

Greetings MetroGIS Policy Board Members and Alternates,

A quick note to wrap up our year and to keep you informed on our continuing inter-agency work.

First off, congratulations to our Policy Board Chair, Debbie Goettel, on her election to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in November. We look forward to her continued leadership in her new role! I will be working with the Metro Cities organization to fill their seats on our Board.

Metro Inter-Agency Project Briefs:

Road Centerlines and Address Point Data Development.

The metro partners, led by the County GIS Departments, continue to advance, and develop standardized road centerline and address point data. These data are vital for many uses in all sectors, with emphasis on supporting NextGen 911 applications.

Park and Trail Dataset.

The Seven Metropolitan County GIS departments are providing leadership and technical expertise on the creation of a **park and trail data standard and dataset**. Work began with requirements gathering in Fall 2016. This data will be used for planning, applications development, reporting and a variety of other government and data consumer needs.

New Memorandum of Agreement between Metro Counties and Metropolitan Council.

On December 12, 2016, the final signatures were collected to execute a new Memorandum of Agreement between the Seven Metropolitan Counties and the Metropolitan Council to develop, enhance and publish data in agreed upon data standards.

MetroGIS data standards forming the basis for state data standards.

The MetroGIS standard for parcel data exchange has been proposed, with a some additions, as the basis for a state-wide data standard under the MN Geospatial Advisory Council. The metro-developed address points data specification will also be proposed as a state-wide data exchange standard in 2017. MetroGIS is leading the way in helping to make important geospatial datasets easier to use in Minnesota.

Free and Open Public Geospatial Data.

As of this writing, twenty counties in Minnesota are now making their public geospatial data freely and openly available. These counties are making extensive use of the resources and reference material developed by the MetroGIS partners during 2013-2014 and have emulated the progressive approach taken by the Metropolitan Counties.

Working with the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota.

As increasing amounts of geospatial data are created, many older datasets and resources (both digital and analog) need to be archived. In 2016, MetroGIS facilitated a project between the

Borchert Map Library, Minnesota History Center, and the Metropolitan Council to store and make available digitally, a large set of regional aerial imagery from the 1950s and 1960s.

We will have more detailed updates on current and emerging projects at our **upcoming annual meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2017**.

(An Outlook Calendar invite and agenda will be sent out in early 2017).

Our sincere thanks for your continued attention and support; MetroGIS strives to be an example of how governments at all levels can work in partnership to develop data resources for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

Have a lovely and safe holiday!

Respectfully,
Geoff

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