

MnGeo Committee and Workgroup Updates March 2011

Digital Cadastral Data Committee

Meets on the first Friday of even numbered months and is working in two major focus areas:

1. Continuing its work to promote and develop support for a statewide digital cadastral GIS data transfer standard. Currently we are adapting our proposal into the standardized format used by prior successfully adopted standards such as CTU and National Grid. A shared first draft document has been created and is being edited by volunteers from the committee. We hope that this shared document will be ready to present to the statewide advisory committee at their next meeting.
 2. We are poised to provide support and advice to MnGeo as they work to coordinate development of a [business plan for statewide parcel data integration via an FGDC CAP Grant](#).
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Digital Elevation Committee

LiDAR project negotiations are in-progress and so there is no report; however, see these webpages for committee activities:

- [Minnesota Elevation Mapping Project](#)
 - [LiDAR Research and Education Subcommittee](#)
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Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC)

- 1.) Activities and accomplishments during the quarter:
 - After bouncing up and down in the high 190's for the past nine months, total enrolled EPC membership officially crossed 200 for the first time in late January. It now stands at 202.
 - Development of a prototype U.S. National Grid (USNG) "Best Practices" location marker for Lake County continues with expected posting of the first "test" markers sometime this summer. Interest in the project has now grown to include additional counties and organizations in the Arrowhead.
 - Anticipating some detail cleanup work on technical elements of the signs, re-brief of project details with a state government focus group, an initial prototype production run will occur within the next two months. Three graduate students have been recruited to produce "Coffee Break" training packages and quick reference guides for three different sectors: (1) Dispatch operators, (2) Responders, and (3) the General Public.

- Recruited and obtained support of Fire Chief Ulie Seal of Bloomington for a GITA/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) in the Twin Cities. Chief Seal’s participation is significant since he serves as Chair of the DHS State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council. The GECCo event will use a venue focused on emergency preparedness and response as a way of encouraging cross-governmental and public-private geospatial data sharing.
- Through an incredible team effort, EPC membership and MnGeo staff developed and hosted a substantial booth at the 2011 Minnesota Governor’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference. Displays and materials available to attendees highlighted the significant capabilities of Minnesota’s at-large geospatial community. Staged directly across from the event reception area, the booth featured an elevated flat panel TV where automated Power Point shows provided background information on MnGeo, EPC efforts, the Mn/DOT road closure application, HAZUS, GEMS, GPS use for Search And Rescue, USNG, Mn DNR’s Wildfire GIS community and much more. In addition, maps, flyers, and brochures on a wide variety of related topics were distributed. Traffic at the booth was substantial. Nearly all items available to attendees can be found at this web site set up for the event:
<https://sites.google.com/site/mngeoepc/>.
- As detailed below, continued an aggressive campaign of outreach and engagement concerning GIS use in the emergency services sector:

Date	Event	Location	Type	Participants
February 9	Lake County USNG Location Marker Meeting	Silver Bay, MN	Coordination	Swazee, Basques
March 1	Civil Air Patrol ARCHER Meeting	St. Paul, MN	Coordination	Swazee, Basques, Weinberger, Pherson, Cialek, Dickerson
March 8-9	Minnesota Governor’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference	St. Paul, MN	Table	Hoshal, Swazee, Knippel, Givens, Snegosky, Basques, Brenes, Dickerson, Martin, Chinander, Weinberger, Anderson, Wenzl

2.) Meetings held/scheduled:

FY2011 Meetings Held	Event Link
September 9	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7588
December 9	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7488
March 3	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7590
FY2011 Meetings Scheduled	Event Link
June 9	http://www.gda.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=7591
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.) Every effort is made to make EPC quarterly meetings available to greater Minnesota through use of teleconferencing and a web-enabled presentation screen.

3.) The March 3, 2011 EPC meeting had the highest online participation since that approach was first tried in mid 2008. Nine individuals joined the meeting using the visual capability of Adobe Connect in the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and verbal capability of the Minnesota State teleconference system. Given this was just the second meeting where the EPC had a stable “outreach technology” available through these two systems, it is anticipated this type of participation will continue to grow significantly.

3.) Additional information or issues that need to be addressed:

A meeting between EPC members and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) ARCHER staff was held on March 1st in hopes of finding administrative and technical approaches that will improve usage and delivery of product from this platform. Unless substantial improvement in utilization can be achieved in short order, it appears the Minnesota Wing of CAP will lose its St. Paul-based ARCHER platform by early summer.

Subsequent to discussions with David Arbeit, commenced development of documentation that will support adoption of the EPC Geospatial Emergency Management Specialist (GEMS) training profile as a state standard for expertise in the combined realm of GIS and emergency management. Official state endorsement of the GEMS approach is thought critical to federal reimbursement for GIS support during disasters.

Hydrography Committee

The Committee last met on December 16 when a presentation by Sean Vaughn on Hydrologically Correcting Lidar Derived DEMS was featured; see [meeting notes](#). The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at 9:30 in MPCA’s St. Paul office. Topics will include: Watershed Documentation and Standards, and Modern and Legacy Watershed Data.

Standards Committee

Activities since January 1, 2011:

- Committee met in February.
- Reviewed comments received from the public review of the [draft Standard for Digital Stormwater System Data Exchange](#). Stormwater workgroup and Standards Committee are preparing responses to the comments.
- Formed a [Metadata Workgroup](#) with the following purposes:
 - To recommend changes to the Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines by evaluating new international standards.
 - To recommend a metadata format for web services.
 - To recommend methods for creating and editing metadata that are compatible with ArcGIS 10.

Geocoding Workgroup

Recent Accomplishments:

- [RFI drafted](#)

Recent Meetings:

None

Needs, Issues and Concerns:

The workgroup is encouraged by MnGeo's efforts to pursue data practices reform to address this issue of exchanging data between government agencies. **Any updates on data practices reform will be much appreciated.** The workgroup will need MnGeo's assistance in posting the RFI for potential geocoding solutions.

Geospatial Commons Workgroup

Activities since January 1, 2011:

- Monthly meetings
- Completed the testbed implementation of the Geospatial Commons
- Notified the geospatial community via a GIS/LIS Consortium e-announcement and linked to the test site
- Prepared a status report for sponsoring agencies and are requesting feedback before moving forward to create a project plan for a production version of the Commons (see the [workgroup webpage](#) for links to the testbed and status report)