
Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

end of year

Committee Reports

- Accomplishments
- Future Plans

Committees

- Digital Elevation
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Geospatial Architecture (aka Standards)
 - Hydrography
 - Land Records Modernization
 - Outreach
 - Standards
-

Digital Elevation Committee

Purpose: *Promote the creation of statewide digital elevation data that is consistently accurate and available to the public.*

Co-Chairs: Ron Wencil, USGS

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David Claypool, Ramsey County

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Digital Elevation Committee

Accomplishments:

- Actively promoted elevation projects and activities in MN
 - Sponsored GIS/LIS conference panel session
 - Reviewed and supported Red River Basin Mapping Initiative
 - Exchanged information and updated status of known projects
- Delivered technical information and support
 - Provided technical presentations/briefings at Committee meetings
 - Assisted in prep/review of project RFPs
 - Posted technical resources on Committee webpage
- Solicited input from state agencies to document specific needs and applications for high resolution elevation data

Digital Elevation Committee

Future Initiatives:

- Develop a work team to establish technical specifications for high resolution elevation data
- Assemble a work team to study data collection costs and establish guidelines for budgets
- Prepare a white paper and briefing materials to support potential legislative proposal

Emergency Preparedness

Purpose: *Organize the GIS community to help minimize impact of, recover from, and avoid natural and human caused emergencies in Minnesota.*

Co-Chairs: David Berrisford, Department of Public Safety /
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Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

1. Committee members promoted the integration of GIS in emergency preparedness and public safety activities through presentations at the 2006 Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference, the Minnesota Department of Corrections - MACCSS Technology Subcommittee, the 25th Annual MN Government IT Symposium and in meetings with county and city officials.
2. EP's Outreach sub-committee conducted a survey of members of the emergency management community at this year's AMEM conference to determine their understanding of GIS technology and its application in the emergency response / public safety environment.
3. In partnership with ESRI, EP members conducted a seminar on GIS and its role in pandemic planning and response.
4. Several EP steering committee members are participating in a project conducted by LMIC to identify and document agency-specific Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Pandemic Influenza outbreak needs and assess capacities and opportunities for GIS support for planning for and responding to these types of outbreaks. LMIC's work is being funded by the State's 2007 Influenza Pandemic Planning Grant. A final report will be released in mid-July.

Emergency Preparedness

Future Initiatives:

A. Outreach - to Emergency Management Professionals

- Expand and update FY07's survey of members of the emergency management community to determine their understanding of GIS technology and its application in the emergency response / public safety environment.
- Continue to cultivate relationships with statewide professional organizations such as AMEM and AMFC through presentations. GCGI EP members hope to present at the 2008 AMEM conference and the 43rd Annual Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference.
- Organize and promote GIS workshops geared for the emergency management and public safety community including those in Greater Minnesota.
- Promote and educate emergency managers/public safety officials on the use of the MetroGIS Emergency Preparedness web application and HSEM's DisasterLAN.

Emergency Preparedness

Future Initiatives (continued):

B. Education - for GIS Professionals

- Help organize emergency management resources for GIS professionals (links to data, applications, education, etc.) via the GCGI or MetroGIS EP web sites.
- Seek opportunities for GIS professionals to observe emergency management exercises (city, county or state).
- Organize and promote workshops for GIS professionals that will enhance their understanding of how emergency managers respond to situations. This includes skill enhancement / certification opportunities to help ensure that Minnesota's GIS community will be ready to respond to varying types and scales of emergencies.
- Promote and support the inventorying of GIS state, county and local government personnel who are willing and qualified to help out in emergencies, i.e. a GIS "call tree".

Emergency Preparedness

Future Initiatives (continued):

C. Data - for Emergency Preparedness

- Review existing / proposed federal and state standards/best practices for GIS datasets needed for effective emergency preparedness. Help establish Minnesota standards and processes for creating, maintaining, and serving critical data sets in a secure environment.
- Working closely with federal (including private contractors), state and local entities, identify critical data sets and possible contributors / custodians.
- Identify and seek funding opportunities to help promote the identification, collection, organization and dissemination of GIS data for emergency preparedness.
- Organize and/or participate in a forum where emergency preparedness/public safety data access and data security issues are debated.

Geospatial Architecture

Purpose: *Promote the adoption of common technological approaches to business integration by developing, supporting and implementing standards for geospatial systems and data.*

Co-Chairs: **Rick Gelbmann**, Metropolitan Council

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Chris Cialek, Land Management Information Center

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Geospatial Architecture

Accomplishments:

- Represent Minnesota in national standards development activities:
 - Contributor to the URISA *National Street Address Standard* (to be submitted to FGDC later this year)
 - Attended *North American Metadata Profile Development Workshop* in Denver to move forward international standard
 - Implemented FGDC *Governmental Boundary Data Content Standard* in demo WFS service (DNR)

Geospatial Architecture

Accomplishments (continued):

- Developed a federal/state solution to maintain GNIS feature IDs for Metro municipalities. Working with five state agencies to implement statewide.
- Co-managing MetroGIS *Geospatial Services Directory* project as demonstration of the principles proposed in last year's *Enterprise GIS* white paper.

Geospatial Architecture

Accomplishments (continued):

- Coordinated with Outreach Committee to critique and upgrade Committee web pages.



Geospatial Architecture

Future Initiatives:

- Using strategic planning workshop as a springboard, re-evaluate division of labor between GA and SP committees.
- Continue to monitor and review Federal data standards, particularly as they pertain to framework data publishing.

Geospatial Architecture

Future Initiatives (continued):

- Monitor the progress of emerging international metadata standards, and recommend revisions to Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines to ensure compliance.
- Complete work of the *Sustainable State Municipal Identifier Standard Workgroup* to develop a comprehensive ID update process compatible with Federal GNIS standards.

Hydrography

Purpose: *Promote consistent development of hydrography data and enable data exchange through coordination, cooperation and standards development.*

Co-Chairs: **Mark Olsen**, MN Pollution Control Agency
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Hydrography

Accomplishments:

- **Implement MN hydrography framework**
 - NHD stewardship database installed and on-line
 - Electronically submitted MPCA water quality assessment data (spatial and programmatic) to EPA
 - Fostered development and sharing of applications:
 - Sponsored USGS workshop at 2006 GIS/LIS conference – *Using the NHD in Geodatabase*
 - Sponsored advanced NHD update training – January 2007
 - Presented at first ever NHD Stewardship Conference – Denver, April 2007
 - Presented at ESRI Conference NHD Stewardship Panel – June 2007

Hydrography

Accomplishments (continued):

- Watersheds
 - DNR nearing completion of delineation/aggregation procedures consistent with Federal guidelines
 - Delivered DNR data for federal review and determination of WBD compliance

Hydrography

Future Initiatives:

- Implement plan for use and maintenance of the framework (EPA Grant)
 - Refine roles and responsibilities
 - Assess data access and maintenance needs of MN users
 - Encourage and implement data enhancements and updates
 - Foster development and sharing of applications and tools
 - Explore improved linkages between NHD and DNR 24K hydrography layers
- Resolve FGDC Compliance issues for MN Watershed Boundaries
- Develop wetlands mapping and maintenance strategy
- Review and comment on FGDC Wetland Mapping Standard

Land Records Modernization

Purpose: *Work to research and develop support for statewide Land Records Modernization for local governments.*

Co-Chairs: **Charles Kost**, Southwest Minnesota State University

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Sally Wakefield, 1000 Friends of Minnesota

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Land Records Modernization

Accomplishments

- Organized a core group of county GIS professionals to craft the vision and goals for the formation of the MN County GIS Association (MCGISA).
- Conducted information meetings around the state to provide feedback and support for the formation of MCGISA.
- Established a committee to plan a meeting in conjunction with the October GIS/LIS conference to bring MCGISA into existence.

Land Records Modernization

Future Initiatives:

- Coordinate committee efforts with MCGISA to advance statewide land records modernization in county government:
 - Use MCGISA as a source to identify current issues related to land records modernization.
 - Enlist MCGISA members to participate in LRM committee work.
 - Support MCGISA initiatives related to land records modernization.

Outreach

Purpose: *Works to connect the Council with its constituencies and to publicize its work to the broader community.*

Chair: **Bill Swing**, Wright County
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Outreach

Accomplishments:

Completed Website Rework/Redesign

- Sections worked: FAQs, Grant Opportunities, Resources, Policy Statements, Committee Activity Reports, Committee Pages

• Participated in Conferences, Seminars, & Presentations

- AMC Conference: “The Wonderful Dilemma of GIS”
- MN Gov IT Symposium: “Organizing for Enterprise GIS” full day seminar
- MN Gov IT Symposium: Coordinated/planned four GIS sessions.
- LCCMR Seminar: On Natural Resource Data and Applications
- MACO Presentation: “Organizing for GIS in Local Government.”

Outreach

Accomplishments (continued):

- Published Articles
 - GIS/LIS Newsletter (9 articles)
 - MNCITLA Newsletter
- Updated Brochure & One Page Strategic Plan Flyer
- Organized St. Cloud meeting on *Regional Collaborations* (drawing audience of 35)
- Drafted *Annual Report to the Governor*
- Developed standard approach for those seeking a letter of support from the Council.

Outreach

Future Initiatives:

- Promote Communication Plan
- Promote Collaboration and Organization Themes
- Propose new Operating Policies to deal with requests for letters of support
- Update and Print Brochure
- Write Articles for Newsletters
- Respond to Council and Committee Needs
- Draft *Annual Report*

Strategic Planning

Purpose: *Guides development of a strategic plan to support the common needs of Minnesota organizations that use geospatial technology.*

Co-Chairs: **David Arbeit**, Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis
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Strategic Planning

Accomplishments:

- Convened sessions about strategic planning for GIS at GIS/LIS Conference and Government IT Symposium, attended by more than 140 people.
- Designed web survey to catalog existing services that could support service-oriented solutions envisioned by the Council's Geospatial Architecture Committee.
- With key stakeholders, planned *Compass Points*, a Geospatial Strategic Directions Workshop scheduled for June 25, 2007.

Strategic Planning

Accomplishments (continued):

- Worked closely with Office of Enterprise Technology on state strategic IT plan, resulting in identification of GIS as “an area for shared services opportunities.”
- Maintained relationships with national programs that support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Strategic Planning

Future Initiatives:

- Continue guiding strategic planning process following direction set by *Compass Points* retreat on June 25.
- Work with OET to integrate geospatial technology with state's enterprise technology environment.
- Continue to identify shared services through web inventory, review results and identify opportunities for increased collaboration.
- Guide strategic implementation of an enterprise technical architecture for GIS.

Strategic Planning

Future Initiatives (continued):

- Monitor Minnesota's data and infrastructure needs and make strategic recommendations to address them.
- Maintain relationships with programs that support the NSDI.
- Complete second generation strategic plan for the MSDI.
- Sponsor geospatial strategic plan sessions at MN GIS/LIS Consortium and MN Government IT conferences.