
Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

FY2008 end-of-year

Committee Reports

- Accomplishments
- Future Plans

Committees

- Data: Digital Elevation
 - Data: Hydrography
 - Data: Land Records Modernization
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Outreach
 - Standards
 - Strategic Planning
-

Data: Digital Elevation

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

Co-Chairs: Ron Wencil, U.S. Geological Survey

763-783-3207

rwencil@usgs.gov

David Claypool, Ramsey County

651-266-7170

david.claypool@co.ramsey.mn.us

Data: Digital Elevation

Accomplishments:

- Actively promoted elevation projects and activities in MN
 - Sponsored GIS/LIS conference panel session
 - Supported Red River Basin Mapping Initiative
 - Reviewed new project proposal for southeast MN
 - Exchanged information and updated status of known projects
- Delivered technical information and support
 - Provided technical presentations/briefings at Committee meetings
 - Provided technical details and cost estimates for LiDAR projects
 - Assisted in preparation and review of project RFPs
 - Posted technical resources on Committee webpage

Data: Digital Elevation

Future Initiatives:

- Review and maintain technical specifications for high resolution elevation data for statewide effort
- Support a work team to study data collection costs and establish guidelines for budget proposals
- Maintain briefing materials to support potential legislative proposals
- Support the Statewide Elevation and Imagery Inventory (SEII) with information that links data collection projects

Data: Hydrography

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

Co-Chairs: **Susanne Maeder**, Land Management Information Center
651-201-2488
susanne.maeder@state.mn.us

Mark Olsen, MN Pollution Control Agency
651-296-3412
mark.olsen@pca.state.mn.us

Data: Hydrography

Accomplishments:

- **Implement MN hydrography framework**
 - Completed NHD Update and Load Validation stewardship process with USGS (MnRAD)
 - Secured F.Y. 2008 EPA Exchange Network funding to research improved linkages between DNR 24K and NHD data.
 - DNR developed Hydrography Geodatabase
 - Fostered development and sharing of information:
 - Presented Hydrography Applications session at USGS workshop at 2007 GIS/LIS conference
 - Made the case to USGS and EPA for local stewardship and federal support (USGS – Annapolis Md March 2008; EPA Exchange Network Conference April 2008; NGTOC All-Hands Meeting June 2008)
 - Presented at NHD Managers' Meeting – Denver, December 2007
 - Provided technical information on Minnesota Model to other states
 - o interest expressed by 14 states

Data: Hydrography

Accomplishments (continued):

- Watersheds
 - DNR has completed 'MN Catchments' data statewide
 - USGS created MN 'Watershed Boundary Dataset' from DNR's 'MN Catchments' and submitted to NRCS for review
 - Worked to resolve compliance issues for a MN WBD derived from and coincident with DNR watershed data.
- Wetlands
 - Commented on federal standard; federal wetland standard close to approval.
 - Wetland activity on Phase 1 Mapping (NWI Update) has begun; color IR imagery collection is now in progress.
- Storm Water
 - Metro-wide storm water data collection and aggregation nearing completion
 - Subgroup established to develop guidelines for storm water mapping
 - Pilot project initiated to incorporate major storm water conveyances into the NHD

Data: Hydrography

Future Initiatives:

- Implement plan for use and maintenance of the framework
 - Refine roles and responsibilities
 - Develop a plan for data maintenance, including event creation, sharing and maintenance
 - Encourage and implement data enhancements and updates
 - Foster development and sharing of applications and tools
 - Improve linkages between NHD and DNR 24K hydrography layers (2008 EPA Exchange Network Grant)
- Finally resolve FGDC Compliance issues for MN Watershed Boundaries
 - Plan for future maintenance and stewardship
- Continue Phase 1 wetlands mapping activity and maintenance strategy
- Continue development of storm water mapping guidance

Data: Land Records Modernization

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

Chair: **Sally Wakefield**, 1000 Friends of Minnesota

651-312-1000

swakefield@1000fom.org

Data: Land Records Modernization

Accomplishments

- Refocused committee to consider state land records efforts and how they relate to the interests of local government
- Explored issues surrounding the desire for a unified state control point database and efforts to meet national standards
- Continue to support MCGISA (Minnesota Counties GIS Association) as a vehicle to raise awareness and interest in land records modernization

Data: Land Records Modernization

Future Initiatives:

- Continue to meet to explore issues and identify solutions to coordinate activities related to LRM:
 - Recruit additional assistance with committee support and leadership
 - Provide a forum for coordination of state agency parcel related efforts
 - Research the effectiveness of financial support through the current recorder compliance fee and track desired changes, if any.
 - Support MCGISA initiatives related to land records modernization.

Emergency Preparedness

Purpose: *Serves as Minnesota's principal organization for promoting, coordinating, and standardizing GIS use across all levels of the state's Emergency Management Community.*

**Co-Chairs: Kris Eide, MN Department of Public Safety /
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
651-201-7404
kris.eide@state.mn.us**

**Steve Swazee, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
651-456-5411
sdswazee@earthlink.net**

Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

- **Grew committee membership from 17 to 122, with 47 serving on one of the committee's four work groups. Membership includes individuals from the:**
 - GIS, emergency management, public health, public safety, and first response communities, who represent
 - Federal, state, county, city, service, corporate, academic and out-of-state entities.
- **Launched greatly enhanced public web site that serves as the committee's:**
 - Public information hub on GIS/emergency preparedness through extensive links and informational downloads, and
 - Membership and event management hub through its electronic enrollment and event registration features.

Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

- **Created an extensive, secure SharePoint site which serves as the committee's:**
 - Information exchange for “For Official Use Only” and “Sensitive Security Information” data,
 - Developmental tool for the Minnesota Common Operating Picture,
 - Online collaborative site for lecture creation, and
 - Committee discussion forum.
- **Secured a \$50,000 CAP grant for what is believed to be a first in the nation effort to create “state endorsed” data layers for schools, hospitals, fire stations and police stations.**

Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

- **Promoted GIS use in the emergency preparedness and public safety communities through presentations and displays at the:**
 - 2007 Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference
 - 26th Annual MN Government IT Symposium
 - 2008 Minnesota Governor’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference
 - 2008 Minnesota Department of Health Ready to Respond Conference
 - Hennepin County Sheriff’s Communication Response Team meeting
 - Various meetings with state, regional, county and city officials
- **Developed what is believed to be the first “state endorsed” program for training GIS personnel in emergency management practices and procedures.**

Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

- **In coordination with USGS, promoted introduction of the U.S. National Grid in MN's GIS, emergency preparedness and first response communities. Efforts have included:**
 - A three-day lecture series by USNG national spokesperson Talbot Brooks,
 - Working with local response communities on production of map books,
 - Working with the GCGI Standards committee on developing a formal state endorsement, and
 - Providing training and support materials to local organizations.
- **Initiated development of a state sponsored GIS “Go Team” for disaster response. Efforts have included:**
 - Conducting an extensive review of the state's GIS capabilities for disaster response,
 - Developing a plan of action to formally create a state GIS Go Team and improve the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) GIS capabilities, and
 - Beginning Go Team involvement in the state EOC by obtaining access to HSEM's DisasterLAN and observing training events.

Emergency Preparedness

Accomplishments:

- **Promoted GIS use in the MN emergency response community through ad hoc group participation and individual efforts such as:**
 - Testifying before the state legislature concerning the importance of GIS,
 - Participating in issuance of the state's GIS needs assessment for pandemic influenza,
 - Writing articles for the GIS/LIS Newsletter,
 - Promoting inter-department cooperation in the 2008 NAIP 1-meter program, and
 - Participating in planning for the Republican National Convention.

Emergency Preparedness

Future Plans:

- **Near term points of focus (summer):**
 - Start up of the CAP grant
 - Implementation of committee's education plan
 - Formal introduction of the U.S. National Grid
 - Republican National Convention support
 - Initial Operational Capability for the Go Team
 - Developing plan for state-wide HAZUS-MH training
- **Distant points of focus:**
 - *“Continuing to eat the elephant, one pound at a time”* through ongoing execution of committee's 2007 Vision Statement.
 - Maintaining sight that this committee is about *saving lives and reducing suffering* through the power of GIS!

Outreach

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

Chair: **Bill Swing**, Wright County
763-682-7316
bill.swing@co.wright.mn.us

Outreach

Accomplishments:

- **Updated and Expanded Publications**
 - Communications Plan
 - List of Relevant Organizations
 - Operating Policies
- **Planned and Organized Conferences**
 - Full-day GIS Seminar at the Government IT Symposium
 - First-time GIS track at the Government IT Symposium

Outreach

Accomplishments (continued):

- **Promoted Intergovernmental Communications**
 - Attended January 20 MetroGIS workshop
 - Involved in an OET planning discussion group
 - Shared and discussed collaboration efforts and experiences

Outreach

Future Initiatives:

- Have updated brochure ready for the GIS/LIS Conference
- Align Outreach more closely with the Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Incorporate Homeland Security and Emergency Management organizations in the Communication Plan

Standards

Purpose: *Help coordinate strategies for integrating geospatial data and business processes across all levels of government.*

Co-Chairs: **Eileen Quam**, MN Office of Enterprise Technology

651-556-8017

eileen.quam@state.mn.us

Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council

651-602-1644

mark.kotz@metc.state.mn.us

Standards

Accomplishments:

- Resolve the state standards approval process
 - Committee met with OET, which responded by:
 - Developing an interim process
 - Forming a workgroup to pursue a long-term solution
- Review and respond to national standards
 - Facilitated a state response to the draft FGDC Wetland Mapping Standard. Many suggestions from MN response were incorporated into the final draft.

Standards

Accomplishments (continued):

- Put in place a responsive and sustainable state municipal identifier standard process
 - Formed a work team consisting of all key state organizations who have signed off on a plan establishing roles and procedures
 - Designated LMIC as a statewide partner with GNIS to maintain codes for civil and populated place features
 - Developed and implemented a process to identify changes to CTUs
 - Developed a plan for maintaining and publishing a state CTU cross reference table
 - Began to develop formal state CTU coding standard documentation

Standards

Accomplishments (continued):

- Develop state storm sewer data standard
 - Convened a workgroup of experts and began the development of a state storm sewer data standard
- Stay in tune with state government enterprise architecture changes
 - Met twice with state enterprise architect

Standards

Future Initiatives:

- Complete and approve state standards for:
 - **Municipal identifiers (CTU codes)**
 - **Storm sewer data**
 - **US National Grid map presentation**
- Implement a plan to publish a web-enabled statewide cross reference table for CTUs, including the GNIS codes

Standards

Future Initiatives (continued):

- Recommend revisions to Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines once the North American Profile of the ISO metadata standard is approved
- Respond to the next draft of the National Address Data Standard, in conjunction with the MetroGIS Address Workgroup

Standards

Future Initiatives (continued):

- Develop a long-term solution to the state standards approval process
- Work toward defining trust issues associated with the use of web services, as well as work toward definition and implementation of a full-fledged state broker
 - This will be done in conjunction with MetroGIS and the state Drive to Excellence initiative.

Strategic Planning

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

Co-Chairs: **Victoria Reinhardt**, Ramsey County

651-266-8363

victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us

Mike Dolbow, MN Department of Agriculture

651-201-6497

mike.dolbow@state.mn.us

Strategic Planning

Accomplishments:

- Championed new vision statement for strategic planning and priority goal for the Council:
 - SPC: “Minnesota improves services statewide through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of GIS.”
 - GCGI: “The creation and adoption of a state governance model for GIS is the Council’s priority goal for fiscal year 2008.”
- Endorsed and supported new state government Drive to Excellence initiative on Enterprise GIS Coordination, sponsored by PCA Commissioner Brad Moore

Strategic Planning

Accomplishments (continued):

- Supported the state Drive to Excellence Steering Team with input on aspects of Organizational and Functional Transformations, which are charged with changing the way state agencies use and coordinate GIS.
- Developed a list of diverse non-state stakeholder representatives tasked with providing input on the transformation efforts.
- Provided continuous updates and communications to the Governor's Council and other stakeholders on the transformation efforts.

Strategic Planning

Future Initiatives:

- Continue supporting Drive to Excellence Steering Team by providing input on an enterprise GIS organizational and governance framework.
- Integrate transformation efforts with outreach to non-state-agency stakeholders in academia, local governments, non-profits, private business, and citizenry.
- Sponsor geospatial strategic plan sessions at MN GIS/LIS Consortium and MN Government IT conferences.
- Update and modify GCGI SPC web page.