

Text to Accompany Slides on Members' Sector Activities
MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council meeting, January 10, 2014

Jeff Bloomquist: Federal Government Sector (USDA Farm Service Agency)

To-be-added

John Mackiewicz: Private Sector (WSB & Associates)

WSB has been working on a number of projects at the City, County and State level. WSB continues to be active in the GIS community through the GIS/LIS consortium, GITA, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Esri User Groups, and the American Public Works Association (APWA). WSB also holds free technical forums twice a year. The last forum was held in November and focused on helping users get the most out of their free ArcGIS Online Subscriptions.

The majority of the City related projects WSB is working on include bringing easy-to-use web-based GIS tools to city staff, implementing integrated GIS/Asset Management Systems, and deploying mobile GIS solutions based on the JavaScript API and iOS. County-level efforts have focused on developing custom applications, emergency preparedness, and disaster management.

WSB has also worked on two state-level GIS projects that involve fiber optic and cultural resource management.

Trisha Nelson: State Government Sector (Minnesota Department of Transportation)

GIS Extraction Project

Obtaining inventory and condition information is the first step towards managing assets and lowering life cycle costs. This project utilizes the latest in mobile vehicle imagery collection to obtain asset location, attribute information (including condition), and photos for road side barriers. The safe and efficient technique can be used for any asset and consists of desktop mining of imagery using Trident Trimble Analyst software. The data is then exported into a geodatabase. This project will allow MnDOT to quantify capital value, plan future budgeting needs, reduce life cycle costs, determine if MnDOT is meeting federal/state standards, etc.

Kody Thurnau: Nonprofit Sector (Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy)

GIS is growing in the nonprofit sector. Since joining the nonprofit sector from a public entity a little over a year ago I see a desire to utilize GIS capabilities but most nonprofits are still hesitant to put up the needed resources to feel as if they can effectively implement GIS into their work. Many of the partner nonprofits that we work with on a range of issues are aware of our GIS capabilities and often tap into our expertise. This has continued to grow in just one year. This tells me that the demand for GIS in the nonprofit sector is there, but a strategy to effectively make it used widespread is needed.

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, I have had the opportunity to meet with both the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) about building capacity and awareness in the nonprofit sector. MCN recognizes the potential for great geospatial intelligence integration in the sector as they have a membership of 1,000+ groups and organizations. However, barriers exist. These consist primarily of lack of knowledge of available tools, resource constraints and equal access to licensed data.
