

MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council

November 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Blazing Star Room, Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155

Attendees

Members: Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead; James Bunning, Scott County; Will Craig, University of Minnesota; Craig Erickson, Minnesota National Guard; Rick Gelbmann, Metropolitan Council; Marcus Grubbs, Headwaters Regional Development Commission; Jon Gustafson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Doug Hansen, Crow Wing County (via phone); John Mackiewicz, WSB & Associates; Robert McMaster, University of Minnesota; Stephen Misterek, City of Minneapolis; Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County; Ben Richason, St. Cloud State University; Dan Ross, MnGeo; Dawn Sherk, White Earth Nation; Gerry Sjerven, Minnesota Power; Steve Swazee, SharedGeo; Michelle Trager, Rice County; Sally Wakefield, SharedGeo.

Non-Members: Chris Cialek, MnGeo; Mike Dolbow, Agriculture; Dan Falbo, Esri; Brad Henry, University of Minnesota; Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Fred Logman, MnGeo; Susanne Maeder, MnGeo; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Jeff Storlie, St. Louis County (via video); Ron Wencil, U.S. Geological Survey

Welcome

Reinhardt called the meeting to order and welcomed new member, [Marcus Grubbs](#) of the Headwaters Regional Development Commission, who will represent the non-metro regional organization sector. He replaces Kody Thurnau who resigned from the council when he moved to a different job. Participants introduced themselves.

Minutes of September 5, 2012 Meeting

Motion to approve the September 5, 2012 [council meeting minutes](#) (Gelbmann/Wakefield). Motion carried.

Esri Master Purchase Agreement Update ([slides](#) 3-6)

Cialek described the features of Minnesota's Master Purchase Agreement with Esri which allows eligible organizations to purchase Esri software and services from contracts established by the Materials Management Division (MMD) for Minnesota state agencies. See slides for details about eligibility and features. The current contract expires December 1, 2012 and a two-year extension is being negotiated. For more information, see the [Cooperative Purchasing Opportunities webpage](#).

Committees and Workgroups Reports

MnGeo currently has [6 committees, 1 subcommittee and 3 workgroups](#). The following people gave verbal summaries of each group's purpose, activities, plans and issues to accompany the [written reports](#):

- Digital Cadastral Data Committee: Jeff Storlie
- Digital Elevation Committee: Ron Wencil
- LiDAR Research and Education Subcommittee: Ron Wencil
- Emergency Preparedness: Steve Swazee
- Hydrography: Susanne Maeder
- Outreach: Will Craig (no written report, but see [committee page](#))
- Standards Committee: Mark Kotz

- Geocoding Workgroup: Mike Dolbow
- Geospatial Commons Workgroup: Mark Kotz
- Metadata Workgroup: Nancy Rader

Additional comments:

- The Digital Cadastral Data Committee (DCDC) and the Standards Committee are coordinating public review of DCDC's proposed [Digital Cadastral Attribute Data Transfer Standard](#). The review period has been extended to allow input from additional stakeholders as well as comparison with a Department of Revenue (DOR) project that is drafting standard file and data element descriptions for cadastral attribute data. Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties, DNR and the Superior National Forest are conducting a pilot test of the attribute transfer standard in the Arrowhead region.
- The LiDAR Research and Education Subcommittee members are helping support a new online [LiDAR discussion forum](#) to provide technical support for Minnesota LiDAR elevation data users. They also are looking at the need to hydro condition LiDAR data so that the data better represents how water flows on the landscape.
- Emergency Preparedness: A pilot project in Lake County to use a standardized system for [marking locations with U.S. National Grid coordinates](#) is in final testing.
- Standards: A formal process is needed to adopt state standards.
- Standards: MetroGIS funded a [pilot project](#) to test the proposed [Draft Digital Stormwater System Data Exchange Standard](#).
- There promises to be new synergy between the Hydrography Committee and the Digital Elevation Committee (and its LiDAR R&E Subcommittee) as hydrography generated using high-resolution elevation data is compared with existing hydrography datasets.
- Maeder and Storlie will follow up to clarify how hydrography data is being used in conjunction with the county's parcel data.
- Outreach: Will aim to reach policymakers through venues other than [Mn GIS/LIS News](#). Now that MnGeo is part of MN.IT, there may be more coordination with MN.IT's Communications staff.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Mackiewicz will send a story about Carver County to Craig.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Wakefield will provide a contact for the St. Paul Legal Ledger to Craig.
- Geocoding has been waiting to become a high enough priority. This may happen as it becomes needed by a consolidated Help Desk, as well as by the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Geocoding also needs good address data for the entire state.
- Commons: There is special interest in this project at the executive level; a request has been submitted to the Governor's Office to include funding for the Commons in the next state budget. Having Minnesota's GIS data more easily found by starting in one place should make it easier to coordinate with other efforts, e.g., The National Map.
- One concern common to all committees and workgroups is how to sustain their efforts if key individuals are no longer actively participating?

MnGeo's Services, Projects and Priorities (Ross) ([slides](#) 13-19)

Ross briefly reviewed the input from council members and the public on MnGeo's top priorities. Council members felt that MnGeo's service offerings were generally on-target, primarily suggesting some increased effort in the areas of technology coordination, guidance and training coordination, with some reduction in project services. The ranking of priorities generally favored the Geospatial Commons and

orthophotos; although the public survey had the Commons ranked 4th, the submitted comments indicated that respondents actually most wanted services that the Commons would provide. See slides for details.

- MnDOT may end up moving forward the street centerline effort. They're working on a MetroGIS-sponsored pilot project and will be purchasing a new tool to help them meet Next Generation 911 needs for this data.
- Many of these priorities are for initial **acquisition** of data. We need to also provide for sustainable **maintenance** and **stewardship**.
- Many of these efforts have been "on the list" for years. We need to get them done and, as needed, move them to a category of sustained projects.
- Do any of these priorities have dollar figures or levels of effort attached? The parcel plan and the Geospatial Commons have high level ballpark amounts; orthophotos changes depending on buy-ups and grants.

Committee and Workgroup Structure ([slides 7-12](#))

Following up on an action item from the Sept. 26 council meeting, MnGeo drafted a document clarifying structure and process for committees and workgroups and brought it to the council for discussion.

Member comments:

- Committees and workgroups are extremely important since they get much work done in-between the quarterly council meetings; they optimize the council's efforts. They will also be the foundation of information that the new Geospatial Technical Committee (GTC) will need.
- It's not part of the GTC's charter to form these groups. Formation of committees and workgroups should be driven by the community. Efforts usually start with a person or small group who have a strong passion for an issue. Efforts can form organically and incubate.
- We want to encourage collaboration and not lose grassroots efforts.
- How active do these groups need to be?
Arguments for steady activity:
 - Groups should set goals to get things done, meet regularly, finish work and disband.
 - MnGeo should focus only on supporting groups that are working on its top priorities.*Arguments for periodic activity:*
 - The need for some committees ebbs and flows. Do not throw away what we have. It's a lot of effort to form a group, disband, and then re-form – better to keep a group dormant but "on-call".
 - Example of county government committees: They are needed for policy implementation. Some committees meet often; some do not but they are needed when an issue comes up (e.g., Facilities).
- Perhaps workgroups should be steadily active, whereas committees may be periodic.
- Perhaps there's a way for MnGeo to acknowledge a group, and help it communicate without providing full support.
- Being recognized as a Council or MnGeo committee or workgroup adds legitimacy.
- Questions that may help assign priorities and resources:
 - What do you want to do? What should be the priorities of state government?
 - What do you need to support what you want to do?
 - Who is involved?
 - What support is needed and from whom?

- What level of activity is expected?
- What are the deliverables or outcomes going to be and when?
- Meet with each existing group and evaluate how each one aligns with MnGeo’s priorities. Vet these council suggestions with the current committee and workgroup chairs.
- Perhaps there could be a Data Committee with workgroups on specific data types. (This was done once or twice with the former Governor’s Council on Geographic Information. The data types were the Federal Geographic Data Committee’s 7 foundational layers plus soils.)
- Does MnGeo have a specific budget for support of these groups? No.
- What can committees and workgroups do on their own without MnGeo support?
- We should build upon what we have that has worked in the past.
- How does support tie to priorities? What do we mean by “support”?
- Re-examine how “support” is provided to see if resources can be more efficiently used.
- Funding opportunities like Legacy Funds help committees focus and produce.
- Committees that guide projects would be “steering committees” and would be assigned resources; they are not part of these committees and workgroups.
- Take a project management approach with defined tasks that people can commit to.

ACTION ITEM: Logman and Rader will revise the document to address member comments and will resend to members for their review.

Hot Topics: Location Privacy ([slides](#))

Swazee summarized a number of recent developments in the area of location privacy. Devices that record location, such as smart phones, drones, and GPS trackers, are proliferating, raising numerous privacy issues. The slides summarize recent introduced legislation and major legal cases. For more details on any of these issues, see the [EPC Updates blog](#).

Optimization ([slides](#) 21-23 and 26-30)

Ross provided an update on Phase 4, Optimization, of the IT Consolidation process. The Tactical Plan, as well as other planning documents, is [available online](#). Ross is drafting the details for the geospatial part of MN.IT Services’ Tactical Plan and will be discussing them with agencies. The geospatial optimization is to be completed in two years.

The five main areas that are being examined for optimization opportunities are:

- Infrastructure (hardware, software and support)
- Data Management
- Application Development and Management
- Guidance, Governance and Support
- Innovation (a “90-day sprint” group is already meeting about ArcGIS Online)

See slides for more details on each of these areas.

Information Items and Announcements

- **GAO Report:** [OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication](#). Wencl announced the availability of this report which concludes: “FGDC, federal departments and agencies, and OMB have not yet fully implemented policies and procedures for coordinating geospatial investments because these efforts have not been a priority.” The one-page summary of key findings and recommendations is on page 2.

- **Next Statewide Council Meeting:** The date still need to be determined since the proposed February 27 conflicts with a NSGIC meeting. It was also not clear whether the proposed May 29 meeting date would work for members.

ACTION ITEM: Determine the Statewide Council's next two meeting dates (Reinhardt and Ross)

- **Next State Government Council meeting:** February 6, 2013.

Meeting Adjourned. Notes by Nancy Rader.