Text to Accompany Slides 33-48 on Members' Sector Activities
MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council meeting, May 29, 2013

Brad Anderson: City, Non-metro (Moorhead)
In the State of Minnesota, Cities and Counties collaborate differently with the exchange of tax and property appraisal information. A common scenario is for the County to be responsible for sending out the tax statements, but the City appraises and valuates its own properties. This data and information has to be transferred to the County in an accurate and timely manner. Cities and Counties also maintain their own unique information (special assessments, engineering and building codes permits, addresses, utilities, planning and zoning, floodplain, etc.) In order to provide accurate information for staff and citizens, data exchange processes of varying complexity are necessary to overcome differences in database formats.

David Brandt: Regional, Metro (MetroGIS)

Centerline Project
MetroGIS continues to work with MNDOT, MNGEO and Esri to develop a statewide centerline dataset solution. Since February, project managers from MnDOT, MnGeo and MetroGIS have been meeting regularly.

Address Points Editor and Address Point Dataset
MetroGIS has developed a web editing tool for address point data. The tool is intended to be hosted by counties and other organizations that want to facilitate the creation and maintenance of authoritative data for addresses.
Version 1 is complete and available to any/all government entities in the state from the MetroGIS website. Tool has been acquired by Anoka, Carver, Ramsey, Scott and is in deployment by Dakota County, including the cities of Burnsville, Eagan and Farmington. Version 2 enhancements are under way. http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/street_addresses/web_editor.html

Re-Launching metrogis.org website
The existing website will be re-branded and re-launched to better serve the MetroGIS community.
Current work includes:
- Distilling existing content, some for use, some for archiving
- Archiving the existing site so it remains a viable research resource for those who need it
- Goal of having an RFP to web development firms by June 15, 2013
- Desire for a 'sprint team' review of the user interface experience through Summer 2013
- Goal of having the new site up on October 1 with 75% of the content in place

Data Producer Workgroup
The MetroGIS Data Producer Workgroup and 8 County Collaborative (which includes Olmstead County) have been working on documenting advantages and challenges surrounding the policy of providing free and open non-private geospatial data. A white paper was developed and presented to the MetroGIS Policy Board on April 24, 2013. The same white paper was sent to the 8-County Collaborative. Current emphasis is on fiscal and legal aspects.

James Bunning: At-Large (Scott County)

1. **8 Metro County IT Collaboration**
    - 7 Metro Counties plus Olmsted County
    - The 8 Metro County Administrators directed IT Directors to determine if there were collaboration opportunities
    - IT Directors determined: Fiber Interconnect, GIS, Public Health Systems, and Disaster Recovery
    - GIS Steps:
        - Establish regular cross county meetings to discuss governance models, data management, and application development
        - Identify priority needs for sharing opportunities of existing data sets, data acquisition, standards and data management
        - Identify priority needs for sharing opportunities of existing software/applications, and application development/acquisition and standards
2. **MetroGIS Policy Board**
    - Discussion: Making GIS Data Free and Open
    - Directed County IT Managers to draft a white paper
        - Benefits and challenges
3. **SF 1298**
    - Liability language has been updated to specifically release liability
    - Liability language now include public
    - Policy changes are needed to promote collaboration
        - Fear that one entity will purchase it, "we'll get it after it has been purchased"
        - Fear that it is another unfunded state mandate

Will Craig: At-Large (University of Minnesota)

Will Craig is active in a variety of local and national activities relevant to the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council. His work at the University of Minnesota involves supporting a Community GIS program that provides maps and analysis to local community organizations. At the national level, he is past president and co-chair of the Outreach Committee of NSGIC, the National States Geographic Information Council. NSGIC is pushing the federal agencies to deliver on the promise of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure that meets the needs of all levels of government by fulfilling their own data obligations and working with states to roll-up local data that has general use. Finally, he is part of a team at the GIS Certification Institute working to develop a testing system that adds credibility to GISCI certification.

Craig Erickson: State Agency (Minnesota National Guard)

State Government concerns and issues have primarily been addressed directly through MnGeo and the Geospatial Technical Committee (formally the State Government Geospatial Advisory Council), therefore my focus will be on the National Guard perspective. There is a continuing pursuit to develop and integrate geospatial capabilities in support of Domestic Operations. That has lead to increased interest and awareness of federal, state and local initiatives for potential collaboration and data access. This includes data sharing, data security, and application development. Another area of interest are data standards and accommodating both state and federal requirements.

Marcus Grubbs: Regional, Non-metro (Headwaters Regional Development Commission)
I monitor two stakeholder groups. The first are county governments, community organizations, and local governments. Our role at the Headwaters RDC is to serve these groups; they are our customers. The second group that I look out for is my counterpart Regional Development Organizations (RDO), while I certainly do not represent them as a whole.

There are two issues that I see frequently in both of these groups. The first is a lack of capacity to use, and as a result have access to, geospatial information. I'm hoping to begin an RDO GIS user list serve, potentially a regular conference call, and create a regional user group in our Region to discuss needs and promote collaboration. Collaboration is key because the capacity exists, it just isn't distributed very well.

The second issue is related to innovating around the development and use of data. We're interested in using spatially oriented data to create better and more consistent economic and community development measurements amongst non-metro communities with and without GIS capacity. I see this helping to promote better and more effective development projects, improve the measurability of the results, and help communities to more appropriately attract grant funding. I'm beginning conversations to discuss the development of a resource that fills this void, and I'm happily accepting input and criticisms.

Jonathan Gustafson: Federal (Army Corps of Engineers)
The Federal Government is experiencing a paradigm shift in how business is conducted mainly due to the fiscal constraints driven by sequestration. Many agencies are experiencing significantly reduced budgets resulting in furloughs and cuts to programs. The USGS has a number of items planned for FY14, but is subject to congressional actions and the budgeting process, but they continue to work on incorporating Minnesota's LiDAR data into the NED. The USACE does not have a geospatial mission, only geospatial support to mission priorities, but recent geospatial policy revisions and updates allow for more effective partnerships in sharing resources/data. The USACE is project funded, so the funding that is allocated to the project is required to be obligated for project purposes only. However, the Non-Federal Sponsors are able to do work-in-kind data acquisitions to satisfy their cost sharing responsibilities (licensing restrictions may apply). Emergency operations are also a major source of interagency data acquisition/mission support. The USFWS is seeing funding levels diminish in the NWI program. It is recommended that MnGeo pursue partnering opportunities with Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) to continue wetland mapping/inventory. The USDA indicates that the NAIP program efforts are contingent on sequestration. Lastly, the FGDC is initiating a process to develop a new strategic plan for the NSDI given the recommendations/directives from OMB, GAO, and NGAC.

Doug Hansen: County, Non-Metro (Crow Wing County)
The MCGISA is an association of county professionals whose mission is to advance GIS technology in Minnesota county governments by providing leadership, support and advocacy. Our goals include:

1. Foster support and awareness among public officials.
2. Cultivate leadership and professional development through workshops, seminars, and meetings.
3. Provide a forum to share knowledge, information and experience among the members of the Association.
4. Advocate MCGISA positions to policy makers on regional, state, and federal issues.
5. Support the development and implementation of standards.

In 2012, we made great strides towards achieving these goals. We are recognized as an affiliated professional organization with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). McGISA sponsored a booth at the 2012 AMC conference to foster support and awareness among public officials and propote the Business Plan for Statewide Parcel Data Integration. We also created a McGISA LinkedIn group and SharePoint collaboration site as a means to share knowledge, information and experience among county GIS professionals.

Regional meetings are held throughout the year by county GIS professionals to share knowledge experience. There are 10 McGISA districts which follow the AMC district boundaries. In June, 2012 we had our annual summer meeting which included; a presentation on Mn DNR's GeoSpatial Data Resource Site (GDRS) by Hal Watson, and a "Getting to Know MN GEO presentation and great roundtable discussion on communication and collaboration between all levels of government with Dan Ross, State GIO and Fred Logman, MnGeo GIS Coordinator.

We are also excited to have representation on NG 911 Advisory, MN Association Assessing Officers (MAAO) and several MnGEO committees and workgroups.

Mark Kotz: Regional, Metro (Metropolitan Council)

The following items are noteworthy related to regional government in the metro area. Met Council and the MetroGIS Coordinator are meeting with each of the county GIS managers to discuss existing and future collaboration opportunities. With funding from MetroGIS, Met Council worked with several of the metro counties to contract for development of a server based address points editing tool. Version 1 is complete and free to be hosted by any government organization in MN. The Met Council contracted to develop a census block dataset realigned to NCompass data. It is available on DataFinder.

Mark Olsen: State Agency (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

The MPCA's main geospatial focus is to support timely, public access to all environmental data. We are doing that by participating in state enterprise efforts, like the GeoCommons, as well as using geospatial tools to improve the public's access to MPCA data and services through the web. A couple of MPCA's more significant efforts are to provide access to 1) information about all environmental regulatory activity within the state and 2) a simple water quality dashboard to let people know how their favorite water body is doing. By putting environmental information into the hands of the public, we hope to empower them to become more informed and act locally.

Ben Richason: Education (MnSCU)

First and foremost the mission of the Minnesota State College and University (MnSCU) system is the education of undergraduate students and to support advanced work for graduate degrees and post baccalaureate certification. While this may seem to be a rather straightforward statement, one needs to consider all of its ramifications. It is the instruction in the basic principles and techniques of geographical information science that provides Minnesota with an educated geospatial workforce. This involves more than rudimentary classroom lectures. Consider the following functions that MnSCU college and university programs also offer:

- Providing and maintaining instructional computer lab facilities
- Supporting internships with public and private sector geospatial organizations and firms
- Developing community outreach and partnership programs with local and regional units of government, as well as non-profit organizations

- Offering practical training and workshops in a variety of geospatial topics
- Having students work on applied research and projects under faculty supervision in institutional research centers
- Outreach programs and mentorship with K-12 teachers and administrators

It should also be kept in mind that all of this is possible because of the ESRI Site License that offers the system relatively inexpensive access to the full suite of ArcGIS software. It also includes the need to maintain access to other programs in digital image processing and CAD. The MnSCU system will continue to maintain these different emphases in geospatial science, while at the same time continuing to develop and grow instructional methods and techniques that will serve an ever-evolving curriculum in the mapping and spatial disciplines.

Steve Swazee: At-Large (SharedGeo)

Steve Swazee is the Executive Director of SharedGeo, a federally recognized nonprofit that has the stated mission of helping "government, nonprofit, education, and corporate entities use mapping technologies and share geographic data for the public good." As such, he is involved in a wide range of technology, public relations, and support efforts with impact on the geospatial community and beyond. Initiatives include development of geospatial education and mentoring programs, creation of a national knowledge center to support U.S. National Grid implementation and use, and build-out of cutting edge hardware/technical capabilities for research and constituency support.

Similarly, activities by SharedGeo are both local and national in scope and include: acting as the administrative and technology services provider for GITA, serving as the fiscal agent for the FOSS4G-NA 2013 Conference, working to develop collaborative relationships with other community service organizations like the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, conducting outreach through presentations and booths at a various conferences, promoting issues awareness through the widely read EPC Updates blog, and sponsoring development of open source geospatial software (i.e. GeoMOOSE).

With regard to issues – the lack of awareness and understanding, from technician to legislator, about the magnitude of the revolution in geospatial technologies, and the associated consequences, is thought primary; from paper to digital, static to analytic, hard-wired to mobile, small data to big data, street address to cell phone address, commercial to open source, and historic to real-time. Each of these elements of change will have far reaching negative impact if not properly understood and appropriately anticipated.

Michelle Trager: At-Large (Rice County)

Go Southeast MN

I have been working with GIS staff from other counties in southeastern Minnesota to maintain and improve the Go Southeast MN website: http://www.gosoutheastmn.com. The website was created through a collaborative effort between Public Health and GIS staff in the southeastern Minnesota counties. Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) monies funded the project. Go Southeast MN is an interactive mapping website that helps you find places for physical activity and healthy eating in southeastern Minnesota. Mobile applications are also available.

SE MN GIS User's Group Data Agreement
The Southeast Minnesota GIS User's Group has a FTP site to share data between counties. Currently, each county has their own data sharing agreement form. To make sharing easier, we are working on one data sharing agreement. With one data agreement for the group, people requesting data can sign one agreement instead of signing one agreement for the data in each county.

MN GIS/LIS Spring Workshops Collaboration
The MN GIS/LIS Consortium recently collaborated with the FOSS4G North America Conference to hold Spring Workshops at the University of Minnesota. The workshops were held on Tuesday, May 21st. Fifteen different workshops were offered including several on open sources topics.

Sally Wakefield: Nonprofit (SharedGeo)
GIS is growing in the nonprofit sector. In the few years I have been representing nonprofits, I have seen increased interest and activity, however GIS is still grossly underutilized in this sector.

Nonprofits generally serve as a proxy to government and provide direct services on a range of issues from social service to environment and often involve direct services either in communities or via facilities. Many of these services would benefit from greater spatial intelligence in the workflow (examples include – senior and child services, environmental tracking, health service delivery, housing services, etc).

As the nonprofit representative and as part of my work with SharedGeo, I have had the opportunity to meet with both the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and MAP for Nonprofits (nonprofit technology consultants) about building capacity and awareness in the nonprofit sector. Both organizations recognize the potential for great geospatial intelligence integration in the sector. However, barriers exist. These consist primarily of lack of knowledge of available tools, resource constraints and equal access to licensed data.