MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 21, 2017: 1:00 – 3:30 pm
Metro Counties Government Center, 2099 University Avenue, St Paul

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Attendees:
Matt Baker, Metropolitan Airports Commission
David Brandt, Washington County, Vice Chair
Erik Dahl, Environmental Quality Board, Chair
Chad Riley, Carver County
Andra Bontrager, MCEA
Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council
Curt Carlson, Independent Contractor
Carrie Magnuson, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District
Jared Haas, City of Shoreview
Jeff Matson, CURA-University of Minnesota
Dan Tinklenberg, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
Dan Ross, MnGeo
Alex Blenkush, Hennepin County
Ben Verbick, LOGIS
Norine Wilczek, MnDOT
Joe Sapletal, Dakota County

Guests:
Jessica Nelson, Minnesota State University at Mankato

Staff:
Geoff Maas, MetroGIS Coordinator

1) Call to Order
Chair Dahl called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM

2) Approval of Meeting Agenda
Motion to approve: Verbick, Second, Brandt
Vote: unanimous approval, motion carried

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2017
Motion to approve: Kotz, Second, Brandt
Vote: unanimous approval, motion carried

4) Andra Bontrager to Non-Profit Seat to MetroGIS Coordinating Committee
On June 19, 2017, Ms. Bontrager, GIS Specialist at MCEA, tendered a letter of request to fill the Non-Profit Seat that has been vacant for some time. This letter was circulated to membership in July 2017, no comments were received on her request to join.

Motion to approve Bontrager's membership: Brandt, Second: Kotz,
Vote: unanimous approval, motion carried.

The group welcomed Ms. Bontrager to the Committee and looks forward to her participation and contributions.

5) Policy Board Update
Maas reminded the group that next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018. At present, two Metro Cities seats remain vacant, Maas tendered a request to the Metro Cities organization for them to select tow members to represent their interest. Maas also indicated that the annual Policy Board meeting is an ideal setting for technical and managerial staff from the metro region to present to the collective leadership and to contact him if they wish to plan a formal presentation for next year's meeting.

6) Regional Parcel Data Service
Maas and Kotz updated the group on the Regional Parcel Data Service development. The Metropolitan Council has developed a parcel service for its internal use to be consumed by MetCouncil applications. Once the Council has completed its SQL Server updates, updates to Version 10.5.1 of ArcGIS and other hardware updates, it will be able to make the service available to the public. The service uses the Regional Parcel Dataset that is collected quarterly. Matt McGuire of the Metropolitan Council GIS office will be the primary contact for the Regional Parcel Data Service.

7) Standards Development Update
Maas, who is also the chair of the Standards Committee, updated the group on the various standards under review and in development in the state. The Address Point Standard was approved for a public stakeholder review by the Standards Committee on June 21, 2017. This standard represents a fusion of the NextGen9-1-1 and Metro Address point standards. The 60-day review period began on July 24, 2017 and is set to end on September 22, 2017. A significant outreach effort was undertaken by the Standards Committee, reaching out to county and city GIS managers and staff statewide, ES-PSAP-911 interests, watershed district contacts, regional, state, tribal and federal government interests as well as the League of Minnesota Cities contacts and the Minnesota Clerks and Fiscal Officers Association. The League of Minnesota Cities additionally offered to post a notice with links to the Address Standard materials on it notices and announcements website.

The Parcel Data Transfer Standard was put on 'hold' for any further advancement by the Parcel and Land Records Committee. The parcel standard had a public review period from Oct 2016 to Jan 2017, with publication of input received in February of 2017. The Parcel and Land Records Committee made the decision to 'freeze' advancement of the standard until the Address Point Standard had been reviewed and adopted.

In terms of working toward an eventual statewide road centerline standard, there remains a strong potential for the two current projects; the MRCC and the NextGen9-1-1 effort to merge or support one or the other as a potential standard candidate;

Two other standards are also in the works, the Disaster Assessment Standard and hDEM standard. For the Disaster Assessment Standard, a work team under the GAC Emergency Preparedness Committee is reviewing existing standards and developing one that blends their strongest elements as a potential candidate. Cory Richter (City of Blaine), Todd Lusk (Dakota County), Brad Anderson (City of Moorhead) and Philip Nagel (City of Waseca) are the core of that work team. The hDEM Standard effort, led by Sean Vaughn of the DNR needs more internal DNR review and the support of the 3D Geomatics Committee. This standard involves specifications for digital terrain development practices for hydro-modified DEM and derived hydrological data.

The next GAC Standards Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2017, 1 pm, where the committee will review and decide upon the Address Point Standard. If you are interested in the status or development of standards, please contact the chair Geoff) or vice chair (Andra) or any of work groups and committees working on the standards.

8) Current Work Plan Projects Updates

8.1) Support for the Geospatial Commons
As of September 21, 2017, the Geospatial Commons held 696 resources from 29 different agencies. Dan Ross indicated that the new re-branding of the Commons is to be launched on September 28.

8.2) Free + Open Public Geospatial Data Initiative
As of September 22, there are twenty-five counties in Minnesota with open data, with another six in the review and consideration phase.

8.3) Address Point Aggregation
At present, the Regional Address Point dataset is collected twice per year (April and October) by the Metropolitan Council and published as a regional dataset on the Commons. To date, five of the seven metro counties are contributing data, with Anoka and Washington Counties still developing their data. The advance of regional data hosting—developed initially for the MRCC, but anticipated to take in other data as well—plus the plans to develop a new Address Editor Tool serve to advance the activities around address point development and aggregation.

8.4) Metro Regional Centerlines Collaborative.
Regional partners continue to refine the dataset and data standard. An interim, Version 1.6 of the data standard has been developed (removing theoretical address ranges and adding new values to existing domains) is planned to be published to the Commons on September 27, and the MRCC Build Team (technical team) is convening for a three-hour in-person work session on September 28 to review and approve modifications to the standard and resolve outstanding coincident geometry issues.

8.5) Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard
The Park and Trail Build Team, led by Alex Blenkush of Hennepin County, continue to work toward the refinement of Version 1.1 of the data standard. Key points of discussion include refining the 'stock' Unique ID from the NRPA standard to create something that is most useful to the metro partners for relational database work. The Build Team is set to have their quarterly conference call on Thursday, October 11 to confirm details and next steps for the project. Adoption of Version 1.1 by the project Core Team will inform the next phase of the data build. Once sufficient attribution has been added, there is consensus amongst project leadership to publish the dataset publicly on the Geospatial Commons.

8.6) Statewide Centerlines Initiative
The NextGen9-1-1 centerlines effort continued to review and refine its standard with its statewide partners and significant communications between the 911 effort and MRCC effort continue. The upcoming September 28 meeting of the MRCC Built Team anticipates the discussion of closer alignment with 911 attribution. It is anticipated that hybrid of the MRCC and 911 centerlines could be within reach and be a candidate for a statewide centerline standard.

8.7) Metro Regional Stormwater Dataset
The project to date has remained in research/info gathering mode, however, recent developments within Hennepin County—a strong business advanced by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority—indicates potential for new momentum. Gary Swenson has invited the metro stormwater co-coordinators Maas and Magnuson to prepare a memo of the regional projects intent and how the county and regional efforts may be able to potentially join forces. Maas anticipates setting up a 'stormwater data summit' during the winter to document additional business needs and develop a steering team to drive a regional effort for how to advance a data standard and potentially a dataset. Maas will assemble a draft memo later in October to the Hennepin County GIS office be get that process rolling. Agencies, especially private engineering firms, continue to contact Maas with interest in the topic. Should a summit be put on the calendar, a strong turnout is anticipated.

8.8) MetroPlus Free Geocoder
No new action by the work team has taken place since the last meeting. The Metropolitan Council has made its geocoder resources available, however, this resource

is limited to the metro-region. A business need for a freely available statewide geocoder resource remains.

9) New MetroGIS Project Proposals for 2018 Work Plan
Two new project proposals have been submitted for review by the Committee for its 2018 work planning cycle.

9.1) Metro Address Editor Tool (Web App Builder). This project was proposed by Metro Address Work Group in response to the gaps in functionality of the previous Address Editor Tools. The last version of the Address Points Editor tool was released in early 2015. This project is to complete an Address Points Editor Upgrade. This includes assessing the status of the current tool, revisit the ideas for improvements of the current tool since the last version was released, and migrate the tool functionality using the WebApp Builder (WAB).

The goal of the project is to develop a new tool to replace the current Address Points Editor Tool, to explore and endorse migrating to WAB Determine the functions that will be in scope for a new WAB tool Identify unique capabilities needed to extend WAB Identify functionality that Project Team Members can develop in WAB Consult with North Point on feasibility of repackaging existing modules as WAB widgets Develop and execute a work plan Ensure the resulting application to be freely sharable – not restricted to just MN government What general purpose or business need is being fulfilled by this project? Upgrade the application to currently supported software and expanding the capabilities to field users by adopting a framework that supports operations on a variety of devices (mobile and desktop). What does success 'look like' for this project? Resulting editing tool will be functional, use new technology, meet the needs of stakeholders, and be used in their business processes.

Dakota County staff have offered to serve as leadership for the effort assisted by the Metropolitan Council and with the contribution of the following anticipated project team members:

- Jacqueline Kovarik, Carver County
- Todd Lusk, Dakota County
- Joe Sapletal, Dakota County
- Jessica Fendos, Ramsey County
- Jason Allen, Scott County
- Tony Monsour (back-up) Scott County
- Doug Matzek, Washington County
- Tanya Mayer, Metropolitan Council
- Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council
- Dan Ross, MnGeo

MetroGIS has offered to make funding available from its 2018 budget to support the project; anticipated to be less than $25,000.

9.2) Addressing Resource Guide. This project was proposed by Geoff Maas, the aim of this proposed effort is simply the aggregation, compilation and editing of relevant addressing research to assist non-geospatial professionals better understand best practices and processes for assigning addresses. In recent discussions with League of Minnesota Cities CIO Melissa Reader, Maas indicated that Reader mentioned that one of the most frequent requests for help received by the League is by city staff (clerks, etc.) who would like more and better information on how to best assign addresses. Maas has volunteered to perform the majority of the compilation work and is asking for the Committee's approval to include it on the 2018 Work Plan and for the editorial review by the Metro Address Work Group and other interested members as they wish.

Maas indicated he would be making use of the deep expertise of skilled individuals like Cory Richter of the City of Blaine who, during her tenure at St. Paul, was instrumental in getting their addressing documentation compiled and edited.

10) Work Plan Prioritization in 2018. Mark Kotz led the group in the annual prioritization exercise for ranking project priorities for the 2018 work planning cycle. Kotz explained the process for prioritizing projects with inclusion of the weighted success score, inclusion of the survey results, value scores and 'likelihood or success' considerations to develop the final ranking. Conducting the prioritization helps give the Committee a consistent, mutually agreed-upon ranking of projects for work, it helps set the work plan and focus for the MetroGIS Coordinator's work plan and documents MetroGIS' list of priorities against those of other groups to determine where shared effort can be maximized.

Based upon the input of the group, the ranking of projects for 2018 is as follows:

Priority 1:   Address Point Aggregation (Active)
Priority 2:   Updated Metro Address Editor Tool (New Project, Active)
Priority 3:   Addressing Resource Guide (New Project, Active)
Priority 4:   Metro Regional Centerlines Collaborative (Active)
Priority 5:   Metro Park and Trail Dataset/Data Standard (Active)
Priority 6:   Regional Stormwater Dataset "StormFlow" (Initiation in 2018)
Priority 7:   Free + Open Public Geospatial Data (On-Going/Maintenance)
Priority 8:   Support for the Geospatial Commons (On-Going/Maintenance)
Priority 9:   Statewide Centerlines Initiative (Active) – Tied to forthcoming standards

Three projects remain on the project list, but were not added to the active work plan for the 2018 work cycle, these include:

MetroPlus Free Geocoder
Increased Parcel Update Frequency
Create Regional Basemap Services

Maas will prepare the Draft 2018 Work Plan with the new project priority rankings for Committee review and approval at the December Coordinating Committee meeting.

11) Lightning Round Update. Lightning round updates from participating members on the progress, activities and new projects being undertaken in their various agencies;

Andra Bontrager (MCEA) – No updates

Carrie Magnuson (Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District) – no updates

Norine Wilczek (MNDOT) – No updates

Jeff Matson (CURA) – No new major projects to report on, however, with school back in session we will have student workers available for internships and projects, please contact me if you have a need for student help on projects.

Jessica Nelson (Minnesota State University-Mankato) – The Southeastern Minnesota and South-Central Minnesota GIS User Groups will be having a joint meeting in Owatonna on October 26, it will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon, with a lunch offered and a tour of the Owatonna Public Works facility.

Chad Riley (Carver County) – Carver County continues to work on its open data portal. Over the last couple of months, we have redesigned it and are looking at other potential data to start pushing out; we have been using Ramsey County and City of St. Paul as an example, looking at what they are doing, and thinking about a new strategy for what to put out there and are examining the potential to participate more directly with the Geospatial Commons. We are also working more extensively with WebApp Builder, Jackie (Kovarik) and Craig (Prisland) in our office are working with it and will be presenting on it at the Conference.

Matt Baker (Metro Airports Commission) – The MAC continues to develop its enterprise GIS system; our goal is to have the work completed prior to the Super Bowl. We are incorporating everything from wayfinding in the airports to considerations or public safety, it is a large project, but we continue to move on it.

Vic Barnett (Metro Emergency Services Board). We continue to work to synchronize the data used for the regional E911 system with the incoming county GIS data; our current

phase of the project is nearing completion; the metro counties are at or near a 1% difference in their data sets; we are seeing really good quality. We want to find ways to encourage and maintain this over the longer term, the more we all learn about the needs the further we will be along for future work. Automation of the data aggregation process is part of the MESB's strategic planning, we need to communicate more with the GIS managers around the metro and get their thoughts on how to do that.

Jared Haas (City of Shoreview) – no updates

Dan Tinklenberg (SRF Consulting Group) – At SRF, we are re-building our internal ArcGIS server, we will be looking for interns as well for GIS assistance. One thing I have noticed and appreciate are the large numbers of the rural counties in Minnesota which have more and more open data available. From the private sector perspective, it has never been easier to get geospatial data from government partners.

Curt Carlson (Independent Contractor) – I have been working independently and doing some contract work for Ramsey County. My independent work is focused on GIS real estate sales information; I have five clients signed up for weekly reports of sales.

Alex Blenkush (Hennepin County) – Hennepin County has as large number of projects in the works, we are busy managing the metro park and trails effort, our UI2 application (a custom mapping application for local and utility company to enter project locations in to streamline collaboration progress) is going well we have about 20 users. We have used a similar approach for a new application released adopt a highway project, custom application for county roads helps volunteers see which roads are up for adoption, and interested groups can sign up through a custom application. The county is also in the process of selecting a vendor for its 2018 flight; vendor demos are complete and the review team will be making a selection before the end of calendar 2017.

Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council) – We are beginning a significant upgrade of our GIS environment, we have been working on the SDE database with SQL Server 2008 for a long time and this has unfortunately limited our ability to perform ArcGIS upgrades prevented ArcGIS upgrades. We are finally upgrading the SQL Server which will enable us to upgrade to ArcGIS 10.5.1. If you use our map services, we will be putting them onto a new system where there will be once service per server, whereas now we have 20 or 30 lumped together on one server. We look forward to having that updated.

Dan Ross (MnGeo) – The newest work at the state is our park and trail effort, which we look to roll out in November, it is a bit different than the metro effort, we are working toward an application that enables users to search by recreational activity and drill down to the local level and use the local or county website to find the resource they want.

Joe Sapletal (Dakota County) – As mentioned, I'm chairing the Address Editor Work Group, we are looking forward to getting that effort moving. Earlier this week, we selected a vendor for our fall flight for aerial photography, we anticipate getting that data later in the year. IF you are at the conference, I recommend you go see Randy's presentation on drones, we have had a pilot project with our highway department and team sheriff's department, we are seeing the potential for using drones for emergency preparedness work and for damage assessment as well.

Geoff Maas (MetroGIS) – No updates, other than I hope as many of you as possible will be attending the GIS/LIS Conference this year in Bemidji, it looks to be a good one. The Conference Committee has put a lot of work in and is anticipating a solid turn out.

David Brandt (Washington County) – We are deep into the Comprehensive Planning process at the county as well as our development of address points, we have a special project person on board through Feb 2018 to assist with that. We have gone through all our multi-tenant parcels in preparation for Census and LUCA and we have contracted with Pictometry to do our building footprints, structural locations, working with them through mid-October. I sat in on the request-for-proposals session hosted by Hennepin County for oblique imagery; we got to review demos of the process; there were lots of good questions from the vendors that presenting, it's clear that the technology and availability of oblique imagery is coming a long way from where it was in recent years.

Erik Dahl (Environmental Quality Board) – no updates;

12) Next Coordinating Committee Meeting:
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Metro County Government Center
2099 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

13) Adjournment
Chair Dahl adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm