

**AGENDA #6.2  
SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION  
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2015**

<b>ORIGINATING DIVISION: ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:</b>	IT GIS	<b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENTER:</b>	Tony Monsour	<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Open Data	<b>TIME REQUESTED:</b>	10 Minutes
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Adopt Resolution No. 2015-204; Authorizing Scott County to Provide Free and Open Geospatial Data		
<b>CONTRACT/POLICY/GRANT:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> County Attorney Review <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management Review	<b>FISCAL:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Review <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Change
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a Supportive Organizational Culture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop Strong Public Partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage Challenges and Create Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Assure Long Term Fiscal Stability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emphasize Excellence in Customer Service		
<b>DEPARTMENT/DIVISION HEAD SIGNATURE:</b>		<b>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>Approved:</b>		<b>DISTRIBUTION/FILING INSTRUCTIONS:</b>  Tony Monsour	
<b>Denied:</b>			
<b>Tabled:</b>			
<b>Other:</b>			
<b>Deputy Clerk :</b>			
<b>Date:</b>			

**Background/Justification:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to adopt Resolution No. 2015-204 authorizing Scott County to provide free and open geospatial data.

Scott County currently provides public geospatial data to private businesses and the general public under a data license agreement and charges fees based on a per record or per layer cost schedule. These fee schedules are common practice and are allowed for geospatial data under the Minnesota Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. 13.03, subd. 3(d)). Along with each data transfer is a disclaimer absolving the County from liability should an issue arise due to the data being used as an authoritative information and boundary information dataset. Before the distribution of the data the license agreement must be signed which further restricts the usage and redistribution of the data.

Following the trend of government transparency and open government, the MetroGIS Policy Board has recommended that all local government entities in the Seven County Metro Area take action and make public geospatial data freely and openly available. Presently the six other metro counties have all passed resolutions giving open access to their data without the restrictions or process of filing a license agreement with the County.

The Scott County GIS department believes it should provide the public its data at no cost and without constraints, fully corroborating with the MetroGIS Policy Board recommendation of free and open access to geospatial data. Established in 1990 (Minn. Stat. 13.03, Subd3(d-f)), counties and cities were granted the ability to charge fees for their geospatial data as a means to capture the costs of developing and maintaining information as well as supplement the cost of hardware and staff time. However, with advances in technology, the maturity of our information and processes, as well as changes in the legal landscapes and expectations on public government produced data, the value and benefit to the public now outweighs the decreasing amount of revenue from collected fees.

Direct benefits to the County include:

- Readily available data is a clear demonstration of an agencies desire to act openly and efficiently;
- To proactively—rather than reactively—meet the ever-growing and increasingly sophisticated public expectation of, and appetite for, data of all types;
- More efficient use of agency staff time and resources. Instead of responding to and processing requests, staff time can be directed to more productive work;
- The changing perception of government agencies as being resources and partners, rather than as an obstacle or ‘gatekeeper’; and
- The consistent availability of reliable, authoritative, and ‘ready-to-use’ data is a resource of increasing importance for entrepreneurial decision making and business success.

Having a single portal location to send customers to minimizes the cost of County staff time and provides customers with an interface to view, analyze, and download the data; thereby eliminating inconsistencies in data accuracies, formatting, and charges. By having a centralized location for geospatial data we can ensure the quality, consistency, and availability of it County wide and increase the utility and value of this data. By leveraging the latest technology we will be able to meet the current and future public demand for geospatial data and promote the sharing and use of this data and increase transparency of our local government.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends following the MetroGIS Policy Board recommendation to provide public geospatial information on the county website for free and without license, which will eliminate current fees for digital data. A disclaimer will be provided, protecting the county against any liabilities (466.03 Subd.21). The County would retain the ability to charge and collect fees for customers who do not use the GIS portal and special requests for custom data formatting and map making. The current fee schedule for printed maps will remain the same.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Minimal impact to operating budget.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

<b>Date:</b>	October 6, 2015
<b>Resolution No.:</b>	2015-204
<b>Motion by Commissioner:</b>	
<b>Seconded by Commissioner:</b>	

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-204; AUTHORIZING SCOTT COUNTY  
TO PROVIDE FREE AND OPEN GEOSPATIAL DATA**

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

WHEREAS, the County of Scott, Minnesota 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, the County of Scott, Minnesota 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 Scott County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Scott County GIS/IT 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Scott 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 customers who do not utilize the GIS portal and special requests for maps, data, and analysis under the applicable rules and statutes that govern said requests.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

<b>Date:</b>	October 6, 2015
<b>Resolution No.:</b>	2015-204
<b>Motion by Commissioner:</b>	
<b>Seconded by Commissioner:</b>	

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Scott 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.

<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
Wagner	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Wolf	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Beard	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Marschall	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Ulrich	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

**State of Minnesota)  
County of Scott    )**

I, Gary L. Shelton, duly appointed qualified County Administrator for the County of Scott, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Scott County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 6th day of October, 2015 now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.  
Witness my hand and official seal at Shakopee, Minnesota, this 6th day of October, 2015.

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County Administrator  
Administrator's Designee