

04HQAG0168 CAP Grant
Final Report

Minnesota River Basin Data Center
184 Trafton Science Center S., Mankato, MN 56001
<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu>
Cecilia Berg
507-389-5492 or 307-643-2201
cecilia.berg@mnsu.edu

Land Management Information Center (LMIC)
Christopher Cialek
300 Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
<http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/>
<http://geogateway.state.mn.us/>

Project Narrative

Metadata were prepared for specific past projects completed by the Water Resources Center (WRC) at Minnesota State University, Mankato. These data were distributed previously to project partners with documentation, although documentation did not contain all information or format required by current metadata. By completing the metadata, these projects have standardized documentation and will enable the data to be downloaded from the web. Collaboration with the Land Management Information Center (LMIC) was and continues to be important to the continued process of metadata publication, node service, and expertise for data issues.

The creation of metadata for past projects remains a challenge because of time and staff changes. In developing the list for the NSDI metadata project, data were assumed to be available for download and in some cases this was not the case. In reviewing the GIS data, it was found that some data were redundant, unsuitable for release, had unacceptable documentation or errors. Although all files were not completed due to problems, some of the most important files published are of interest to watershed groups, researchers, students, and local, state and federal government agencies because of the need to improve water quality within the Minnesota River Basin.

Metadata creation will continue through the oversight of the full-time GIS staff person at the WRC, who is responsible for metadata support for all staff. The MRBDC policy is to provide metadata for all published data. The WRC is a regional center for data and research with partnerships with local, state and federal groups. Workshops and meetings sponsored by the WRC include metadata topics when appropriate.

Measurable Project Results:

Three staff are capable of creating metadata. This project created 27 metadata files.

Describe metadata service

Metadata is served by the MRBDC node at the Minnesota GeoGateway through the assistance of LMIC. The metadata files, received by LMIC, are prepared for harvesting at GOS 2. Twenty files were added to the MRBDC node through the CAP process. The MRBDC node is located at the Minnesota Geographic Data Clearinghouse: <http://geogateway.state.mn.us/documents/index.html>

Next Steps (if appropriate)

The metadata files were created in 2005. Additional work is needed to recreate 7 files; as staff changes occurred, the completed files were misplaced. Additionally, there are other past projects that need metadata completed.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program:

This program enables funding to release staff time for metadata creation, the importance of which cannot be underestimated when using GIS data. Many entities, including the WRC, created data during a period without a standardized format for documentation. The historic data are important for research and need to be made available to users. CAP funding was adequate for the initial attempt at historic metadata creation, although insufficient for completion. The program could consider different levels of funding to release a person for 6 months if needed. The match is an important requirement. Changes I would make if possible would be requiring staff to attend a formal metadata training, such as is provided through participants (such as LMIC) in the CAP program. The WRC, through LMIC, has sponsored one metadata training session in the past and should consider offering training again for regional GIS users.