

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

Recognized Major GIS Accomplishments

§ Awarded a Governor's commendation to the Minnesota DNR for its *Data Deli*, which offers the public access for hundreds of users to over 50 departmental data sets at no charge. Users are from all levels of government, the private sector, schools and colleges, and non-profits.

Communicated With Minnesota Stakeholders

§ Reduced a 20 page annual report to an easy-to-read brochure.

§ Held meetings in Marshall and Duluth to learn about the GIS activities in outstate Minnesota.

§ Conducted statewide survey to identify needs for new and improved data. Soils, parcels, elevations and air photo data were the highest priorities.

§ Wrote articles for the MN GIS/LIS Consortium newsletter and participated at state's annual GIS conference. A successful "Did you get it?" campaign enticed people to learn about the council and take the data needs survey.

§ Sponsored "best practices" workshops to help implement metadata standards

Coordinated State Agencies

n Recommended that LMIC take the lead in working with other agencies and stakeholders to design and implement a coordinated state geographic information data infrastructure.

n Helped align efforts of state agencies working with hydrographic data by promoting the broader vision encompassed in the National Hydrographic Dataset.

Worked on Federal and State Standards

- n Coordinated state comments on proposed federal standards for identifying data about transportation, mineralogy, watersheds, and computer drawings.
- n Endorsed new draft standard for coding cities, townships, and unorganized territories (CTU) to complement adopted state coding standards for state and county codes.
- n Completed draft definition of the basin feature for the Minnesota Hydrographic Framework and started review process.

Contributed to National Dialogs

- n Commented on the USGS National Map initiative, focusing on making the program more useful to state and local government.
- n Documented Minnesota's GIS state profile for the National States Geographic Information Council.

PLANS FOR 2001-2002

Continue recognition, communication, standards, and coordination efforts, including:

Expand Efforts to Make Critical Data Available

- § Develop a decision guide for sharing data.
- § Prepare a plan for maintaining a current map of cities and townships.
- § Work on statewide parcel data modernization. This initiative will turn from technical to organizational as we look for additional partners for this effort.

Increase Outreach Efforts

§ Develop and implement a communications plan.

§ Create a PowerPoint presentation showing how geographic information is making government more efficient and improving the quality of life for Minnesota's citizens. This presentation will be shown at events and conferences around the state.

Continue and Expand Standards Efforts

§ Move the proposed CTU standard through a broader GIS community review and submit for approval as a state standard.

§ Review and gain Council approval of the proposed waterbasin identification standard.

§ Begin work on watercourse and watershed features.

Work with State and National Groups on Key Issues

§ Work with LMIC/Minnesota Planning and other state agencies in exploring a coordinated statewide geographic information data infrastructure.

§ Provide advice to LMIC about the design and implementation of the Minnesota GeoData Gateway and Clearinghouse.

§ Increase involvement with the National States Geographic Information Council to learn about work of other states and expand Minnesota's influence on national programs and policies.