



MetroGIS Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2012

Metro Counties Government Center, 2099 University Avenue, St Paul, MN

Meeting Attendance:

MetroGIS Coordinating Committee:

David Bitner, *dbSpatial*
Dave Brandt, *Washington County, (acting Chairman)*
Bill Brown, *Hennepin County*
Jim Bunning, *Scott County*
Gordon Chinander, *Metropolitan Emergency Services Board*
Rick Gelbmann, *Metropolitan Council*
Francis Harvey, *University of Minnesota*
Brad Henry, *University of Minnesota*
Randy Knippel, *Dakota County*
Mark Kotz, *Metropolitan Council*
Mark Maloney, *City of Shoreview/Metro Cities*
Jeff Matson, *CURA/University of Minnesota*
Bob O'Neill, *City of Bloomington*
Chad Riley, *Carver County (for Pete Henschel)*
Nancy Read, *Metropolitan Mosquito Control Board*
Dan Ross, *MnGeo*
Ben Verbick, *LOGIS*
Ron Wencil, *USGS*

Guest Presenter:

Emily Resseger, *Metropolitan Council Environmental Services*

Staff:

Geoff Maas, *MetroGIS Coordinator*
Paul Peterson, *MetroGIS Project Manager*

1) Call to Order

Acting Chair Brandt: called meeting to order at 1:05 pm

2) Approve December 20, 2012 Agenda

Unanimous approval of agenda.

3) Approve Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2012

Motion: Bunning, Second: Verbick; so moved.

4) Introduction of new MetCouncil/MetroGIS Project Manager Paul Peterson

Coordinator Maas introduced Paul Peterson, the MetCouncil/MetroGIS Project Manager. Mr. Peterson described his background and experience.

5) Summary of Recent Policy Board Activity

Coordinator Maas provided a brief on the activities and discussion from the last Policy Board meeting (October 17, 2012).

6) Lightning Round

The following represents a good faith effort to capture the points made by participants and is not intended to be a word for word transcription of their points of discussion.

Brandt (Washington County): Washington County as stood up their Amazon cloud instance; easier to make data public, reduces their need for external contractors

Henry (U of M): Working with MnDOT on new initiative that might impact us (no immediate details are currently available)

Brown (Hennepin County): Major addressing updates on Hennepin County, evolving similar to address points initiative underway by MetroGIS. Bob Moulder (Survey) is retiring, Hennepin County will be hiring a new GIS manager for the survey division, will be appoint person to work with MetroGIS. Hennepin County is also re-computing the riparian boundaries; and conducting updates to county's parcel viewer website.

Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council): Welcome to Paul Peterson, quick overview of work presently underway with Corridors of Opportunity, Transit Oriented Development analysis and related activities
Variety of data examined; how we access nonprofit data, variety of sources,

Ross (MnGeo): 90 day sprint to figure out government needs, expanded use of ArcGIS on-line and update on the Centerline initiative

Riley (Carver County): Putting out a handful of applications from Carver's collaboration with Dakota and Scott Counties but will launch independently.

Bunning (Scott County): Pass

Verbick (LOGIS): Pass

Maloney (City of Shoreview): Surface water management and ground management in the works in Shoreview, stressed exploration for the tools that are needed to help local governments; need to work together to avoid a turf grad 'turf grab' between agencies.

O'Neill (City of Bloomington): The city is continuing its integration of systems property and inspection data

Matson (CURA/U of M): early stages of planning a "hackathon" for data visualization; community coders and data producers to develop info graphics maps, mash-ups and dashboards, coinciding with USA Neighborhoods and FOSS4GIS conferences; good opportunity to expand the participant community.

Wencl (USGS): 2012 ortho-imagery for NGA, flown this spring, blocked in National Grid will be served on MnGeo's image server

Chinander (MESB): Continued work on the addressing audit, official street naming and addressing issues. Continued resolution of city/county naming discrepancies; encouraged to hear that Hennepin County is up and running with their new initiative.

Harvey (U of M): Working toward a geospatial umbrella organization to support spatial research, includes seven other colleges and other units and agencies; currently 1,000 people are connected through training activities; looking for ways to leverage resources.

Bitner (Business Geographics): FOSS4GIS hosted in Mpls in May 2013, registration will open in the first week of January 2013. Keynote speakers include Erik Dicecamp (sp?) (*Chief Technical Lead for Obama's campaign; utilized a number of open source approaches*) and Eric Gunderson, CEO of MapBox, an open source development firm.

Read (MMCB): Working on updating wetland maps and reviewing the National Wetland Inventory maps in the east and center of the Metro region.

Knippel (Dakota County): Update on the data producer workgroup, morphed into a collaborative seven metro counties plus Olmsted driven by county administrators to find cost savings includes both IT and GIS. Presently in process of finding and itemizing obstacles and things that are not treated uniformly, and reporting these back to their administration, over time the desire is for consistent authority and processes.

Some examples include:

- 1) Legal contract requirements differ from county to county;
- 2) GIS Managers don't have uniform budgeting responsibilities or mandate to directly collaborate;
- 3) Varying data practices and procedures; example: partnering to deal with recreation and park data may be seen as encouraging the use of parks/facilities outside of the county

Important to identify items outside of our individual purviews and make our administrations aware of them.

Knippel represented Minnesota at a West Coast summit of public safety GIS professionals (NAPSIG), National Grid for public safety; NAPSIG is well supported in the west and east coast and the tornado/ hurricane states; less so from the Midwest.

Also, recently reviewed HSIP Gold data; examination/view only at this point.

Kotz (Metropolitan Council): Address points update

Dakota County is testing a beta/demo of the application, well received by the group, interested in further testing

Henry (U of M): update on upcoming research on Google driverless cars, technical/legal/GIS aspects of this technology

Maas (MetroGIS): Thanks to the group for being responsive on calls, emails, surveys, etc.; update on external interest (outside Minnesota and the United States) on fielding question on how MetroGIS operates, is governed and funded.

Acting Chair Brandt suggested swapping the order of agenda items 7 and 8 in deference to presenter Emily Resseger's time.

7) Special Presentation

Emily Resseger, Principal Environmental Scientist with the Metropolitan Council presented "*Regional Water Resources Planning and the Usefulness of a Regional Stormwater Dataset*".

The purpose of her presentation was two-fold; to help inform the Coordinating Committee better understand the Council's role in water resource protection and analysis and to demonstrate the Council's business need for a reliable region-wide stormwater dataset; presentation is available in the Meeting Minutes link on the MetroGIS website.

A question and answer session followed Ms. Resseger's presentation with next steps identified.

These included:

Indication of need from cities who are being asked repeatedly to give out their data to a variety of agencies;
Reactivating the effort to complete the Draft Stormwater Data Standard;
Developing a second pilot study to understand the needs and challenges for a region-wide stormwater data layer;

The effort is not yet ready to be considered at a 'project' level by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee. Coordinator Maas indicated that recent conversations with GIS staff at several metro watershed districts, county soil and water conservation districts, MPCA and MnDOT indicated there is broad agency support for the project.

8) Action Items

8a) Addition of New Members to the Coordinating Committee

Recent resignation of David Bitner from Coordinating Committee Chairmanship and Metropolitan Airports Commission seat led to the awareness of the lack of a formal process for adding new members to the Coordinating Committee. The current Operating Guidelines does not delineate a process for adding prospective candidates.

Bitner sent his application of interest for filling the open Business Geographic seat and expressed his interest in continuing his role as MetroGIS Coordinating Committee Chair.

Action:

Approval of Bitner to fill vacant Business Geographics seat on Coordinating Committee:

Motion: Knippel, Second: Henry.

Discussion: none

Unanimous approval via vote.

Coordinator Maas is tasked with drafting and offering new language for potential candidates for vacant Coordinating Committee seats for review at the next meeting; adopted language will become part of the MetroGIS Operating Procedures document.

Procedure discussed for adding new members to the Coordinating Committee:

- Ask the prospective candidate to submit a letter of interest and bio;
- Bio is circulated to the Coordinating Committee prior to the next meeting;
- Candidate is invited to following Coordinating Committee meeting to meet and field questions from sitting members of the Committee and present on how their agency/institution/jurisdiction is involved with GIS and how it can represent the interest of their sector of the GIS community.
- Committee will vote on approval of the candidate

Former members of the Coordinating Committee (who have served previously and wish to return or wish to continue their service but from another seat or representing a different sector/interest) can be nominated by motion/second and approved without a vote.

8b) Election of Officers for 2013

Bitner expressed his interest in remaining the Chair, Brandt expressed his interest in remaining the Vice Chair.

Action:

Approval of Bitner for Chair, Brandt for Vice Chair for 2013.

Motion: Knippel, second, Verbick.

Discussion: none; unanimous approval via vote.

Barring the resignation of either Bitner or Brandt, the next election of chair/vice chair positions will be held at the December 2014 Coordinating Committee Meeting.

Other issues discussed regarding membership:

Is there potential for the expansion of the MetroGIS 'coverage' area?

There is no direct barrier (legal or administrative mandate) to the participation of other counties outside the metropolitan area from MetroGIS; i.e. collar counties or bordering Wisconsin counties are welcome to participate but no formal invitation has been extended

Is there potential for the expansion MetroGIS' membership profile?

*Expansion of the Coordinating Committee seats is seen as desirable once existing vacancies have been filled.
Is more city and watershed district needed if we move ahead on the stormwater project?
Representation from the utilities sector is needed.*

These issues are part and parcel of the need for MetroGIS to adopt a clearer strategic direction. Increased clarity will result from the anticipated Policy Board reformation in January 2013 and completion of the 2013 Work Plan and Budget.

9) Discussion Items and Administrative Updates

9a) Policy Board Governance Change Update:

The October 17 Policy Board meeting led to a pointed discussion of the need to reshape the Policy Board. Fewer meetings with more impact and substance are seen as most desirable to keeping the elected officials and policy makers aware and involved in MetroGIS. Key challenge is to keep them informed and engaged without diluting the impact of the message.

*What role does the Policy Board play? (Advocates on the finance and policy side for the mission of MetroGIS)
What problems should they be solving? (Issues of policy and fiscal import)
Where are we tied to finance and tied to policy in a relevant way for them to act on?*

The most popular proposal from the October 17 discussions would entail the following three key features:

Change from Quarterly Meetings to one Annual Meeting:

The Policy Board would move from its current series of quarterly meetings to a single annual meeting. This single annual meeting would include project, work plan, and budget updates as well as a technology demonstration and selection of officers.

Ability to assemble a Policy Board Executive Committee or fully assembly of the Board as needed.

The Coordinating Committee Chair and Vice Chair can call for the assembly of an executive committee of the MetroGIS Policy Board (*composed of the Policy Board Chair or Vice Chair, Coordinating Committee Chair or Vice Chair, two elected officials on the Policy Board and the Policy Board representative from the Metropolitan Council*) or a full session of the Policy Board if needed.

Directed Outreach to Counties and Metropolitan Council

The MetroGIS Coordinator in tandem with a MetroGIS representative (Coordinating Committee Chair/Vice Chair or Policy Board Chair/Vice Chair) as well as the County GIS Manager would annually jointly brief the participating County Board and the Metropolitan Council on current MetroGIS projects, actions and initiatives. Scheduling the outreach with existing GIS workshops or other planned, related activities for commissioners and elected officials is seen as most desirable to maximize the message.

The Coordinating Committee indicated that its present governance needs can be met by moving from its current system to the one described above.

The next MetroGIS Policy Board meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2013.

9b) Legal Issues Forum/Discussion

This agenda item was tabled due to time constraints of the meeting.

9c) MetroGIS Work Plan Refinement

Mark Kotz (Metropolitan Council) presented a new methodology and approach to determining which projects and initiatives are to be actively pursued by MetroGIS. The new system is based upon the value to the business needs and operations of stakeholders, availability of funding, project owner, project champion and likelihood of success.

The Coordinating Committee worked through the list of past and proposed projects identifying which projects meet the above criteria and setting priority on which projects will be approved.

Kotz, Maas and Peterson have been tasked with drafting a new MetroGIS Work Plan based upon the input of the group. Draft plan will be reviewed by MetroGIS Work Plan Workgroup; draft will be taken before the Policy Board (informational, not for approval) and presented for approval at the March 2013 Coordinating Committee meeting.

10) Project Updates

Dan Ross (MnGeo) and Geoff Maas (MetroGIS) provided a brief overview of the progress on the Centerline Initiative including the two-day session on October 24-25 and the half day technical session on Dec 17. MnDOT has signed its contract with vendor ESRI to develop tools for its forthcoming Linear Reference System.

The Centerline Steering Committee leadership team will be convening in January 2013 to identify next steps, including approving the initial data model and attributes and to determine the pilot study area.

11) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013

12) Adjourn

Acting Chair Brandt adjourned the meeting at 3:33 PM