



30 January 2006

Desiree Santa
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Acquisition and Grants
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 205
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Ms Santa;

As the chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI), I urge you to approve our application for a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) planning grant titled "Implementing an Enterprise Strategy for Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure". The time is right to implement Minnesota's well thought out strategic plan and receiving this grant will make implementation possible.

Over the past four years, the GCGI has developed and adopted a strategic plan and a conceptual architecture to guide the implementation of the Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in support of the NSDI. This grant will accelerate refinement of our strategic plan and the development and adoption of a much needed geospatial governance model. It also will promote a closer relationship with the new State Office of Enterprise Technology. To date, OET has focused on the traditional IT environment, but this project offers the opportunity to better integrate Minnesota's geospatial data, technology and services within a state IT framework. Further, this grant will help us identify opportunities for sharing GIS routines, programs and services.

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information was created in August 1991 by Executive Order to help coordinate geographic information system activities among all levels of government in Minnesota. The GCGI's 18 volunteer members represent state agencies, federal and local governments, higher education and the private sector. The mission of the GCGI is to promote efficient and effective use of resources by providing leadership and direction in the development, management and use of geographic information in Minnesota.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this important proposal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Gelbmann".

Sincerely,

Rick Gelbmann
Chair, Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

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