

MnGeo State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

May 31, 2011

Meeting Notes

Participating

Members: Mary Arvesen, Human Services; Kim Babine and Ellena Schoop, OET (for Ed Valencia); Chris Cialek, MnGeo (for David Arbeit); Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Greg Fetter, Commerce; Rebecca Foster, City of Edina (liaison from Statewide Council); Kent Hranicka, MMB (for Michelle Weber); Tim Loesch, Natural Resources; Sean Mangan, Public Safety; Denton Peterson, Health; Craig Rhombs, Education; Dan Ross, Transportation; Tim Leach, Pollution Control (for Tad Schindler); Cindy Valentine, Labor and Industry.

Non-members: Dan Falbo, Esri; Mark Kotz, Met Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo.

Cialek called the meeting to order and served as chair since Arbeit was not able to attend. Participants introduced themselves.

March 15, 2011 Meeting Notes

The notes for the [March 15, 2011](#) meeting were accepted.

Office of Enterprise Technology Briefing (Babine)

1. **Personnel:** Carolyn Parnell is the new State CIO and OET Commissioner. Ed Valencia is interim deputy commissioner.
2. **Legislation:** An IT consolidation bill included moving MnGeo to OET; this was part of the State Government Omnibus bill that Governor Dayton vetoed. The Executive Branch's current position remains neutral on the outcome of the IT consolidation proposal. The CIO and the Commissioner of Administration are discussing the timing of a transfer of MnGeo if the legislation ends up passing during a special session. They have also met twice with Valencia, Arbeit, and Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske.
3. **Budget:** Any General Fund budget reductions will primarily impact OET's security services since most other areas of OET are funded in other ways. The current proposals from the Governor's Office would cut OET 5%; proposals from the legislature are for 15% plus a proposed 15% across-the-board cut in state staff by 2015. The revised OET rate package has been delivered to MMB; most rates decrease, some significantly, and a few increase.

MnGeo Update (Logman)

- **Legislative update:** See summary [handout](#). SF1270 extends both the Statewide and the State Government Geospatial Advisory Councils until June 2015. The State Government Council will no longer use the Open Appointments process since membership is only open to state agencies. Instead, members will be nominated by their agency head and will be approved by the State CIO; one member must be from the Legislative Coordinating Commission. For the Statewide Council, "tribal" was added as a membership category in the statute since it had inadvertently been left out in earlier legislation.
- **Parcel Business Plan CAP grant:** To prepare for this project's start in July 2011, MnGeo has contracted with Pro-West and Associates to conduct an inventory of the current status of parcel data in each Minnesota county.
- **Geocoding RFI:** Logman will follow-up with the workgroup co-chairs about the status of the RFI that the workgroup submitted for feedback and approval.

- **Field Notes Scanning:** The scanning phase of the project is complete. The resulting 3,019,000 images of 1447 volumes are now being indexed to meet the June 30 delivery deadline. All data will be available from the Bureau of Land Management website. MnGeo is developing a map interface that will allow the public to navigate quickly to the appropriate viewing and download location on the BLM site.

Outreach Committee (Rader)

A new Outreach Committee, chaired by Will Craig, is forming. Its mission will be more targeted than the Outreach Committee that previously existed under the sunsetted Governor’s Council on Geographic Information. It will focus on compiling stories that show “what GIS does for the state’s citizens.” The stories, which can be written or presented, will be directed primarily at policymakers. See the [committee charter](#). Anyone interested in either joining the committee or contributing stories or story ideas should contact Craig.

Committee/Workgroup and Projects Reporting & Communications (Logman)

A handout to guide discussion, “Questions and Ideas for MnGeo Advisory System” had been distributed before the meeting. Two main points were discussed:

1. Define some clear ways that the councils and MnGeo can guide, support and encourage committees/workgroups and their members.
2. Create a clearer path for committees/workgroups to give and receive feedback to/from MnGeo and the councils

Discussion:

- Template(s) are needed for reports from committees, workgroups, and projects and for charters, workplans, and annual reports. It should be easy for a reader to find the information that is new. Templates and requirements may need to be adjusted according to the size and type of group.
- Annual reports should make the connection between accomplishments and a mission plan. Plans for the next year and committee/workgroup needs are particularly important.
- Suggested topics for this council to work on: 1. coordinated data services (including taking the [Geospatial Commons](#) idea further); 2. mobile apps; 3. collaboration with partners on topics such as county parcels, trails, and roads. Notes from earlier meetings should be reviewed to find suggestions that members have already made for possible workgroups, committees, and presentation topics.

Minnesota Open Data.gov (Schoop)

The [Minnesota OpenData](#) website was recently released. Its purpose is to increase the ability of the public to easily find, download, and use datasets generated by the Executive Branch of State Government. It complements the Federal Government’s Open Government Initiative, [Data.gov](#). The website is intended to evolve over time with participation and feedback from state agencies and the public. The project is drawing upon NASCIO standards for metadata and categories and taxonomies for the site.

The project has three main phases:

- **Transparency:** Focus on making data and sites that are already publicly available easier to find and search.
- **Agency participation and public feedback:** Find out what additional information agencies and the public need to see and know.
- **Collaboration:** Continue to make data more accessible.

Discussion raised the following questions and main points:

- Is the vision to have all state data be available from this site? Currently, there are varying degrees of maturity of data availability across agencies. The OpenData project is looking for ways to collaborate with efforts like the [Geospatial Commons](#).
- What is the level of commitment to ongoing maintenance and development of this project? It is part of the state's Reform Government initiative, and will continue regardless of the level of commitment to the federal Data.gov effort.
- How are agencies involved? Initially, communication has focused on the strategic level: CIOs, data domain groups, and communications directors. Emails submitted to the feedback mailbox are re-directed to the appropriate agency. Council members urged that the communications be broadened to a wider group of contacts.
- Suggestion: Consider including the ability for the public to rank and rate existing resources and to nominate resources for inclusion.
- Members are invited to look at the site and to send further comments to Schoop.

Updates

- Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council** (Foster): The council's next meeting is June 30. Nominations are being accepted for [Geospatial Commendation Awards](#) which focus on projects and organizations. Foster is chairing the awards committee, assisted by Will Craig and Robert Meeks.
- Metadata Workgroup** (Rader): The Standards Committee has formed a Metadata Workgroup whose purposes are to:
 1. Recommend methods for creating and editing metadata that are compatible with ArcGIS 10, since the MGMG Editor add-in that worked in ArcGIS v.8 and v.9 no longer works in v.10.
 2. Recommend a metadata format for web services.
 3. Recommend changes to the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines (MGMG) by evaluating new international standards.

The group is researching the EPA's Metadata Editor ([EME](#)) software to see whether it can be adapted for the MGMG, both within ArcGIS10 and as standalone software for users who do not use ArcGIS. Falbo added that Esri is working on a "hotfix" that will fix several problems with metadata functionality in the initial release of ArcGIS10. For more information, see the workgroup's [webpage](#) and [charter](#).
- LiDAR data** (Loesch): See [May 2011 status map](#). The Arrowhead and the north metro areas have been flown; the remaining areas for 2011 will be collected this fall due to spring flooding. The Minnesota River Basin data collected in 2010 is becoming available on DNR's FTP site.
- Polaris and Lifetime Awards** (Foster): The deadline for nominations for the [Polaris](#) and [Lifetime Achievement](#) awards from the Mn GIS/LIS Consortium is June 30.
- Orthophotos** (Cialek): See [orthoimagery update](#). The remaining areas originally scheduled to be collected in 2010 are now complete; all the areas scheduled for 2011 have been collected except for Meeker County. Six-inch resolution photos from Dakota County have been added to MnGeo's Image Server WMS.
Loesch reminded members that an Imagery Committee is needed to provide oversight of the state's orthophoto activities; will MnGeo's WMS have sufficient funding and staff so that others can rely upon it? It is very useful for many applications but is not responsive enough for some of them. Cialek reported that there will be an imagery panel at the Mn GIS/LIS Conference this October.
- Enterprise License Agreement (ELA)** (Cialek): The ELA Steering Committee met in early April; invoices for 2012 are being prepared.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes by Nancy Rader.