

# MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

## September 21, 2010 Meeting Notes

### Participating

Members: David Arbeit, MnGeo (Chair); Mary Arvesen, Human Services; Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Greg Fetter, Commerce; Scott Freburg, Education (for Craig Rhombs); Jennifer Johnson, Corrections; Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Mark Olsen, Pollution Control (for Tad Schindler); Denton Peterson, Health; Ed Valencia, OET; Hal Watson, Natural Resources (for Tim Loesch); Michelle Weber, Management and Budget; and Paul Weinberger, Transportation (for Dan Ross). Rebecca Foster, City of Edina, represented the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.

Non-members: Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Administration - Data Practices Unit; Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Dan Falbo, ESRI; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Ron Wencil, USGS.

David Arbeit called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.

### Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the [July 13, Meeting Notes](#)

### Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing: Technology Governance

Ed Valencia highlighted three OET Items:

1. State CIO and Commissioner of the Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) Gopal Khanna has announced that his last day with the State will be December 15, 2010. The OET deputy commissioner is also appointed by the Governor and is also expected to resign at the end of Governor Pawlenty's term. The State Chief Security and Chief Technology Officers are not appointed positions and will remain after the change of governor.
2. In the next several weeks OET will be attempting to wrap up four of CIO Khanna's seven key Information Technology (IT) initiatives including: Architecture, Portfolio Management, Procurement and Security.
3. OET is continuing to work on its Data Center co-location (centralization) initiative. Currently there are between 35 and 40 state agency data centers. The plan is to have 4 shared data centers. One of the data centers would be for critical systems and would be a level 3 center. The level 3 center is going to be outsourced and the RFP for that service is expected to be released in October. Cost of using the level 3 center for the 35 to 40% of State systems that are expected to use that facility are anticipated to be 30+% higher than current OET costs. The current OET center is going to be upgraded to a level 2 center with costs estimated to remain close to current OET data center charges.

### Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council Report

Rebecca Foster, the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council liaison, provided a short report:

1. There has been no meeting of the Statewide Council since the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Government Council.
2. **Governor's Commendation Awards** – A sub-committee of the Statewide Council was formed to review nominations. The Committee recommended one of the two nominated efforts for commendation. David Arbeit has approved the Committee's recommendation, forwarded it to Shelia Reger, Department of Administration Commissioner, who approved it and sent it to the Governor's Office. If approved, announcement and presentation will be at the October GIS/LIS Consortium Conference.

## MnGeo Briefing

Arbeit covered the following items:

1. **Projects** – Arbeit indicated that [project updates](#) were provided with the meeting materials. He highlighted several activities:
  - a. **2010 Orthoimagery** – Work continues on the 13 metro county high resolution leaf-off project, part of a multi-year effort led by DNR which has a business need for leaf-off imagery to support their wetland update efforts. Quality assurance work is underway on the 2010 data. The images are anticipated to be available in November. Two areas were not completed this year because of rapid leaf growth and will be flown in Spring 2011.
  - b. **2011 Orthoimagery** – MnGeo recently held three meetings in southern Minnesota to inform 36 counties of the Spring 2011 flights and the option for local governments to “buy up” to acquire higher resolution imagery. To date, two counties have committed to buy-up options. Additional information is in the [flyer](#) for this project.
  - c. **LiDAR** – This DNR-led project is a multi-year effort that is funded for FY2010-11; additional funding will be requested for the next biennium. The 2010 data collection is in process and the 2011 collection is being planned. In 2011, the northeast MN – Arrowhead Region will be flown. The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Parks Service have committed some money to partner with the State to fund the 2011 Arrowhead collection. Eight counties have recently acquired their own LiDAR. Although this county data would help complete State coverage and avoid the need to re-fly these areas, the State is not in a position to buy it.
  - d. **GLO Field Notes** – This project is beginning to pick up speed. The RFP for scanning has been issued and is due back September 30<sup>th</sup>. MnGeo hired David Claypool, retired Ramsey County Surveyor, to provide the lead surveying expertise. Two graduate surveyors from Mn/DOT will be available to MnGeo through mobility assignments; this will provide MnGeo with quality indexing staff and help Mn/DOT retain these staff through FY11 budget shortfalls. An agreement is being worked on with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to provide a MN version of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cadastral Survey System (CSS) that will be used for indexing the Field Notes and relating them to the GLO maps.
2. **ESRI ELA** – Ed Valencia asked, “How is the ELA working?” Arbeit indicated that:
  - State has received close to \$500,000 benefit from the ELA so far.
  - There were initially 8 agencies participating and now there are 14. Human Services is beginning to look at an agency approach to GIS and may acquire software.
  - Bills have been paid and annual usage report sent to ESRI.
  - Agency participation and payments have been adequate such that the MnGeo costs of administering the agreement can be paid and the group is researching the possibility of an enterprise license manager.
  - The ESRI ELA appears to be working for participating agencies; Council members agreed.
  - A basic inventory process has been developed which will need to be refined next year as we begin to negotiate with ESRI for a new ELA.

## **Data Practices Presentation and Discussion**

Arbeit introduced Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, director of Administration's Information Policy Analysis Division, the State's data practices and open meeting unit. Beyer-Kropuenske indicated that her office was small and provided information to the public as well as advised the Commissioner. She is considering introducing some legislative changes to the Data Practices Act – Chapter 13 and would like to hear suggestions from the Council. There was considerable discussion and some of the key points included:

- The State needs data from its local government partners.
- The State makes a lot of its geospatial data available without charging for it. None of the participants could identify any geospatial data for which the State charges.
- Multiple State agencies request the same or similar data from other governmental entities.
- Parcel data and maps are needed by many state agencies to meet business needs.
- Some counties charge for their data while others do not. Charges are to both governmental and non-governmental entities.
- MN governmental entities can charge for their data for a limited number of reasons:
  - Actual costs to copy the data
  - If the data has commercial value
  - Data that is enhanced
- Governmental entities cannot charge for separating public from non-public data.
- Some organizations look at data distribution as a revenue stream to support data acquisition efforts.
- Members questioned if charging for data was cost effective or not. Most members felt it was not cost effective.
- Local governments and State agencies are concerned about unfunded mandates and other demands on their resources.
- It would be desirable for governmental entities not to charge other governmental entities for their data – after all, taxpayers paid for it already. This would apply to federal, tribal, state, regional and local governments.
- In addition, there are many benefits to easier access to data by entities outside government, including the general public.
- Redistribution and publishing of data by entities that receive it are concerns for some entities.
- Potential liability for errors and use of data is an issue for some organizations.
- Data conversion and reformatting of data can be problematic and adds to the effort and cost of distributing data. A good practice may be for the entity receiving the data to take it in whatever format it is provided so as not to burden the data provider and perform reformatting at the recipient's end.

Beyer-Kropuenske stated she might develop a legislative proposal to make government data more freely available to other governmental entities and address the liability concern. If she does, she would want a group to work with. Volunteers to work on any proposed geospatial data distribution legislative initiatives were: David Arbeit, Mike Dolbow, Tim Loesch (volunteered in absentia with his permission), Dan Ross and possibly Mark Kotz.

## **2011 Legislative Session – Geospatial Initiatives**

Arbeit stated that he was planning to request legislative changes to the MnGeo enabling language. The Council suggested changes to:

- Extend the expiration date for the advisory councils from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2015.
- Add Tribal governments to the Statewide Council's list of included entities to correct an oversight when the statute was implemented.

- Appoint the members of the State Government Council by the head of their respective agency instead of through the open appointments process since membership is not open to the general public.

### **Committees and Workgroups**

Arbeit indicated that [updates](#) for the committees and workgroups were included in the meeting material. There were no questions or additions.

### **Agency Issues and Needs**

There were no agency issues identified. There was discussion about the upcoming budget process and possible reductions to geospatial funding in many agencies.

### **Informational Items and Announcements**

- **NSGIC's 2010 Annual Meeting** was held in Minneapolis on September 12-16. There was a good Minnesota presence both in attendees and in presenters. Comments from other attendees about having the conference in MN were favorable.
- **USGS's budget** still has not been finalized but is expected to be lower than current levels. The MN liaison, Ron Wencl, will shortly also be responsible for Wisconsin, which will reduce the time he has to focus on and assist Minnesota.
- **Stormwater System Data Standard** being proposed is for the **exchange** of data. If approved, it would be a "provisional" standard. Data exchanges between the Pollution Control Agency and the Washington/Ramsey County Watershed District will test the data exchange standard.
- Arbeit announced that the **2011 CAP Grant** categories and applications have been posted and suggested folks look at them and see if there are opportunities for their agencies.
- **2011 NAIP Imagery** is being planned. At this time MN is not scheduled to be flown but could be if there were funds added as was done to stimulate the economy for 2010. General discussion was that MN was not interested in a "buy-up" in 2011 as we had 2008, 2009 and 2010 imagery already and an effort was underway to acquire leaf-off imagery in southern MN in 2011.
- **GIS/LIS Consortium Annual Conference** will be October 13-15 in Duluth.

### **Future Meetings**

Mike Dolbow requested that at a subsequent meeting we have an agenda item to discuss geospatial standards and what to do if an entity is not in compliance. Dolbow offered to provide a 10 minute presentation on the issue. If this is scheduled, the OET staff responsible for the Data Architecture and Standards should be invited.

**Action Item:** Add "Standards and compliance to standards" to a subsequent Council meeting as an agenda item.

The next State Government Advisory Council meeting will be **November 9, 2010**. The 2011 meetings will be Tuesdays: January 11, March 15, May 10, July 12, September 13, and November 8.

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