room, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, on the following Wednesdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm: **March 31; June 30; September 29; December 29**]*

The meeting was adjourned.

Summary of Action Items

- Arbeit and Logman will draft CAP Grant support letters for Reinhardt’s review; Rader will submit the final letters to FGDC.
- Arbeit will clarify wording on MnGeo’s consulting services and have the webpages updated.

Notes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.