

Minnesota relies on geographic information systems to address critical issues ranging from protecting the environment to responding to emergencies. The Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information promotes the effective use of GIS through coordinated investments; adoption of standards, policies, and guidelines; stewardship of geographic data; and minimized duplication of effort and public expenditure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 2007

In 2006-07, the council addressed its mission by

- Helping people get the data and services they need
- Communicating with Minnesota stakeholders
- Coordinating GIS across agencies and sectors
- Promoting standards that support data sharing

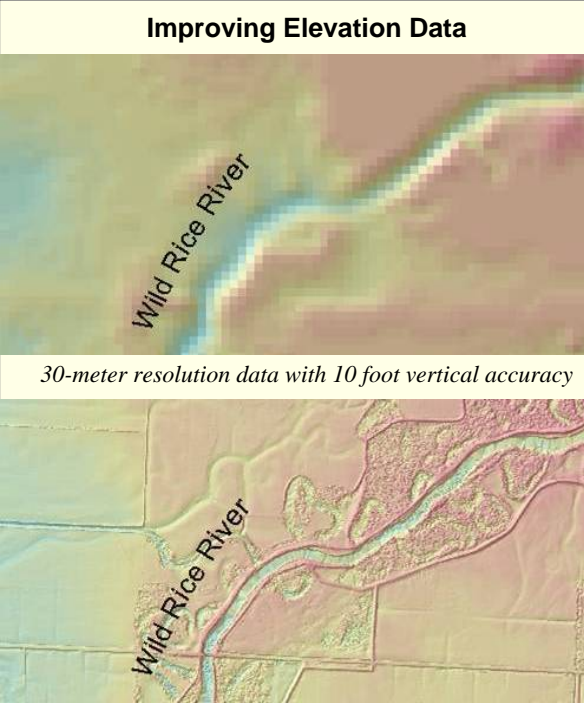
Helping People Get the Data and Services They Need

- Launched a new Digital Elevation Committee; the committee is surveying state agencies about their needs for elevation data.
- Expressed support for funding high-resolution elevation data in the Red River basin.
- Sponsored development of an online Shared Services Catalog that allows GIS developers to publicize their interactive applications, Internet services, components and stand-alone applications.
- Researched how counties are using funds raised with a county recorder fee to improve local land records systems.
- Advised LMIC on a project to identify GIS data and applications needed by state agencies to respond to avian flu and pandemic flu emergencies.
- Advised LMIC on implementation of a state/federal partnership to maintain hydrography data and make them available online.

Communicating with Minnesota Stakeholders

- Organized a panel on *Regional Collaborations* including six groups from around the state.

Improving Elevation Data



30-meter resolution data with 10 foot vertical accuracy

1-meter resolution data with 1/2 foot vertical accuracy

Both views show the same area in the Red River Valley of northwest Minnesota. River levees and roads are not evident in the top view, but stand out in the bottom view which was derived in 2006 using LIDAR technology.

The Council plays an important role in advocating investments in data that benefit Minnesota. The Council's Digital Elevation Committee has identified the need to improve the resolution of elevation data, especially important to help efforts to minimize the damaging effects of floods.

For more information, see:
www.gis.state.mn.us/committe/elevation/index.htm

- Organized a half-day seminar for the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) on *Natural Resource Data and Applications*.
- Recommended Governor's Commendations for two exceptional GIS projects: *Preservation of GLO Plat Maps* and *Firewise in the Classroom*.

- Connected with key stakeholder groups:
 - **GIS/LIS community** by organizing eight sessions at their annual conference and publishing nine articles in their newsletter.
 - **Minnesota counties** through a presentation at the Association of Minnesota Counties' annual conference and an article in its newsletter.
 - **Information Technology community** with a full-day seminar and four GIS sessions at the MN Government IT Symposium. Also published articles in the Minnesota Counties IT Leadership Association newsletter.
 - **Surveying community** through an article in *Minnesota Surveyor*.
 - **Utility community** with presentations at the Midwest ESRI Utility User Group.

Coordinating GIS across Agencies and Sectors

- Launched a strategic planning effort to help the state better coordinate its GIS activities.
- Increased contact with federal agencies and others about issues important to the Minnesota GIS community.
- Successfully worked to preserve budgets for important GIS coordination and communication activities during the 2007 legislative session.
- Helped organize a new Minnesota County GIS Association.
- Supported a successful grant application for 1000 Friends of Minnesota to build internal GIS capacity and facilitate increased coordination among environmental non-profits across the state.

Promoting Standards that Support Data Sharing

- Successfully requested that the National Geodetic Survey publish State Plane Coordinates in both meters and feet.
- Contributed to the new National Street Address Standard, soon to be submitted for review by the Federal Geographic Data Committee.
- Endorsed a state/federal solution to maintain the *Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)* for the Twin Cities metro area, reducing the update cycle from one year to 24 hours.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES, FY 2008

In 2007-08, the council will continue to support more cost-effective, higher-performing GIS services within Minnesota with the following new initiatives:

Monitor and Work to Fulfill Data and Services Needs

- Survey resource managers and GIS community about their needs for data and services.
- Determine costs and funding options for statewide elevation data.
- Find funding to identify, collect, organize, and deliver spatial data needed for emergency preparedness.
- Develop wetlands mapping and maintenance strategy.

Enhance Communications with Stakeholders

- Develop policies and procedures for stakeholders to request action from the Council.
- Continue to develop relationships with key stakeholder groups through their conferences and newsletters, focusing on the GIS/LIS Consortium and local government, emergency preparedness, IT, surveying, and utility groups.

Coordinate across Agencies and Sectors

- Continue guiding a strategic planning process, including completion of a second-generation strategic plan for coordinating GIS within Minnesota.
- Work to strengthen regional collaborations.
- Work with the Office of Enterprise Technology to integrate geospatial technology with the state's enterprise technology environment.

Standards Initiatives

- Develop technical specifications for high-resolution elevation data.
- Help establish Minnesota standards and processes for data critical for public safety and emergency response.
- Expand GNIS authority for municipal names to cover Greater Minnesota.
- Review and comment on the proposed federal *Wetland Mapping Standard*.

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

FY07 Appointed Members

David Berrisford, MN Dept. of Public Safety
Jeff Bloomquist, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Gordon Chinander, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board
Will Craig (Vice-chair), University of Minnesota
Mike Dolbow, MN Dept. of Agriculture
Shannon Flynn, MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Rick Gelbmann (Chair), Metropolitan Council
Jeff Grussing, United Services Group
Charles Kost, Southwest Minnesota State University
Jonette Kreideweis, MN Dept. of Transportation
Stuart Lien, Clearwater County
Tim Ogg, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Mark Olsen, MN Pollution Control Agency
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Ken Saffert, City of Mankato
Mark Sloan, Clay County
Bill Swing, Wright County
Sally Wakefield, 1000 Friends of Minnesota

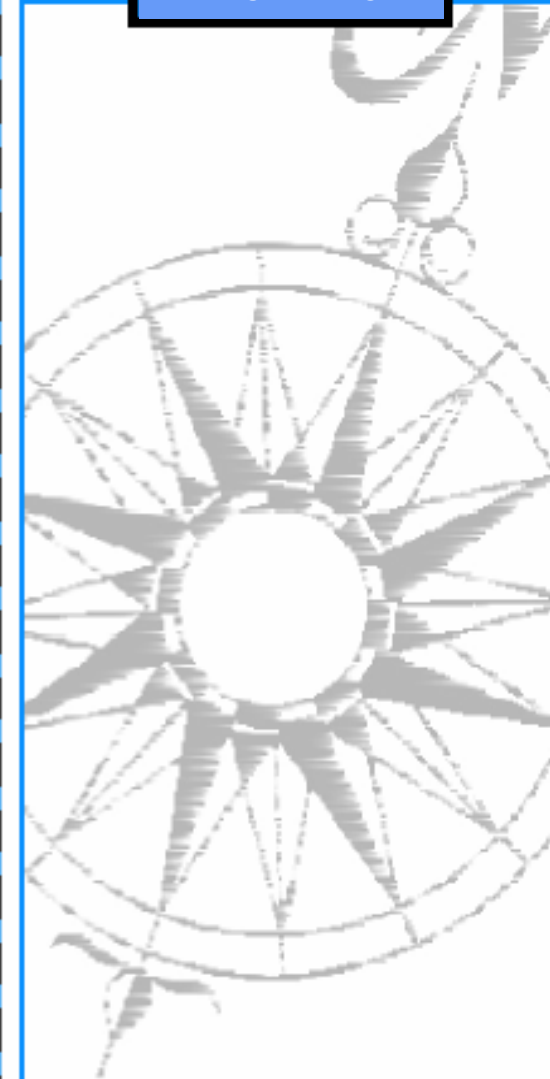
FY07 Ex-Officio Members

David Arbeit, Land Management Information Center
Chad Martini, MN GIS/LIS Consortium
Lee Meilleur, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Mike Ryan, MN Office of Enterprise Technology
Ron Wencl, U.S. Geological Survey



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**Minnesota
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on Geographic
Information**