Update notification to the MetroGIS Policy Board in lieu of meeting on January 22, 2014

Greetings MetroGIS Policy Board and Alternates,

First off, a very Happy New Year to you all.

No meeting on January 22, 2014:

We will **not** be convening in person on our next scheduled meeting date of January 22, 2014.
This email is intended to provide an *update brief in lieu of that meeting.*
Our next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Free and Open Public Geospatial Data Update:

As per your direction at our October 23, 2013 meeting, a Letter of Support and related materials have been directed to the County Board Chairs and County Administrators of the Seven Metropolitan Counties.

Currently, the recommendation for the adoption of policies for free and open public geospatial data are under review and consideration in several of the Seven Metropolitan Counties. Responses from counties currently acting on the recommendation is favorable.

In Hennepin County, a draft resolution for Free and Open Public Geospatial Data will be communicated at the January 28 Board Meeting and will be in Committee for approval on February 4th.

Additional outreach by MetroGIS to cities *(including to Metro Cities, League of Minnesota Cities and similar organizations)* and other data producing agencies and governments on the issue of free and open data is anticipated in 2014 by members of the MetroGIS community.

Coordinating Committee Activity

After serving a term as Committee Chair, David Bitner was awarded MetroGIS' Leadership Service Award at our January 9, 2014 meeting. The Committee gave its sincere thanks to David for his guidance and leadership during his term as Chair.

Erik Dahl, GIS Analyst/Planner from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has been elected as the new Committee Chair for 2014-2015.
David Brandt, GIS Coordinator for Washington County, was elected to a second term as Vice Chair for 2014-2015.

Budget and Work Plan

The Coordinating Committee approved the MetroGIS Work Plan for 2014.
The updated work plan document is on front page of our existing website: www.metrogis.org
The Metropolitan Council has once again allotted $86,000 in program funding for MetroGIS in 2014, the majority of which will be used for the new website.

Key initiatives for 2014 include:
- Continual development and refinement of the **Address Points Editor Tool**

- **Address Points Aggregation**
- Continued support for the **Statewide Centerlines Initiative**
- Continued support for the **Minnesota Geospatial Commons** (statewide geodata clearinghouse)
- Outreach to **counties adjacent to the metro on shared issues of interest for cost savings and reducing redundant effort**
- Planning for a **private sector/public sector data summit**
- Formal support for research and documentation for the development of a **regional stormsewer dataset** and analysis of the existing stormsewer data standard.

At the heart of all these initiatives is the aim of making and sharing data so **governments at all levels can operate easier, cheaper and more efficiently.**

New MetroGIS Website
The Metropolitan Council executed a contract with High Monkey, a Roseville, Minnesota based web design and development firm in December 2013. The new site is anticipated to launch in early April 2014.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments about the work of MetroGIS. I am happy to assist you in any way I can.

Many thanks for your continued interest in and attention to MetroGIS.

Respectfully,
Geoff

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