

Annual Report 2000: Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

August 31, 2000

Increased Connections with the Community

- Created a new Council brochure and distributed 1400 copies to key officials
- Began holding Council meetings outside the state office complex, including 2 outstate meetings (Alexandria and Winona) and 2 metro (Science Museum and History Center)
- Conducted user forums and online surveys to determine needs for data and standards
- Organized workshops for stakeholders to learn about new federal standards and proposed standards
- Redesigned Council website to provide more useful information to visitors
- Communicated with the Minnesota community through the MN GIS/LIS Consortium's newsletter and annual conference
- Worked with the Land Management Information Center to coordinate and promote *GIS Day* across Minnesota on November 19, 1999, including a major event in the Capitol rotunda.

Produce Useful Publications in Print and on the Web

- *Guidebook to Priority GIS Data*, Reports the status and availability of 11 data features
- *Mapping a Path for the Future*, the Council's new brochure
- *Positional Accuracy Handbook*, A very popular guide that has attracted national and international attention
- *Watershed update procedures*, methods to improve state watershed maps
- *Toward Developing a Statewide Minnesota Geographic Information System Infrastructure*, committee report
- *Turnaround Document on Priority Hydrography Information Needs*, report on a 1-day workshop

Coordinated Across Agencies

- Communicated state concerns about GIS-related activities to the following federal agencies: Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, Federal Geographic Data Committee
- Involved all stakeholders in Minnesota in drafting a plan to modernize land records across the state
- Helped to coordinate hydrography data development activities of DNR, MPCA, and the Metropolitan Council

- Strengthened a new multi-agency state Task Force on Mapping Conservation Lands by giving them a formal advisory relationship to the Council
- Proposed and successfully advocated with state's Information Policy Council for the adoption of a state standard for measuring and reporting the accuracy of spatial data. This is the fourth Council-endorsed GIS data standard adopted by the state.
- Developed an agreement among key agencies on preliminary standards for water basin features

Developed Key Components of Our Internal Business Plan

- Defined the desired relationships between the Council and various groups in Minnesota and around the country
- Specified responsibilities for the Council, its various sub-units, its members, and its staff
- Developed a distribution list for policy-oriented Council material

PLANS FOR 2000-2001

Continue and Expand Outreach, Publication, Coordination, and Organizational Efforts from 1999-2000

Work to Develop Standards in the Following Areas

- Hydrographic features: Watershed, Basin, Watercourse, and Hydrologic Point of Interest
- Attribute standards for road identifiers
- Codes for municipalities (i.e., cities, townships, and unorganized territories)

Recommend legislation for a Land Records Modernization program that is supported by both the Governor and the Legislature

- Will allow every county to computerize land records data, and to use this information in improving the delivery of services to citizens
- Provides a funding base to each county sufficient to support a critical mass of activity

Create and Publish a Guide to Data Sharing and Dissemination

- Includes a decision tree showing appropriate responses to requests for data
- Nature of response to depend on the nature of the data and of the requesting party
- Includes suggestions for written agreements that cover issues such as non-disclosure and confidentiality

Develop a Plan to Create and Maintain a Current and Accurate Statewide Map of Political Subdivision Boundaries (none exists today)

- Document the need for a current statewide map of city and township boundaries
- Identify state agencies and other units of government that must be involved in addressing the need
- Make the technical, organizational and funding recommendations to develop and maintain the map

Survey GIS Community to Determine Highest Priority Data Needs

- Identify needs for new or improved data by type, scale, and detail
- Conduct survey via the Internet, making it convenient and inexpensive
- Updates 1994 survey which has guided Council activity for the past 5 years