



June 10, 2005

Doug Bartels  
GIS Coordinator  
Richland County  
Department of Administration  
413 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Wahpeton, ND 58075

Dear Mr. Bartels:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information to congratulate you on the creation of the Community GIS Technical Committee and to express the council's strong support for your CGISTC CAP Proposal under Category 3: Geographic Information Coordination.

The council works to promote policies and practices that lead to effective, efficient use of geographic data and technology in Minnesota, the Upper Midwest Region and the Nation. It identifies needs faced by geographic technology users and recommends solutions. Practices promoted by the council help to reduce redundant efforts, while encouraging partnerships and collaboration.

The CGISTC represents the kind of collaboration the council has promoted throughout its 14 year history. Your efforts are particularly compelling, as the CGISTC not only spans municipal and county boundaries, but promises to improve shared services in the region by working across state boundaries. The Committee's stated principles – adopting common standards, sharing data resources and breaking down cost barriers that hinder effective use of GIS – clearly coincide with the foundational objectives of the Governor's Council.

The council wishes you success in your efforts to secure FGDC funding to root the CGISTC in the Red River Headwaters region and invites the CGISTC to consider active participation in the council's activities.

Sincerely,

Larry Charboneau, Chair  
Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

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