

MnGeo Committee & Workgroup Reporting¹

Digital Cadastral Data Committee

Date of Report: 11/07/2012

Accomplishments in last 18 months:

- Proposed a parcel attribute standard to be used for transferring parcel data between government agencies. The **Digital Cadastral Data Attribute Transfer Standard** was approved by the Standards Committee for public review. Members of the DCDC hosted a discussion panel on the attribute standard at the recent GIS/LIS Conference. The public review period has recently been extended in order to solicit sufficient input from primary consumers of parcel data, and to give the DCDC enough time to solve any issues with a newly proposed MN Dept. of Revenue tax data standard.
- Several members of the DCDC participated in the development and review of MnGeo's *Business Plan for Statewide Parcel Integration*.
- In December 2011, the DCDC co-chair positions changed from Sally Wakefield and Curt Carlson to Jeff Storlie and Bart Richardson. The DCDC work plan was reviewed and revised that winter.

Planned for the coming year:

- Continue to work with the Standards Committee to get the proposed attribute standard accepted as a statewide standard.
- Develop protocols and scripts to help counties export their parcel data into the attribute standard.
- Help implement the *Business Plan for Statewide Parcel Integration*, and promote parcel data sharing arrangements between government agencies.
- Work with MnGeo's GIS Outreach Committee to promote the benefits of cadastral systems for the development and maintenance of county parcel data.

Meetings held and scheduled:

- 8/5/2011 – Discussion MnGeo *Business Plan...* and propose the attribute standard
- 12/2/2011 – Co-chair change, review DCDC goals, approve attribute standard
- 2/3/2012 – Finalize work plan, refine the attribute standard, review the *Business Plan...*
- 6/1/2012 – Review standard acceptance process, update on the *Business Plan...*
- 8/3/2012 – Prepare for the GIS/LIS panel discussion on standard

The next meeting is scheduled for 12/7/2012

Charter and work plan:

The Committee has a modest work plan posted on the web

www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/cadastral/index.html#workplan

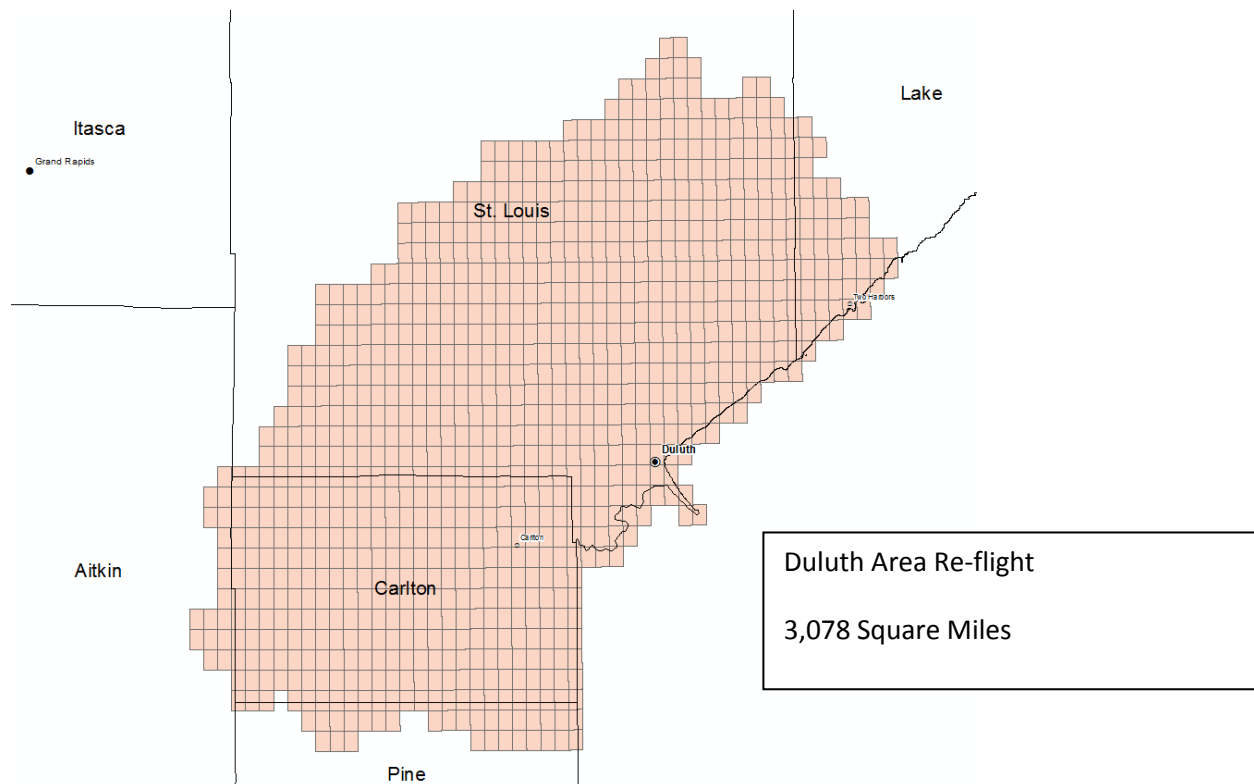
¹ For more info about these committees and workgroups, see: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/

Digital Elevation Committee Report 11/13/2012

The Digital Elevation Committee has not been very active as of late with only one meeting in the past six months. Most of the effort has been at DNR and MnGEO working to get LiDAR data published and posted on the MnGEO ftp site. Currently more than 60,000 square miles of data is now available for download.

State LiDAR Project Progress Report

- **Phase 1 Minnesota River Basin** – Done
- **Phase 2 South Dakota portion of the MN River Basin** – Done
- **Arrowhead Region** – Done
- **Metro Region** – Complete and posted
- **Central Lakes**
- All data have been acquired, in processing stage. No projection on delivery has been produced by Woolpert although talking with the sales rep they are ready to ship a pilot project area for final review by the end of November.
- **Blue Earth County**
 - Data was delivered on 9/18 and is in the QA/QC process
- **Duluth Flood Area Reflight**
- Acquisition was completed over 3,000 square miles of the region the week of 11/5. The acquisition area boundaries were developed using local input and watershed basin boundaries.



Red River Basin

All data in the MN portion of the basin has been projected, retilled and posted on MnGEO web site. Merged county data have also been posted.

LiDAR Viewer Development

A web browser based LiDAR Viewer has been developed and is currently in beta. Data are being developed and published to support the viewer. Viewer is support on desktops and tablets but is a bit tough to use on a smart phone due to the small screen footprint.

Data Download Capacity

Working with MnGEO staff to develop an application to support the download of data based on interactive screen entries for

- area to download
- data to download
- format

The LiDAR viewer will be used as the front end to the download capacity and will call the download services.

LiDAR Research and Education Subcommittee

Date of Report: 11/07/2012

CO-CHAIRS: Sean Vaughn, MN.IT at DNR, and Shelly Sentyrz, MN.IT at DNR

MEETINGS: First Tuesday of every month, 2:00-3:30pm, via WebEx
Birds of a Feather gathering annually at MN GIS/LIS conference

WEBSITE: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/elevation/research_education/index.html

CHARTER: This subcommittee of the [Minnesota Digital Elevation Committee](#) works to design and promote best practices with LiDAR data, LiDAR-derived products and LiDAR training statewide. This design and oversight will ensure there is consistency in data development and application for all users.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- State LiDAR information web pages
- Glossary of LiDAR-related terms and products
- MnGeo LiDAR FTP portal
- LiDAR Education Survey to guide subcommittee activities (May 2011, 450 respondents)
- U of MN Conservation Applications of LiDAR (Six modules, more than a dozen classes hosted across the state, 390+ attendees)
- Interim Guidance on Acquisition of Culvert Data document
- Annual GIS/LIS presentations
- Tipsheet for using DNR's LiDAR and DEM tools
- Hydrologic Conditioning of DEMs Guidelines (due Jan 2, 2013)
- Website examples of LiDAR use in Minnesota

WORK PLAN FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS (LISTED IN ORDER OF PRIORITY)

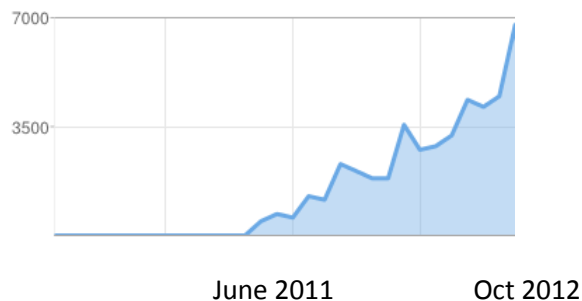
- Complete Hydrologic Conditioning of DEMs Guidelines (Jan 2, 2013)
- Analyze automated hydrologic conditioning process from Iowa State (in progress)
- Develop pilot project charter for statewide hydrologic conditioning of DEMs
- Research forestry/biomass developments using LiDAR and remote sensing
- Arrange additional LiDAR events and outreach through GIS/LIS, agency events, etc.
- *Derive building footprints/heights statewide*
- *Create state digital surface model*
- *Create state bare earth difference raster*
- *Create hillshades for statewide Quarter quarter quarter tiles*
- *Create statewide Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) dataset*
- *Create statewide topographic positional index*

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Date of Report: 11/07/2012

1. Activities and accomplishments in past 18 months:

- Membership: Total enrolled EPC membership is 192.
- Membership in LinkedIn community chat board is 101.
- Committee Workgroups (Some of the activities):
 - Education:
 - Geospatial Emergency Management (GEMS) program continues as the cornerstone of a formalized program of training for committee members.
 - Conducted briefings and workshops on the U.S. National Grid at the MN GIS/LIS Spring and Fall events, and at the National Alliance of Public Safety GIS (NAPSG) training event in Chicago, IL.
 - Coming year: Move GEMS into a formal accredited Learning Management System for the geospatial community. Arrangements pending.
 - Outreach:
 - Developed EPC Updates Blog (www.epcupdates.org) from 431 unique hits/month at launch in June 2011, to now approaching 7,000 unique hits/month . At request of GCIO, transferred to SharedGeo in August 2012.



- Provided lectures and booth at the 2011 and 2012 MN GIS/LIS annual conference.
- Hosted a booth at the 2011 Minnesota Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference.
- Maintained information brochures for these events at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/mngeoepc/>.
- Coming year: Continue with current activities.
- Data:
 - Under direction of MnGeo, continued work to expand and refine the Minnesota Structures Collaborative (MSC), and publish updated U.S. National Grid 10KM based maps for the entire state.
 - Coming year: Substantially leverage EPC membership to increase and refine the number of data layers in the MSC.

- Emergency Response:
 - U.S. National Grid (USNG) “Best Practices” location marker project for Lake County continues under direction of SharedGeo with recognition by the U.S. Fire Academy and tentative plans to use project as a national model. See: www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cc/cc_2012_1.pdf.
 - Leveraged SharedGeo to provide backup code-coder services during state shutdown of July 2011.
 - Coming year:
 - Increase involvement of the GIS community in Minnesota Task Force One efforts.
 - Participate in national work group that will be setting U.S. National Grid cartographic presentation standards and developing basic implementation guidelines for the Emergency Services Sector (travel expenses paid for by NAPSG).

2. Meetings held/scheduled:

2011/2012 Meetings Held	Event Link
March 3	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7590
June 9	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7591
September 8	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7631
December 8	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7638
March 8	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7635
June 14	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7636
September 13	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7710
2012/2013 Meetings Planned	Event Link
December 13	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7639
March 14	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7711
June 13	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7712
September 12	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7713
December 12	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7714
Notes:	
1. Events listed above are the EPC’s formal quarterly meetings. The EPC’s Steering Committee and four work groups hold separate meetings in support of their respective efforts.	
2. EPC quarterly meetings are made available to greater Minnesota through use of recorded sessions: www.epcupdates.org	

3. Charter. Re: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/emprep/. "The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) is Minnesota's principal organization for promoting, coordinating, and standardizing GIS use across all levels of the state's Emergency Management community."

4. Work plan for 2013: Not developed specifically for 2013. Generic plan is available as it has since EPC inception.

Hydrography Committee

Date of Report: 11/12/2012

The Hydrography Committee has not officially met within the past year. Despite this, individual members have continued to work on and communicate about work on a number of issues within their own organizations that affect or are of potential interest to other organizations within the hydro community. Some examples include:

- Watershed delineation activities, including data harmonization with Canada – primarily DNR
- Potential implementation pilot for storm water transfer standard
- NHD updates to Minnesota and tool and data enhancements (e.g. NHDPlus).
- DNR Hydro framework updates

Potential FY13 work plan elements:

- Plan for an integrated approach to statewide hydrography data management
 - Refine roles and responsibilities
 - Define process for user updates
 - Implement event creation and maintenance process
 - Foster development and sharing of applications and tools
- Plan for future maintenance and stewardship of MN Watershed Boundaries
- Continue evaluation and refinement of storm water mapping guidance
 - Implement pilot – still seeking a volunteer organization
- Work with LiDAR/Elevation Committee to explore issues of mutual interest.

Next Meeting:

- No meeting has been scheduled

Standards Committee

Date of Report: 11/07/2012

Accomplishments in last 18 months:

- The proposed **Stormwater System Data Exchange standard** has seen no action. The subject matter expert group that developed the standard seemed to run out of steam when its leader took a new job and left the group. The standard completed a public review period with many useful comments.
- The proposed **Digital Cadastral Data Attribute Transfer Standard** was approved for public review. The public review period was scheduled to end November 2nd, but has been extended to the end of the year to accommodate more stakeholders and allow more time to work with a property tax data standardization effort at the MN Dept. of Revenue.

Planned for the coming year:

- A MetroGIS group is considering taking up the responsibility of proposing a revised stormwater data standard effort.
- A final cadastral data transfer standard is expected to be submitted for review in the next year.
- It is also expected that the state geospatial standards approval process will be reviewed jointly by the OET, the Standards Committee and the advisory councils and possibly modified significantly.

Meetings held and scheduled:

Two meetings held in the last 18 months

- 9/14/2011 – to look at the OET standards template
- 6/7/2012 – to approve the proposed cadastral data transfer standard for public review

Additional standards facilitation and communication has gone on outside of meetings.

No meetings are currently scheduled.

Charter and work plan:

The Committee has a modest work plan posted on the web site:

www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/standards/index.html#workplan

Geocoding Workgroup

Date of Report: 10/25/2012

Objective

The primary objective of the Geocoding Workgroup is to determine the need, input requirements, benefits, and estimated costs to the State to develop or acquire geocoding service(s) along with needed or recommended standards and applicable dataset(s) necessary for its operation. From 2009-2011, the workgroup completed much work, including developing the [Statewide Geocoding Service Requirements document](#)², which outlines the “ideal” requirements for a geocoding service. As of April 2011, the workgroup stalled at the point of identifying potential geocoding solutions through an RFI that was to be issued by MnGeo. MnGeo did not have enough resources to shepherd the RFI and the workgroup chairs did not have sufficient time to continue the workgroup without it.

Current Status

Regardless, the need for a “statewide geocoding solution” remains. Most organizations make do with the limitations of other available options, which lessens the urgency for a solution, but does not completely meet the need. Below is a simplified matrix of three options and their matches with high-level needs.

Geocoding Option	Available for free internal use?	Supports batch processing?	Statewide coverage?	Developed with local data?	Minnesota Focused?
Google Maps	No	No	Yes	Sometimes	No
ESRI	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
MetroGIS	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Due to a recognition of other, higher priorities, the Geocoding Workgroup is ready to “wait its turn” for more resources and direction from MnGeo. Additional resources in the form of a project manager, one-time or permanent funding, or a new champion to re-energize the effort would be welcome at any time. Much of the existing work performed by the workgroup would be available to leverage at that point.

² www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/geocoding/Statewide_Geocoding_Requirements.pdf

Geospatial Commons Workgroup

Date of Report: 11/07/2012

Accomplishments in last 18 months:

- In June of 2011, four sponsoring agencies (DNR, DOT, MnGeo & Met Council) approved moving forward on a more ambitious version of the Geospatial Commons, greatly increasing the project scope and cost. MnGeo agreed to take ownership of the project.
- A revised workgroup met to try to develop a charter for the revised project. This work was hampered by the state IT consolidation and the impending change of leadership at MnGeo.
- Another revised workgroup under new MnGeo leadership began working on the project again in August, 2012. The following efforts have been completed or are underway
 - Preliminary list of prioritized functions reviewed, revised and clarified
 - Rough resource/cost estimates identified for the desired functions
 - A communications subgroup has formed to create a stakeholder communication plan
 - Available portal platforms for the Commons are being evaluated and a recommendation on the most suitable 2 or 3 platforms is expected in the next month

Planned for the coming year:

- Project funding and resourcing will be critical if the Commons is to move forward. This will be a big part of the workgroup's activity in the next year.
- Multiple communication products will be created to explain the Geospatial Commons project to differing stakeholder groups.
- A final portal platform recommendation will be needed before additional work can be done on cost and resource estimates. Thus, this will be a high priority in the coming months.

Meetings held and scheduled:

Nine meetings held in the last 18 months

- 6/6/2011 – Project Sponsors meeting
- 6/15/2011 – workgroup meeting
- 8/10/2011 – workgroup meeting
- 10/19/2011 – workgroup meeting
- 11/3/2011 – workgroup meeting
- 8/8/2012 – workgroup meeting (under new MnGeo leadership and new membership)
- 8/31/2012 – workgroup meeting
- 10/23/2012 – workgroup meeting
- 11/20/2012 – next scheduled workgroup meeting

Additional sub-group meetings have been held and are scheduled in the future.

Charter and work plan:

No current work plan or formal charter exists.

Metadata Workgroup of the Standards Committee

Date of Report: 11/09/2012

The workgroup's original objectives were to:

1. Recommend methods for creating and editing metadata that are compatible with ArcGIS 10.
2. Recommend a metadata format for web services.
3. Recommend changes to the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines (MGMG) by evaluating new international standards.

Accomplishments in last 18 months:

- The Minnesota Metadata Editor tool (MME) became available October 2012: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/chouse/mme/index.html. MME is a free standalone tool that is customized to match the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines (MGMG). A presentation at the Mn GIS/LIS conference announced its availability.
- A draft MGMG v.2 has been developed.

Planned for the coming year:

- Finish developing supporting materials for MME and promote its availability.

Any other plans depend on determination of priorities, especially regarding the Commons project, and resources available, as well as potential changes to the state geospatial standards approval process.

Options include:

- Evaluate ArcGIS Metadata Toolkit to see whether it could be used to customize the ArcGIS 10 Metadata Editor for MGMG.
- Support DNR's efforts to develop additional tools to streamline metadata creation and management.
- Recommend a metadata format for web services.
- Recommend that a revised MGMG be adopted as a state standard.

Meetings held and scheduled:

- 6 meetings held in 2011: 3/21; 4/6; 4/19; 5/5; 6/2; 12/2
- Additional work has gone on outside of meetings; no meetings are currently scheduled.

Charter and work plan:

Workgroup homepage: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/metadata/index.html

Charter: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/metadata/Metadata_Workgroup_Charter.pdf

Workplan: www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/metadata/Metadata_Workgroup_Project_Plan.pdf