

Annual Report 2001: Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

Recognized Major GIS Accomplishments

Two projects were awarded a distinguished *Governor's Commendation* at the 2001 MN GIS/LIS Conference. This award is given to breakthrough efforts that serve the needs of others across the state, not just the home department.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Groundwater Model. This project is a good example of an organization that has formally created an on-going mechanism to share data and expertise with others outside of their organization. Further, they have made Metro Model resources, including individual groundwater models, supporting datasets, assorted maps, and complete documentation available in a usable and understandable format.
- Land Management Information Center's for The Minnesota GeoGateway. This "one stop" web search tool of the Minnesota Geographic Data Clearinghouse has helped thousands of GIS users discover publicly available data about Minnesota from more than 50 different organizations.

Communicated with Minnesota Stakeholders

- Held successful stakeholder meetings in St. Cloud and Mankato.
- Completed a guidebook for organizing stakeholder meetings to learn about accomplishments and needs.
- Prepared a PowerPoint presentation to be shown around Minnesota that describes the Council and documents the value of GIS to the state. It is targeted to both policy makers and GIS professionals.
- Published articles on key issues in the MN *GIS/LIS News*. Facilitated reprinting of an article in *Minnesota Cities* about the value of GIS to support new government accrual accounting rules (GASB).
- Updated brochure to show latest accomplishments.
- Prepared a list of key contacts to receive Council messages.

- Organized sessions and presentations at the MN GIS/LIS Annual Conference in Duluth.

Coordinated State Agencies

- Advised and supported LMIC efforts to create an enterprise GIS architecture to facilitate sharing of resources among all agencies.
- Coordinated state hydrographic discussions and data development activities to ensure interoperability within the state and across state boundaries.
- Worked with the state Electronic Real Estate Recording Task Force on GIS issues.

Worked on State Standards

- Completed work on a new *Water Basin Identification* standard and forwarded it to the state Architectural Review Board for approval.
- Worked on a draft watercourse/reach standard.
- Developed standard for coding cities, townships and unorganized territories and made it available for public review.

Data Development and Sharing

- Drafted a new *Data Distribution Guide* to provide state and local groups with key information on when and how to share data.
- Drafted an *Implementation Plan* for addressing land record data, involving key federal, state, local, and private personnel. Such *I-Plans* are expected to get significant attention for the federal Office of Management and Budget.
- Instituted a formal workgroup to address data needs for high resolution Digital Elevation Model and Floodplain Mapping.
- Facilitated adoption of MN DNR data into the 1:24,000 National Hydrographic Framework. Ten major watersheds were produced and 17 of 81 of the state's major watersheds are now complete.

- Worked for formal federal acceptance of Minnesota's hydrographic boundaries.

Plans for 2002-2003

Continue recognition, communications, coordination, standards and data work including:

Expand Efforts to Make Critical Data Available

- Finalize and publish *Data Distribution Guide*.
- Prepare a plan for the Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure and submit it as an *I-Plan* to OMB. The plan will cover the following areas:

Geodetic Control

Elevation

Political Boundaries

Transportation

Hydrography

Cadastral (ownership)

Orthophotography

Soils

- Monitor and support a University of Minnesota / MnDOT survey of local parcel activities.

Increase Outreach Efforts

- Complete work on a *Communication Plan* for the Council.
- Organize presentations of new PowerPoint show at state and local meetings.
- Experiment with teleconferencing to increase participation in Council meetings
- Increase the number and range of stakeholders involved in Council committees and workgroups.

Continue and Expand Standards Efforts

- Finalize work on the watercourse / reach standard and forward to formal review.
- Monitor and support LMIC's work on the state's GIS architecture

Interact with Federal Agencies on Key Issues

- Forward state *I-Plan* to OMB and begin lobbying for support from federal agencies to deliver their components of our state's data infrastructure.
- Gain FGDC acceptance for MN watershed data.
- Make key decisions about the value to Minnesota of increased involvement with two new USGS programs: *The National Map* and state Mapping Partnership Office.