



Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

701-232-3242 • FAX 701-232-5043 • Case Plaza Suite 232 • One 2nd Street North • Fargo, North Dakota 58102-4807

Email: metrocof@fmmetrocog.org

<http://www.fmmetrocog.org>

Metropolitan GIS Committee Meeting Minutes

73rd Meeting of the
Metropolitan GIS Committee
Monday, May 1st 2017 1:30pm
Moorhead City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Brad Anderson, City of Moorhead
Kay Anderson, Cass County
David Burns, Metro COG
Daryl Masten, City of Fargo
Travis Genty, City of West Fargo
Mark Sloan, Clay County
Todd Copeland, Moorhead Public Service
Tim Magnusson, Clay County
L. Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth (Proxy for Stan Thurlow)
Kristie Leshovsky, City of Moorhead
Aaron Nelson, City of Fargo

1. Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Introductions were made.
2. Mr. Burns confirms Brad Anderson as the Chair for 2017. Mr. Sloan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approve Minutes from the 72nd Meeting on May 5th 2016.**
Mr. Sloan moved and Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **New Members\Review and Update of GIS Committee Membership**

Chair Anderson noted that historically we need to review or reorganize the Metro GIS Committee membership every 6 or 7 years. Positions and people in the local jurisdictions change or are added, and we need to adjust the makeup of the Committee. Mr. Burns confirmed that it is always great to do this, the MetroCOG Bike – Pedestrian committee also does this regularly. Chair Anderson noted that the GIS Committee is comprised of the GIS staff person for each participating organization, and that the Planner serves as the proxy. In the last few years we decided that the Chair of the GIS Committee be from the same jurisdiction as the vice-chair of the TTC. Mr. Sloan commented that this committee began with the Planners, but also involved the folks working with the Land Based Sharing Agreement. Then, many years ago these two groups were combined. Mr. Burns offered to forward the GIS Committee membership list to Chair Anderson for review.



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5. Update on Long Range Data Development Plan & Demographic Forecast Study

Mr. Burns informed the group that they have finalized two scenarios, and the Policy Board approved the best-case scenario, which was the high-growth scenario. There was a budget issue amendment to the contract with KLJ so they could perform input of the demographic data in the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ). Mr. Burns noted that three figures were derived from the study:

- Overall figures for the Metropolitan area
- Overall figures for each jurisdiction
- Breakout of jobs, employment, population and age structures

These are being allocated into each small TAZ zone to predict where growth is heading in the next 30 years. Mr. Burns offered to share the GIS shapefiles when they are finished. Mr Burns added that this must be completed by June 30th 2017. Several members expressed interest in receiving the shapefile data. Ms. Leshovsky asked if the jurisdictions could review allocation to the TAZ's before the data goes public? Mr. Burns replied that yes, this is covered by the SRC (?). Everyone involved agreed that overall, the Study was a very smooth process.

6. Update on 2017 Fargo-Moorhead Aerial Photography\LiDAR Data Acquisition

Mr. Burns informed the group that Merrick has not started flying yet, but will begin very soon, most likely in the next week or two. He noted that there are three amendments so far to the contract. These involved late requests by the FM Diversion Authority to collect more data for areas to the south, and that this extension required additional ground control. Mr. Burns said that this involved an additional 14.25 square miles to account for a key piece of their backwater studies. Several minutes of discussion by various members of the Committee regarding the interactive progress map that Merrick has made available to us. Mr. Burns asked if we should require Merrick to travel to Fargo – Moorhead to have a face-to-face for the kick-off meeting. Mr. Masten and Chair Anderson said this would not be necessary, that a conference call is usually fine.

7. Next Generation 911 – GIS Data Standards

Chair Anderson provided an overview for the group of the State of Minnesota's project for NextGen 911 standards. In support of all of the PSAPs in the State, they are planning to collect the street centerlines, the address points from all 87 counties in Minnesota and data standardization will be very important. Future 911 calls will utilize our GIS data for accurate placement of calls to 911. Group discussion followed for several minutes which involved the lengthy on-going issue of



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incorporating federal, state, and local functional classifications in our data that will be useful to include in the new schema.

Chair Anderson mentioned that the plan is for the five jurisdictional GIS people to get together this summer and hash out a new Metro-wide schema for our datasets to match the NextGen 911 data standard, and how this will benefit the data updates for the RRRDC.

8. Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

Chair Anderson mentioned that the Moorhead meeting\webinar with the Census will be next week. Mr. Masten and Ms. Anderson noted that the Census could not answer their most pressing question during the North Dakota meeting regarding whether they really need to collect all individual apartment and unit numbers within multi-unit buildings. All jurisdictions agreed that this will be very difficult as the majority of local governments do not possess this information and access to many of these buildings is restricted. Ms. Leshovsky commented that the Census Department usually provides training and\or workshops during the fall and winter to assist local governments. Ms. Anderson noted that the State of North Dakota was planning to help counties in the state who have little or no GIS experience to collect data and information for the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). The group also briefly discussed the Census Geographic Support System Initiative (GSSI) where local governments will assist the Census in cleaning up their geographic data. There was agreement that little seems to be known about this initiative or its status.

9. Damage Assessment Standards Group

Chair Anderson gave a brief synopsis of the efforts at the State of Minnesota to develop a state data standard for emergency damage assessment collection in the field in the event of a disaster. Committee members agreed this will be useful, as local emergency managers always question the GIS people about our ability to collect this information. GIS people are not experts in this area and many are unsure just what pieces of information are required to satisfy FEMA requirements. Chair Anderson noted that the Minnesota group will be conducting a panel discussion at the Minnesota GIS\LIS fall conference in Bemidji. Mr. Copeland asked whether the existing ESRI Damage Assessment data standard included fields to collect information about damage to local utilities. Several Committee members noted that the data fields tended to be devoted to property damage, health and safety issues, and monetary losses.

10. Jurisdictional Roundtable and Updates within the Metro Area



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Mr. Sloan informed the group about the status of the State of Minnesota Parcel Data Transfer Standard. Mr. Sloan explained that this data standard has been an on-going project since the early 1990s. Minnesota has a strong business need for a state-wide set of parcel data, but without a data standard it would be impossible to merge all the parcel together in one dataset. He said that the Parcel Data Standard group is temporarily on hold while the State address point and street centerline standards are being finalized because there are common data fields that will need to match. Mr. Sloan also showed the Committee the new parcel information search tool on the Clay County website, which replaces the old ArcIMS parcel search tool that had been in place since around the year 2000. The new search tool will return a web page with the parcel attributes but not a map. Mr. Sloan also noted that there will be four instructor-led workshops available at Minnesota State University Moorhead during the Minnesota GIS/LIS Spring Workshops on May 19th 2017. Chair Anderson noted that he was contacted for help to find a local person to conduct the python class, and that he pointed the Spring Workshop organizers to Houston Engineering in Fargo to fill the instructor opening.

Ms. Anderson noted that Cass County, the Cities of Fargo and West Fargo, and the Fargo Park District will be doing the ArcGIS 10.5 upgrade over this coming weekend. Ms. Anderson also mentioned that she has been busy working on the new Cass County Government website, and her GIS Open Data site. She commented on difficulties she encountered with ArcGIS online capabilities with different web browser programs.

Mr. Masten mentioned that he & Mr. Nelson have been working on a platform and a policy covering Open Data at the City of Fargo. Mr. Sloan noted that Clay County is using the first version of ESRI's Open Data platform. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she went before the Cass County Commission to get approval to go live with her ESRI second version County Open Data site, even though Cass County has made GIS data available in shapefile format for many years. In response to a question, Mr. Sloan responded that the Clay County Commission passed a resolution supporting Open Data.

Chair Anderson showed Moorhead's new Parks & Trails Finder GIS web application, which allows the public to search for park amenities, facilities and trails. He also demonstrated the new Property Sales Comparable GIS application developed for the Assessor's Department to assist with equalization of property values.

Mr. Genty informed the group that he is still busy learning the systems at the City of West Fargo, and how all the information technology systems work with GIS and how the data is exchanged with Cass County. My Genty noted that tomorrow, he takes



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possession of the parcel fabric from Moore Engineering and will begin maintaining it in-house.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.