

Carver County Board of Commissioners Request for Board Action



Agenda Item:

Resolution Supporting Free and Open GIS Data

Primary Originating Division/Dept:

Meeting

Date:

Contact:

Title:

Item Type:

Amount of Time Requested: minutes

Presenter:

Title:

Attachments: Yes No

Strategic Initiative:

Connections: Develop strong public partnerships and connect people to services and information

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:

MN government organizations are moving towards "free and open" GIS data sharing, removing the cost to acquire GIS data and eliminating licensing associated with restrictions on the use of the data. Public GIS data increases the return on public investment and provides significant benefits to citizens. Citizens can obtain the data and perform their own analysis.

The MetroGIS Policy Board, including County Commissioners from the seven metro counties, recommends that all local government entities in the metro area take action to make public geospatial data more freely and openly available based upon research conducted by the Metro County GIS Managers Workgroup.

Carver County does not charge for public GIS data, but currently license and copyrights datasets restricting what citizens can do with the data. There is a County fee for assembling the GIS data and licensing administration for data requests. These fees could be eliminated through free and open data published on the County's website. After the user accepts our terms and disclaimer, the data could be downloaded at no charge. Terms of the data disclaimer will be approved by the County Attorney's Office. This resolution is in support of the MetroGIS Policy Board recommendation in making public GIS data free and open to all.

Recently Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota County Board of Commissioners have passed a similar resolution, while remaining metro counties are working towards getting their own resolution passed.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Motion to adopt the Resolution Supporting Free and Open GIS Data.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If "Other", specify:

FUNDING

County Dollars =

FTE IMPACT:

Total

Related Financial/FTE Comments:

Eliminating revenue for cost recovery of staff time in distributing GIS data. Under \$1,000 per year.

Office use only:

RBA 2014 - 2468

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date:
Motion by Commissioner

Resolution #
Seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION FOR FREE AND OPEN GIS DATA

WHEREAS, Carver County creates, maintains and possesses valuable geographic information systems (GIS) data to support its various business purposes; and

WHEREAS, Carver County recognizes that this GIS data is also a public resource and there are significant benefits to making this data freely and openly available; and

WHEREAS, the emergence and continued refinement of new information technology has dramatically changed the way citizens search for and expect to find, consume and utilize information, and such technology can aggregate ever larger quantities of data and allow government to provide information to the public with increasing efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Carver County can leverage this technology to meet the public demand for information, enhance public access to government data and make government processes transparent in order to promote public trust; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the quality, consistency and availability of such data is a core function of government and is essential to maintaining the data's value and utility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Information Technology Department to publish its public geospatial data on its website in a commonly recognized and easily produced form, available for download by anyone at no cost, subject to accepting the terms of the data disclaimer GIS data usage agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby reserves the right for county business units to charge fees for GIS data provided in other forms and to accommodate special requests for maps, data, and analysis under the applicable rules and statutes that govern said requests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes qualified members of its staff to coordinate with other counties, cities, governments and agencies through the MetroGIS collaborative or through state agencies to share and publish its GIS data in common formats through common websites and public data portals to increase public awareness of its availability and promote its use.

YES	ABSENT	NO
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF CARVER

I, David Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the _____, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2014

County Administrator