

**SW MN GIS Users Group**  
10am April 25, 2007  
Murray County Government Center, Slayton

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Charlie Kost – SMSU	Jim Reinert – Murray Co
Jean Christoffels – Murray Co	Kathy Henderschiedt – Nobles Co
Lincoln Ferguson – Jackson Co	Ardis Hotzler – Jackson Co
Beth Collins – NRCS	John Shepard – SRDC
Kari Howey – Lincoln Co	Brian Green – Redwood Co
Todd Zielsdorf – Redwood Co	Tom Kresko – DNR Windom
Ryan Wendt – Lyon Co	Mark Volz – Lyon Co
Marlene Smith – Cottonwood Co	

**Group introductions and items for discussion:**

Beth Collins updated the group about the newest version of the soils data available at the NRCS data mart. Discussion followed about whether county assessors are using this data yet.

Charlie Kost talked about GISP information mailed to the Users Group. The group indicated it would be interested in more information, possibly a presentation.

Jackson County brought up the problem of not being able to view SID imagery in the newest version of ArcExplorer. Older versions of ArcExplorer are able to display SID, but newest version does not.

**MCGISA Presentation:**

Charlie Kost presented information related to the work of the MCGISA subcommittee of the MN Governor's Council Land Records Modernization Committee. The subcommittee has worked since last fall to develop the mission and goals for a new MN County GIS Association.

The group first reviewed, discussed and provided feedback about the preliminary mission and goals of MCGISA.

- MCGISA is an association of county professionals whose mission is to advance GIS technology in Minnesota county governments by providing leadership, support and advocacy.
  
- Specifically, the goals are:
  1. Foster support and awareness among public officials.

2. Cultivate leadership and professional development through workshops, seminars, and meetings.
3. Provide a forum to share knowledge, information and experience among the members of the Association.
4. Advocate MCGISA positions to policy makers on regional, state, and federal issues.
5. Support the development and implementation of standards.

Feedback on the mission and goals included - MCGISA could bring support and awareness to public officials leading to better funding for GIS, while simultaneously attempting to solve common GIS issues by sharing knowledge. MCGISA could give a voice for GIS obtaining more support and resources. Reference was made by the group to setting up MCGISA similar to MCPZA for planning and zoning professionals.

The group then looked at information related to membership, dues, budget, and organizing in regional districts.

- The Membership of the corporation shall consist of XX classes of Members.
  - Full member (Voting): The county employee serving as the county representative.
  - Associate member (Non-voting): Any person with an interest in county GIS issues.
- For the purpose of administering the affairs of the Association, the Board shall divide the counties of the State into not more than nine (9) districts consisting of two (2) or more counties.

Feedback on the membership, dues and organization included - Discussions about whether group should be county specific or more broadly based, leading to discussion on ideas and efforts to encourage other departments within the county to embrace GIS, share data, and learn new methods which incorporate GIS technology. A suggestion was offered to keep fees low to encourage membership (ie. \$50 voting and \$25 non-voting).

All in attendance were in favor of starting MCGISA. The group thought that regional MCGISA meetings could be scheduled in coordination with the existing user group meetings.

### **Next Meeting**

July 11, 2007 -10am, Southwest Minnesota State University GIS Center  
Topic: GISP certification process – Charlie Kost and Mark Volz