MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council
November 8, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Participating
Members: David Arbeit, MnGeo; Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Mary Emerson, Human Services; Greg Fetter, Commerce; Tim Loesch, Natural Resources; Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, Transportation; Tad Schindler, Pollution Control.

Non-members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Will Craig, University of Minnesota; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Mark Kotz, Met Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Carolyn Parnell, OET; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Diane Wells, Commerce

Arbeit called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves. Notes for the 5/31/11 and 9/19/11 council meetings were approved.

Google Data Publishing Agreement (Arbeit)
Arbeit noted two issues that relate to the State and Google:

1. The State may consider pursuing an enterprise contract for services from Google.
2. Both the State and Google have an interest in enabling Google to consume the State's data to increase the accuracy of Google's maps. The State generally makes its data available, but Google has asked at least one state agency (DNR) to sign an agreement that indemnifies Google from any problems arising from use of the data. The Attorney General's Office and the Information Policy Analysis Division reviewed the agreement; there did not appear to be any problem, so DNR signed it. It would be helpful, however, to develop a policy so that each agency does not have to deal with this issue independently.

Geospatial Commons Project (Arbeit, Kotz, Loesch) See slides.
The Geospatial Commons is envisioned to be a single place we all go to find and share geospatial resources for Minnesota. The pilot project has been completed, and work is in progress to reframe the effort as a more comprehensive project with a higher level of commitment to its success. The presentation was in three sections:

1. **Introduction: The Opportunity** (slides 1-19): Arbeit reviewed earlier efforts that have laid the groundwork for the Commons, emphasizing that Minnesota is rich in both data and portals that make the data available to the public. Minnesota organizations have demonstrated a strong commitment to collaborating to meet their data needs.
2. **What is the Commons?** (slides 20-27): Kotz provided an overview of the vision for the Commons project including its key functions: Find, Evaluate, Share, Administer.
3. **DNR GDRS Architecture** (slides 28-49): Loesch described DNR's development of their Geospatial Data Resource Sites (GDRS) and how this effort relates to the Commons; a GDRS is an organized collection of GIS data and applications that is self-documenting. It provides both a common publishing and data sharing architecture and a portal to publish, discover and access data. What's missing, however, is a broker function. The Commons could be based on what's already been developed for the GDRS plus a broker, and Minnesota's geospatial organizations could then transition to a federated system of data sharing.

Discussion:
- All the Commons work so far has been volunteered by agencies because they have business needs for better data sharing. It is time to make this a more formal, comprehensive project with sufficient resources and management commitment to make it happen.
- A draft project charter outlines 3 (potentially 4) phases of this project:
  Phase 1: Determine at a high level what the Commons, including the broker, would look like including modeling, database design, use cases, security, and data access. This phase may cost roughly $70,000-$100,000. Perhaps some of that could be contracted out (as was done in the Drive to Excellence project) to cover facilitated interviews with major agencies and members of the GIS community.
  Phase 2: Building the Commons. A rough cost estimate is $200,000-$250,000, plus approximately $50,000/year maintenance.
  Phase 3: Increasing the data that is shared.
  It would have to be determined whether the funding would come from existing money or new money; if it's an enterprise project, would there be charge-backs to agencies?
- Can this project be coordinated with the State's data center consolidation initiative, especially in the areas of security, service availability, and identity management?
- What is the process for bringing forward this type of initiative to OET?

Mobile Solutions (Ross) See slides.
Ross updated council members on Mn/DOT's on-going efforts to expand their use of mobile GIS technology. Many of their users are asking for access to information anytime anywhere. Mobile is developing so rapidly that it's a challenge to determine what devices to support, what applications to develop and maintain, and how to integrate mobile efforts with existing technology infrastructure. What areas should be standardized? What are the pros and cons of developing applications that reside on the phone versus developing applications on the web that are accessed using a phone?

The Mn/DOT Mobile project has five deliverables:
1. Business requirements document: This includes, but is not limited to, GIS and mapping requirements.
2. Mobile data framework: Mn/DOT's approach has been to build one application framework and data schema to cover many applications. They've created an app that their staff can use to build specific apps for specific purposes.
3. ArcGIS v.10 Mobile Framework-based application: This prototype is for inventorying sidewalks for ADA compliance and can run on multiple platforms
4. Proof-of-concept phone-based web application
5. Device matrix: summarizes the capabilities and functions of various mobile devices.

Discussion:
- Mn/DOT is very open to sharing what they're learning and developing with other agencies. Some suggested options were to share software or hardware, to provide expertise through a "center of excellence", or to deploy in an OET environment.
- DNR's GDRS also handles applications; maybe the GDRS could be used to distribute mobile apps, perhaps through a check-in/check-out procedure.
- An OpenGIS map control can be embedded.

- It's very important to define a workable boundary between the enterprise environment and the user environment. Any crowdsourced information needs to be mediated before it is integrated into an enterprise database.

November Broadband Conference (Wells)
Wells is a special assistant for broadband development in the MN Department of Commerce's new Minnesota Broadband Development Office. The broadband initiative aims to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption, and use to diversify the economy and ensure Minnesota's competitiveness in the global economy. She noted that there are both "technology gaps" and "adoption gaps" between different areas of the state; recent findings are that 28% of Minnesota's population has not yet adopted broadband for a number of reasons. She then noted several recent developments:

- **Governor's Task Force on Broadband**: On Nov. 7, Governor Dayton named a 15-member task force to develop policies to promote the expansion of broadband access in Minnesota. See the press release.
- **Subcabinet**: The Governor has also directed the MN Department of Commerce to convene a subcabinet of agencies to work on statewide broadband policies.
- **Conference**: The Blandin Foundation and Connect Minnesota are co-hosting the 2011 Broadband Conference, Nov. 16-17, in Duluth. Policymakers from the private, government, and nonprofit sectors will discuss ideas on how to bring broadband to more rural and low-income homes. Wells distributed a preliminary agenda.

For more about Minnesota's broadband initiatives, maps, and reports, see Connect Minnesota's website. Arbeit also noted that MnGeo is trying to ensure that GIS data collected by Connect Minnesota is as completely accurate and reusable as possible.

Updates
a) **Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) Event** (Arbeit): This workshop's purpose was to provide infrastructure and emergency response related geospatial training. It was held October 27-28 and was jointly sponsored by the Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Hoshal and Dolbow were on the planning committee. See the Twin Cities GECCo website for workshop materials.
b) **GLO Field Notes Scanning** (Hoshal): The field notes are currently estimated to be available from BLM's website by the end of 2011. Georeferenced versions of the GLO plat (JPG format) are now available from MnGeo's GLO website, along with bulk download of files from MnGeo's FTP site.
c) **Orthophotos** (Cialek): QA/QC for the imagery for 35 counties collected in 2011 is nearly complete; Mn/DOT is conducting a horizontal positional accuracy assessment.
d) **LiDAR data** (Loesch): All of the Minnesota River Basin data collected in 2010 is available on DNR's FTP site. The Arrowhead and the north metro areas flown in 2011 will be delivered to DNR in blocks between now and January 2012. The south metro area is being flown now, and collection is scheduled to be complete within 2 weeks. The work order for the Central Lakes region 2012 collect is scheduled to be released within the week. MnGeo will be taking over LiDAR distribution responsibilities from DNR; planning for that is underway. For updates, see the Minnesota Elevation Mapping Project webpage.
e) **MnGeo priorities** (Arbeit): MnGeo's high priority projects (not necessarily in order):
   - **Enterprise License Agreement**: Negotiate a new ELA with Esri, to be effective July 2012.
   - **Data Practices Act**: Revise the act to address data producers' liability concerns and to promote

government-to-government data access.
- **Geospatial Commons** (covered above)
- **Parcel Data Business Plan**: The work order for the next project phase will be released soon.
- **MnGeo transition to the Office of Enterprise Technology**: The position announcement for Chief Geospatial Information Officer to replace Arbeit when he retires will be released soon.

Meeting adjourned. Meeting notes by Nancy Rader and Fred Logman.