

Minnesota relies on geographic information systems to address such critical issues as protecting the environment and responding to emergencies. The Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information promotes the effective use of GIS by coordinating investments; developing standards, policies and guidelines; promoting stewardship of geographic data; and minimizing duplication of effort and public expenditure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 2005

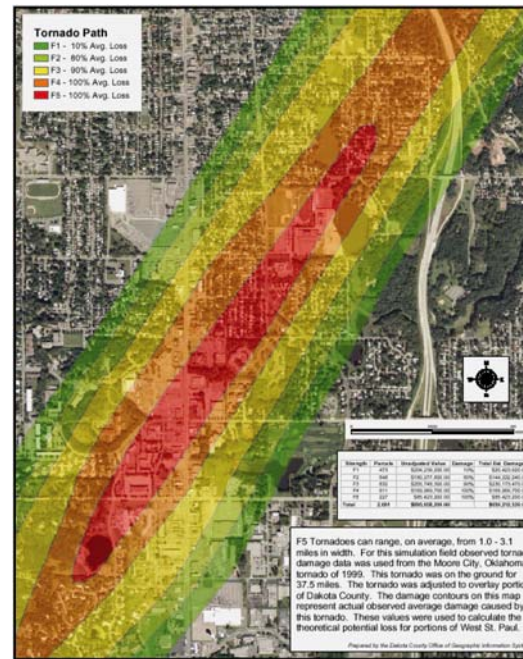
In 2004-2005, the council addressed its mission by

- Helping people get the data they need
- Communicating with Minnesota's Geographic Information System (GIS) stakeholders
- Coordinating federal, state, regional, and local activities
- Developing standards and guidelines that support data sharing.

Helping People Get the Data They Need

- Guided statewide completion of the 1:24,000 National Hydrography dataset. Two years ago, the state was only half complete.
- Worked with GIS stakeholders and representatives from the emergency management community to begin identifying mission critical GIS data.
- Researched the process and responsibilities for responding to emergency incidents to identify technology and data needs.
- Began documenting the benefits of parcel data to counties, state agencies, and others.
- Developed a framework for a guide to assist them in building a parcel database.
- Supported DNR's successful proposal for \$500,000 in federal funds to enhance and update Minnesota's elevation and floodplain data.

Assessing the impact of an F5 tornado



Communicating with Minnesota Stakeholders

- Began statewide teleconferencing of all council meetings in January 2005.
- Updated council's *Communication Plan* to better connect with IT, emergency management and surveyor communities.
- Revised council's website to make it more useful.
- Expanded Emergency Preparedness Committee to better represent federal, state, and county governments, the military, and business.
- Participated in the Governor's Emergency Preparedness conference in March 2005.
- Sponsored a workshop, attended by more than 60 participants, to inform GIS professionals about the responsibilities and duties of emergency managers.
- Sponsored a session on the *Foundations for Coordinated GIS*, the council's *Strategic Plan* for GIS at the state GIS/LIS Conference.
- Published 10 articles in *Minnesota GIS/LIS News*, one in *Minnesota Counties*, and one in *HSEM Metro Region News*.
- Maintained relationships with national programs that support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

- Presented a GIS session to county IT directors and provided them with periodic council updates.
- Conducted a "real-time" mapping exercise for emergency managers using an actual incident and emergency preparedness website and datasets.

Coordinating GIS Across Agencies and Sectors

- Successfully worked to preserve budgets for important GIS coordination and communication activities during 2005 legislative session.
- Promoted Council's *Strategic Plan* for coordinating state activities. The plan was presented to the state CIO and submitted to the *Drive to Excellence* project.
- Redefined and strengthened the relationship between GCGI's and MetroGIS's Emergency Preparedness committees.
- Helped state and local GIS representatives understand the needs of emergency managers.
- Helped emergency managers see the potential value of GIS in their work, including use of "real-time" mapping exercise on a live incident.
- Convinced federal agencies that minor modifications of Minnesota's watershed delineation process could meet federal standards. Demonstrated post-processing techniques for 12 major watersheds.
- Supported federal grant requests to expand Minnesota's GIS capabilities.

Developing Standards that Support Data Sharing

- Drafted *Minnesota State GIS Enterprise Conceptual Architectural Design*, providing a vision for using standards to share data.
- Began assessing data standards for emergency preparedness applications.
- Drafted standards for hydrologic events.
- Completed standard for watershed delineation and submitted it for adoption.



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ON GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**
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PLANNED ACTIVITIES, FY 2006

In 2005-2006, the council will support more cost-effective and higher performing GIS services within Minnesota through the following activities:

Monitor Data Needs and Make Data Available

- Update and complete all eight data plans identified within the Council's *Strategic Plan*.
- Implement plans to keep the National Hydrography dataset current with the state's hydrographic data.
- Continue conversion of Minnesota's watershed boundaries to comply with federal standards.
- Inventory and review existing and proposed federal or state standards / best practices for GIS-based emergency preparedness data.
- Document benefits of compatible parcel data for Minnesota counties and develop strategies to support data development.

Enhance Communication with Stakeholders

- Present session on GIS Architecture at the 24th Annual MN Government IT Symposium, the premier IT event for Minnesota's public sector.
- Promote GIS by having a Council member participate on the Planning Committee for the MN Government IT Symposium.
- Present a session entitled "Promotion of GIS in Broad Based County Government" at the 2005 Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium.
- Continue promoting the use of GIS for emergency management through presentations.
- Provide opportunities for GIS professionals to learn about emergency management needs.
- Finish redesign of council's web site and brochure.

Coordinate Across Agencies and Sectors

- Revise and improve Council's *Strategic Plan* for GIS based on public review and comment.
- Develop the organizational component of the Council's *Strategic Plan* for GIS.
- Expand relationships with Office of Enterprise Technology and other key IT organizations.
- Work with the Land Management Information Center to identify, communicate, and resolve state-level and statewide GIS issues.

Standards Initiatives

- Promote the technical component of Council's *Strategic Plan* and revise as needed.
- Adapt the standards submission process to match state's new IT governance structure.
- Move backlog of data standards through the formal standards adoption process.
- Complete standard for hydrologic events.
- Monitor new federal and international standards. Recommend revisions appropriate to match Minnesota business requirements.

FY 2006 Council members represent a broad cross-section of organizations that benefit from coordination of geospatial technology and data.

Appointed Members

Larry Charboneau, The Lawrence Group

Gordon Chinander, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board

Scott Conn, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

Will Craig, CURA, University of Minnesota

Rick Gelbmann, Chair, Metropolitan Council

Dan Johnson, MN Dept. of Public Safety

Banette Kritzkay, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Charlie Kost, Southwest Minnesota State University

Jonette Kreideweis, MN Dept. of Transportation

Fred Logman, independent IT consultant

Robert Maki, MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Tim Ogg, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Mark Olsen, MN Pollution Control Agency

Larry Palmer, MN Dept. of Agriculture

Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County

Ken Saffert, City of Mankato

Mark Sloan, Clay County

Bill Swing, Wright County

Ex-Officio Members

David Arbeit, LMIC, Dept. of Administration

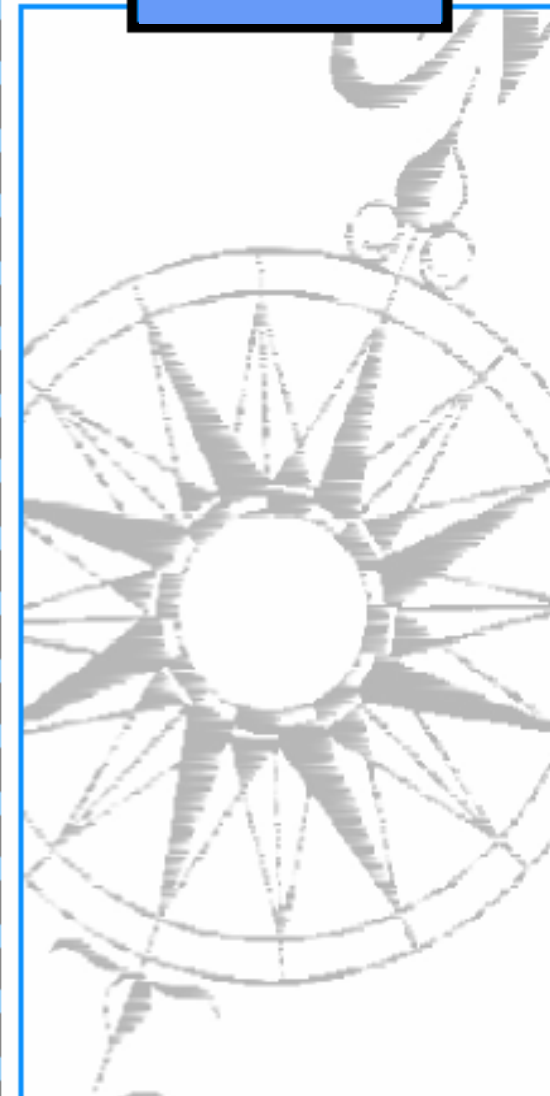
Lee Meilleur, Legislative Coordinating Commission

Mike Ryan, MN Office of Enterprise Technology

Annette Theroux, MN GIS/LIS Consortium

Ron Wencl, U.S. Geological Survey

FY 2005
ANNUAL REPORT



**Minnesota
Governor's Council
on Geographic
Information**