

MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council

March 31, 2010 Meeting Notes

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

Attendees

Members: Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead; David Arbeit, MnGeo; Rebecca Blue, SEH; 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; Robert McMaster, University of Minnesota; Robert Meeks, Minnesota School Board Association; Tim Ogg, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Mark Olsen, Pollution Control Agency; Tony Pistilli, Metropolitan Council; Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County; Rick Schute, Minnesota National Guard; Dawn Sherk, White Earth Nation (via video); Stephen Swazee, SharedGeo; Gary Swenson, Hennepin County; Mark Thomas, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and Sally Wakefield, 1,000 Friends of Minnesota.

Non-Members: John Blood, Department of Public Safety; Mike Dolbow; Department of Agriculture; John Hoshal, MnGeo; Randy Johnson, MetroGIS; Fred Logman, MnGeo; and Nancy Rader, MnGeo.

Welcome

Chair Victoria Reinhardt called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.

Notes of January 7, 2010 Meeting

Motion by Sally Wakefield with second by Rebecca Foster to approve the [notes](#) for the January 7, 2010, Council meeting. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

State Government Geospatial Advisory Council

Rebecca Foster, the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council's representative to the State Government Geospatial Advisory Council, indicated that the State Government council has been meeting every other month, that many of the agenda items are similar to the Statewide Council's and that currently there were no issues to be brought forward to this Council. Foster stated she felt there is a lot of talent on the other Council. She also said she was impressed by the State's movement from a ranking of tied for 34th to 4th in meeting transparency requirements for funding to the state from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and thought many other government entities may someday do similar reporting.

MnGeo Update (see Arbeit's slides [here](#))

David Arbeit, State Chief Geospatial Information Officer, stated that the ARRA mapping and the MIPER application being used at the State Emergency Operations Center both were built on ESRI products and interactively consumed services from other entities. Arbeit further stated that use of services is a direction we are moving in. Arbeit indicated that since the creation of MnGeo during the 2009 legislative session, MnGeo has been included in a number of discussions of issues including broadband mapping, mapping of the capital budget, and LCCMR projects and that there is growing awareness of geospatial opportunities and issues by policy makers.

Diagram Representing MnGeo Relationships. Arbeit presented an [updated diagram](#) showing MnGeo in relationship to the advisory councils; committees, workgroups and communities; the Department of Administration Commissioner, State CIO, and Minnesota geospatial community. Arbeit indicated that the Advisory Councils were policy level entities and that the committees, workgroups and communities were strategic and operational in nature. The Council wanted to see more direct interconnection of the advisory

councils to the committees, workgroups and communities. Arbeit indicated that this was a work in progress and that MnGeo was working on the diagram with a graphic artist and would send an update to the Council for review and comment. Mike Dolbow stated that he thought the diagram represented the organizational relationships and there were many strategic and operational relationships that will exist.

There are five committees, and several workgroups and communities that have been either carried over from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information or newly created. See a list of these groups [here](#), and more information about committees [here](#). Arbeit then presented the [Charter for the Geospatial Commons Workgroup](#) indicating that similar charters would be requested of the other committees, workgroups and communities would include sponsors, participants, work plan and deliverables.

Will Craig asked about reports from the committees and noted that they had not been on the Council's agenda the past two meetings. Several other Council members also expressed interest in the activities of the committees, workgroups and communities. Arbeit responded that MnGeo will work on getting reports for the next council meeting and "charters" for all of the committees, workgroups and communities.

Update on Projects

Arbeit presented descriptions and status of the 2010 Metro Area Imagery, 2010 LiDAR, 2010 NAIP, Broadband Mapping and Critical Infrastructure Data: Structures projects. See [handout](#).

Update on Grants

Of the three FGDC Cooperative Agreements Program grants submitted from Minnesota that the Council endorsed at its last meeting, two were funded: 1. A MetroGIS project to measure public value of geospatial data with a case study focusing on Hennepin County and 2. a MnGeo project to establish sustainable processes for maintaining municipal boundaries. In addition, Arbeit let the Council know that MnGeo received a Legacy Fund grant through the Minnesota Historical Society to digitize and put on-line the Minnesota General Land Office field notes. Arbeit also indicated there is the possibility of additional funding from the USGS to extend the Structures project. For details of these grant projects, see [handout](#).

2010 Legislative Session – LCCMR Proposals

Arbeit reported that he had not seen any legislative reductions for geospatial functions at this point in the 2010 Legislative Session. He further reported the possibility of DNR Wetlands Legacy funding for additional LiDAR in 2011 and 2012.

House File 2557, that would create a State Webmaster position, also has language requiring conformance to geocoding standards. Arbeit noted that we do not have State geocoding standards at this time and a workgroup is needed to look at Geocoding including any needed standards.

House File 2624, could require state agencies to maintain address information in accordance with MnGeo geocoding standards and guidelines. No standards or guidelines currently exist and would have to be developed.

Shortly the LCCMR will be announcing FY2010 projects that it will be funding. The Council was reminded that 2011 LCCMR proposals are due April 9, 2010.

Proposed USGS Budget Situation

Will Craig reported that the proposed Federal Executive budget contains significant cuts to the USGS partnerships program. This program funds USGS coordinators within the states like Ron Wencil as well as funds a number of projects in partnerships with state and local government such as aerial imagery. In response to the proposed cuts, Council Chair generated a [letter](#) in February, on Ramsey County letterhead, to Representative Betty McCollum on behalf of the Council requesting reinstatement of the \$3.5 million.

Motion by Robert Meeks and second by Will Craig to ratify Victoria's letter on behalf of the Council. Motion carried.

There was discussion about what else could be done to help preserve the funding.

Motion by Mark Olson and second by Tim Ogg, to direct David Arbeit to work through the State's Executive Branch to have a letter generated on behalf of the State of Minnesota to be sent to the Minnesota congressional delegation requesting funding restoration. Motion carried.

MetroGIS Letter

MetroGIS Chair Terry Schneider wrote to Council Chair Reinhardt on behalf of their Policy Board to direct several issues to MnGeo. See [letter](#). Arbeit reported the following activities on the letter's points:

1. The Geospatial Commons Workgroup has begun work on a geospatial portal.
2. MnGeo will take an active role in support of the GeoApps contest.
3. Arbeit has talked with the E911 Board about the issues of some local governments licensing their data while others freely provide it.
4. MnGeo is committed to work on a geocoding solution and will be forming a workgroup.
5. The issue of storm and surface water tracing tools has been referred to the Hydrography Committee.

2010 Flooding and GIS

John Blood, Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management, provided a description of MIPER, a GIS tool, that was used in the State's Emergency Operations Center during this spring's flooding activation. Blood's presentation slides (PPT) can be seen [here](#). He then demonstrated their MIPER system. MIPER, developed by ESRI and donated to HSEM, uses ArcGIS Server, is written in FLEX and consumes services from a multitude of entities including the National Weather Service, MnDOT, DNR, and MnGeo. HSEM implemented MIPER as the SEOC was being activated so there is much more work to be done with it. There is the possibility that it will be made available to local emergency responders in the future. Blood also stated that DisasterLAN software was and will be used for managing the State's response to emergencies and will be enhanced to add more geospatial functionality. Blood indicated that many agencies and individuals provided needed geospatial help to HSEM, including Mike Dolbow who loaded and configured the ESRI software on HSEM servers.

Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead GIS, then provided a presentation on how GIS was used by the City of Moorhead in its flood fighting activities. Anderson's presentation slides (PPT) can be seen [here](#). Anderson noted the close working relationship and sharing of data and services between Moorhead, Fargo, Clay County and Cass County, ND. The application that Moorhead used is similar to MIPER, was developed by Pro-West and Associates and also consumes a number of publicly available services. Anderson emphasized that by using services they did not need to acquire and manipulate large volumes of data. One of the popular services, developed by Houston Engineering, provided anticipated flood extents based on elevations derived from 2009 LiDAR. Moorhead also had services that assisted with identifying

where and to what extent to build clay levees and the number of sand bags that would be needed and where to deploy them.

John Hoshal then described MnGeo's role, which included staffing the GIS desk in the SEOC, acting as the State's liaison to federal agencies that coordinated imagery, as well as establishing a GIS Operations Center to coordinate GIS activities outside of the SEOC. MnGeo was aided by the members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and guided by work the EPC did last year. There were numerous parties that contributed and helped by providing assistance, services and data. Hoshal described a service developed by MnDOT that allowed local engineers to go on-line to note road closings which then made the information instantly available to interested parties like the SEOC. MnDOT also provided a significant service by taking the raw data collected by Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Archer imagery, processing it and making it available through a service the next day.

Council members commented on the quality of the GIS tools employed, the amount of cooperation and assistance provided, as well as how impressed they were by the progress that had been made in the use of GIS to support emergency management. Brian Huberty suggested that HSEM may need to use more detailed forest data to respond to wildfire emergencies. John Mackiewicz commented that having metadata for services was very important so that users could understand what the service did and what data was being used.

Future Meetings

Meetings will be held in the Blazing Star Room, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, on the following Wednesdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm on June 30; September 29; December 29, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.

Summary of Action Items

- Arbeit and Logman will update MnGeo diagram and circulate to Council for comments.
- Arbeit will work through the State Executive Branch to generate a letter from the State regarding the USGS budget cuts.
- MnGeo will implement a Geocoding Workgroup.
- MnGeo will acquire and provide Committee reports at the next Council meeting.

Notes by Fred Logman and Nancy Rader.