- Supported a U.S. Geological Survey/University of Minnesota project to automatically calculate the stream slope and length values required for flood protection and other uses

Planning

Identifying data and technology needs and finding solutions is an important role for the council. In 2002-2003, the council

- Involved stakeholders from local, state and federal governments and the private and academic sectors in documenting current status, costs, long term needs and plans for meeting the needs
- Prepared first draft components of a Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure Plan for five data themes – geodetic control, hydrography, imagery, elevation and parcels

PLANNED ACTIVITIES, 2003-2004

In 2003-2004, the council will continue communication, coordination, standards and data work. Plans are to

- Expand efforts to make critical data available
- Expand communication with stakeholders
- Coordinate local, state and regional efforts
- Put forth standards initiatives

Data Availability

The council will continue its efforts to meet data needs by

- Drafting additional components of the Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure Plan for the remaining three data themes – transportation, political boundaries and soils
- Exploring funding options for statewide land parcel development
- Coordinating completion of high resolution national hydrography data for the state

Communication

The council will improve its effective communication activities by

- Streamlining and improving the council web site
- Publishing *Making the Most of Geospatial Data Exchange* on the council web site

Coordination

The council will continue coordinating GIS activities within the state, focusing upon

- Developing contacts and outreach with Minnesota's emergency response and public safety communities and defining consistent requirements across levels of government
- Investigating, through pilot projects, the practicality of transforming local land records to meet national standards
- Expanding its review of GeoIntegrator and making recommendations aimed at providing one-stop access to state agency web mapping services and geographic data

Standards

The council will undertake new initiatives to

- Finalize the reach and water course standard and seek council and state approval
- Formally review recently developed topical category definitions and recommend a standard for statewide use
- Begin work on a height of land watershed delineation and identification standard
- Seek state Information Technology Architectural Review Board approval of the following standards
- Water basin identification scheme as a standard
- Cities, townships and unorganized territories scheme as a best practice/suggested standard
- Reach and water course standards as a best practice/suggested standard
- Topical category definitions as a best practice

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2002-2003
ANNUAL REPORT

Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

Supported by millions of dollars of annual public investments, geographic information systems technology is rapidly changing the way Minnesotans approach a growing number of activities, from protecting the environment to responding to emergencies. The Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information is charged with promoting the effective use of this technology by coordinating investments; developing standards, policies and guidelines; enhancing stewardship of geographic data; and minimizing duplication of effort and public expenditure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2002-2003

In 2002-2003, the council addressed its mission by

- Enhancing communications among Minnesota stakeholders
- Coordinating state, regional, and local investments and activities
- Developing standards and guidelines that support data sharing
- Helping people and organizations find and get the data they need
- Developing plans for addressing key data and technology needs

Communications

Communication among stakeholders is critical to identifying needs, coordinating investments and developing policies and standards. In 2002-2003, the council

- Adopted a communication plan that identifies key stakeholders and outlines best practices for keeping lines of communication open
- Held successful public meetings in Appleton and Buffalo, attracting nearly 40 people from 11 counties
- Heard and responded to needs for new digital aerial orthophotography, working with state and federal agencies to help meet these needs
- Finalized a PowerPoint presentation about the council's work and the value of GIS, available for download at www.gis.state.mn.us
- Published seven articles on key issues in the Minnesota GIS/LIS News
- Published an article about a statewide digital parcel mapping inventory in the *County News*, also submitted to Minnesota Cities and the *CURA Reporter*
- Organized sessions and presentations at the Minnesota GIS/LIS Annual Conference, attending by more than 500 stakeholders

Coordination

Coordination and cooperation are key to easy access and effective use of geographic information. More importantly, they help reduce duplication of expenditure. To strengthen these efforts in 2002-2003, the council

- Created a new Committee on Emergency Preparedness to work on statewide preparedness in cooperation with a similar MetroGIS workgroup
- Arranged or coordinated training, workshops, discussion forums and data development activities to ensure interoperability within the state and across state boundaries of hydrographic data
- Monitored work of the Land Management Information Center on its GeoIntegrator initiative, designed to effectively coordinate access to key data holdings within the state as specified in the council's *Framework for a Geographic Data Clearinghouse*

Standards

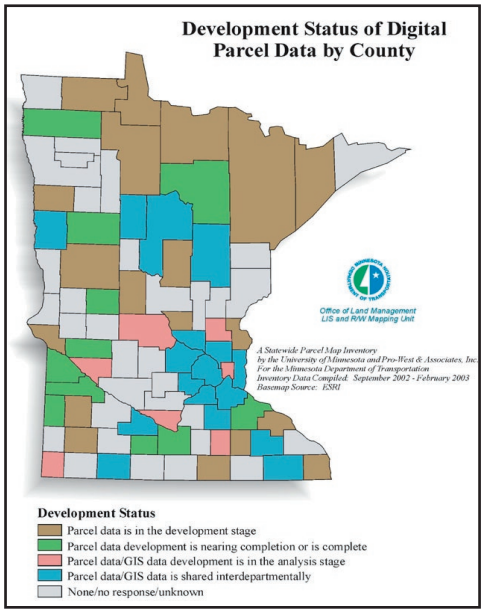
Clear data and technology standards are essential to effectively sharing and using geographic information systems and minimizing operational costs. To further this important work, the council

- Developed a cross reference between national and state Department of Natural Resources lake numbering systems
- Drafted a standard for identifying river reaches and water courses
- Worked with the state's Information Technology Architectural Review Board to ensure that council standards best match the state's system for implementing standards
- Continued to promote use of adopted state GIS standards, guidelines and best practices

Data

The council seeks solutions to meeting data needs through new investments and collaboration to ensure widespread use of existing data. In 2002-2003, the council

- Completed a best practices guide for data sharing, *Making the Most of Geospatial Data Exchange*, following review by the Information Policy Analysis Division of the Department of Administration
- Identified a statewide need for new digital imagery and supported efforts of the Land Management Information Center, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to leverage $250,000 in state funds to acquire color orthophotography valued at $2 million
- Developed high resolution national hydrography data for over half the state, supported by nearly $1 million obtained from federal partners



- Supported a Minnesota Department of Transportation/University of Minnesota statewide inventory of local government digital parcel mapping, complete with contact information