



Minnesota Geospatial
Information Office

*Improving services statewide through
the coordinated, affordable, reliable
and effective use of GIS*



www.mngeo.state.mn.us
651-201-2499
mn.geo@state.mn.us

MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

An Annotated Briefing
for the Charter
Meeting

David Arbeit
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MnGeo Overview

Background

Culminating more than two years of public meetings, a Drive to Excellence initiative that included a comprehensive analysis of the State's use and potential use of GIS technology, and with broad-based support from the state's GIS community, Governor Pawlenty signed into law legislation that created the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office. The legislation, reflecting recommendations made by the Governor's Council on Geographic Information, provided for two advisory councils to advise the new office – a State Government Geospatial Advisory Council to reflect the interests of state government and a Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council to represent the interests of the broader Minnesota GIS community.

Applied Geographics Recommendations

Applied Geographics, based upon a comprehensive analysis of GIS within Minnesota that included significant stakeholder input and involvement, recommended the creation of the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office, headed by a Geospatial Information Officer. Applied Geographics recommended transforming and expanding on the foundation provided by the Land Management Information Center to coordinate and support GIS within the state and provide a broad range of services, clustered into eight distinct program areas.

Geospatial Coordination

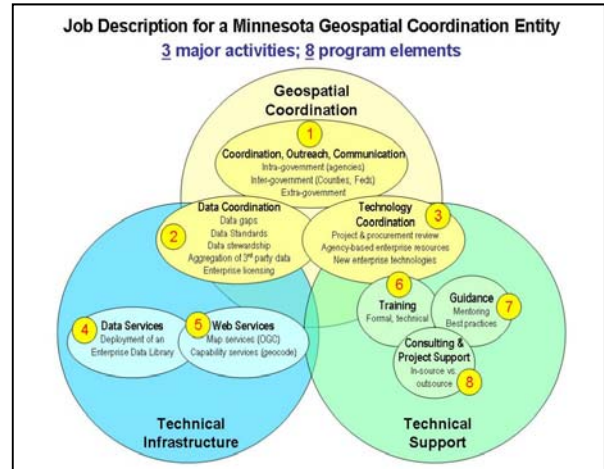
- (1) Leadership, Outreach & Communication
- (2) Data Coordination
- (3) Technology Coordination

Technical Services

- (4) Data Services
- (5) Shared Web Services

Support & Guidance

- (6) Training
- (7) Technical Guidance
- (8) Consulting & Project Support



To implement this comprehensive agenda, Applied Geographics recommended funding to staff an office with 16 full-time positions and an annual budget of a bit more than \$3M, including annual funding for \$1.25M to support data development. Applied Geographics also offered several partial funding scenarios, including one that corresponded with the 2009 budget for LMIC and which would support 6 full-time positions plus other operating expenses.

Applied Geographics also identified priorities, based upon stakeholder input, that corresponded to the "no new funding" budget. Those priorities emphasized activities 1 through 5.

Enabling Legislation

MnGeo was authorized by SF 2082, passed into law in May, 2009. The provisions of this legislation are codified in Minnesota Statutes 16B.99, which authorizes MnGeo “to provide coordination, guidance, and leadership, and to plan the implementation of Minnesota's geospatial information technology.”

The statute specifies that the office must:

- (1) coordinate and guide the efficient and effective use of available federal, state, local, and public-private resources to develop statewide geospatial information technology, data, and services;
- (2) provide leadership and outreach, and ensure cooperation and coordination for all Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) functions in state and local government, including coordination between state agencies, intergovernment coordination between state and local units of government, and extragovernment coordination, which includes coordination with academic and other private and nonprofit sector GIS stakeholders;
- (3) review state agency and intergovernment geospatial technology, data, and services development efforts involving state or intergovernment funding, including federal funding;
- (4) provide information to the legislature regarding projects reviewed, and recommend projects for inclusion in the governor's budget under section 16A.11;
- (5) coordinate management of geospatial technology, data, and services between state and local governments;
- (6) provide coordination, leadership, and consultation to integrate government technology services with GIS infrastructure and GIS programs;
- (7) work to avoid or eliminate unnecessary duplication of existing GIS technology services and systems, including services provided by other public and private organizations while building on existing governmental infrastructures;
- (8) promote and coordinate consolidated geospatial technology, data, and services and shared geospatial Web services for state and local governments; and
- (9) promote and coordinate geospatial technology training, technical guidance, and project support for state and local governments.

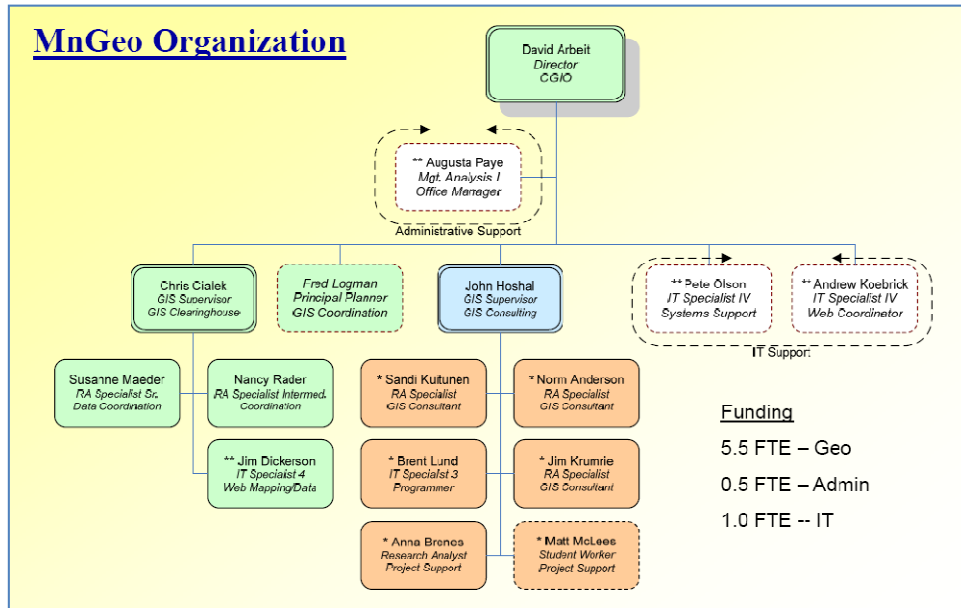
The legislation establishing MnGeo also included the following:

By January 15, 2010, the chief geospatial information officer must provide a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the policy and budget for the office. The report must address all statutes that refer to the

Minnesota Geospatial Information Office or land management information system and provide any necessary draft legislation to implement any recommendations.

Staffing and Resources

MnGeo is located within the Department of Administration and directed by David Arbeit, the State's Chief Geospatial Information Officer. Funding for core MnGeo functions – those related to coordination -- is provided through a legislative appropriation of \$792,000/year for the current biennium (7/1/2009 – 6/30/2011). This budget mostly supports staff shown in green. Funding for project consulting is provided on a cost-recovery basis through contracts with other agencies and supports staff shown in orange. Other staff are funded through a mix of funding. Staff providing administrative and IT support are shared with other programs within the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis.

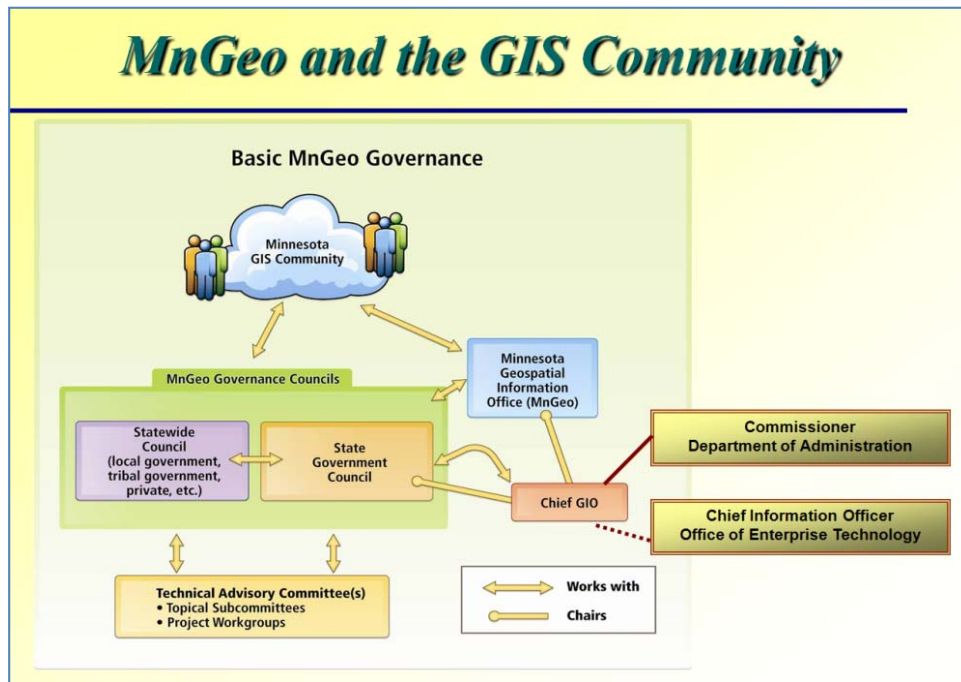


Governance, Organization, Relationships

MnGeo works closely with the State CIO and OET to coordinate the development and use of enterprise geospatial technology. Although the Chief GIO does not formally report to the State CIO, the CIO has appointed the CGIO to the State's Enterprise Architecture Council and has invited the CGIO to participate in OET Leadership Team meetings.

MnGeo has been provided scheduling access to the OET telecommunications conference rooms and, in early November, moved MnGeo servers to OET's managed data center, which provides 24x7 staffing and backup power for improved reliability.

MnGeo is advised by two Advisory Councils and a technical committees and work groups established to address specific issues.



Government Geospatial Advisory Council Overview

Mission

The *State Government Geospatial Advisory Body* advises the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MGIO) on improving state government services through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of GIS.

Purpose

Identify, review, and recommend geospatial coordination opportunities and efforts that directly involve interactions among state agencies and offices.

Members

15 State agencies, representing a cross section of agencies that are advanced users of GIS and those that are emerging users. Appointees are positioned within their agencies to represent their agency interests. The Council is chaired by the State Geospatial Information Officer.

David Arbeit	Administration (MnGeo)
Mary Arvesen	Human Services (DHS)
Mike Dolbow	Agriculture
Jessica Fendos	Employment & Economic Dev (DEED)
Greg Fetter	Commerce
Jennifer Johnson	Corrections
Tim Loesch	Natural Resources (DNR)
Sean Mangan	Public Safety
Wendy Nelson	Health
Craig Rhombs	Education
Dan Ross	MnDOT
Tad Schindler	MPCA
Ed Valencia	Office of Enterprise Technology
Cindy Valentine	Labor and Industry
Michelle Weber	Management & Budget (MMB)

Duties

The following duties were developed by the Strategic Planning Committee of the Governor's Council for Geographic Information and adopted as guidance to MnGeo.

- Identify emerging opportunities, desired outcomes, and guiding principles to cultivate a strategic plan for the MGIO
- Review and recommend statewide standards and best practices in close coordination with the MGIO
- Identify public expenditures in geospatial data and technology that reflect the priorities of the geospatial community
- Identify and secure agency-specific resources to implement coordination opportunities when necessary
- Represent the state agencies and offices they are appointed from and serve as a liaison with their respective agency and office leaders
- Support the decision-making process for the MGIO by involving the relevant and affected state agencies and offices
- Review state agency coordination efforts and priorities and communicate impacts of coordination opportunities
- Coordinate state government GIS implementation under the guidelines of the state's IT architecture framework.
- Maintain open communications between state agencies and the broader statewide community

Member Expectations

- Meet bi-monthly or as needed.
- Represent agency perspective by:
 - Coordinating among agency stakeholders
 - Keeping informed about agency needs and capabilities.
 - Communicating with senior management
- Help keep MnGeo informed about:
 - Agency legislative and budget initiatives
 - Agency concerns
 - How MnGeo can help
- Help support Advisory Council work groups by:
 - Participating
 - Recruiting participants

Project Updates

To keep members of the advisory council informed, every meeting will include a brief report about active projects and an opportunity to discuss projects being considered by state agencies.

Known Active Projects

- **ESRI Enterprise Software Licensing.** The State entered into an agreement with ESRI in May, 2009 that allows agencies to deploy ESRI software at significantly reduced costs while also promoting coordinated license management. To be eligible, agencies must enter into an agreement with MnGeo and OET. MnGeo is handling the administrative aspects of the license; OET is handling the funds. Thirteen agencies currently are participating in the ELA.
- **LiDAR Data Collaboration.** DNR was appropriated \$5.6M from the FY2010/2011 to acquire digital elevation data for about 40 percent of the state using LiDAR technology. A portion (2.5%) of the funds is set aside for MnGeo for data coordination and distribution. DNR, MnDOT and MnGeo staff have collaborated on the project planning and recently submitted a grant request to the USGS to fund 20% of the costs for the Arrowhead region.
- **Orthoimagery Data Collaboration.** MnGeo has worked with the DNR and the Metropolitan Council to prepare an RFP for digital orthoimagery for a 13-county region surrounding the Twin Cities. The resolution will be at ½ meter or better. The RFP will be publically released soon so that flights can be completed before spring.
- **Stimulus Investment Mapping.** Minnesota Management and Budget has responsibility for meeting federal reporting and transparency requirements for funding to the state from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). MnGeo has implemented an interactive web mapping application to help MMB meet this requirement. The project is guided by a steering committee that includes six legislative leaders and their staffs. See MMB's Recovery web site at <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/multisites/recovery/rec-map>.
- **Broadband Mapping.** Commerce contracted with Connected Nation in 2008 for a web mapping application that depicts broadband mapping service throughout the state. 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 CN coordinate the effort with the Department of Commerce and MnGeo. The award has not yet been made but is expected to be for between \$1.5 and \$1.8 million over a two year period. Commerce has entered into an agreement with CN that will ensure that the resulting data is made available to the State through MnGeo.

Other Projects

MnGeo encourages agencies to report about their project initiatives.

Legislative Session Updates

The State Government Geospatial Advisory Council will serve as a principal vehicle for coordinating legislative activities related to the current or future development and use of geospatial information and technology. Members are encouraged to identify any legislative initiatives or requests that involve their agency and any opportunities for improving the collective capacity of the state to improve services through GIS.

Legislative Initiatives

Known initiatives at this time include the following:

- **Investment Mapping**. Legislative leaders have expressed their intent to propose legislation requiring that all state investments would be mapped. The intent is to provide a capacity to map state investments as is currently being done to meet federal requirements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Agency Initiatives

MnGeo is tasked to report to the legislature about state proposals involving geospatial technology. Agencies are encouraged to report projects under consideration for the 2010 legislative session.

Other Initiatives

MnGeo, with advice from its advisory councils, will monitor activities during the legislative session to identify any initiatives, regardless of their origin, that have relevance to Minnesota's geospatial information and technology community.

Issues, Needs and Priorities

Legislative Reports

- MnGeo
- Groundwater Protection

Enterprise Resources

- Shared Services
- Training
- Data

Grants

- FGDC CAP Grant

MnGeo Committees and Work Groups

MnGeo will continue to sponsor the committees and work groups that were created by the MN Governor's Council on Geographic Information and seeks advice from other work groups about specific issues important to successfully serving the state's geospatial community.

Existing Committees

Standards Committee
Hydrographic Data Committee
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Digital Elevation Committee
Digital Cadastral Data Committee

Suggested Committees and Work Groups

ESRI Enterprise License Advisory Committee (For duration of ELA)
MnGeo Legislative Report Work Group (Through January 15, 2010)
Geocoding Shared Service Work Group
Shared Services Directory Work Group
State-Local Government Agreement Work Group