Owatonna Public Utilities

GIS @ OPU presentation

SE MN User Group Meeting
1/19/2012

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Presentation Topics

- GIS @ OPU
- 2010 Flood
- Power Plant Repurposing Project

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OPU GIS Project Background

- Explored GIS implementation years ago
- Decision to hire GIS “expert”
- Contract with consulting firm for GPS data collection equipment and training
- Start with Natural Gas utility then move on to electric and water

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Origins of GIS planning

- Discussed GIS with OPU staff
- GIS as a buzzword – *don't know what it is but we know we need it*
- Long interval between planning and actual implementation – The Flood

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Hiring The Expert

- Decision made to hire late in 2010
- Contract with mPower Innovations - early 2011
- Evaluation period delayed

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On the Job

- Software – AutoCAD Map, TerraSync, Pathfinder
- Hardware – Trimble GeoXH 2008 & 6000
  Radio Detection RD8000
- Data collection initially the primary focus
- A later breakthrough – a seat of ArcMap

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Obstacles/Hurdles

- Confusion between GIS and GPS
- AutoCAD Map vs. ArcGIS
- Misinformation and misconceptions
- Keep team in paper map world (for now)

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Current Status

- Conversion of CAD “dumb” linework to “smart” GIS data
- Transition from CAD paper maps to GIS/ESRI paper
- Train and prepare team members in data collection and ArcMap

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The Future

- Gradual transition from AutoCAD to ESRI
- Finish gas utility conversion/data collection – 2 to 4 years
- Maintain balance between GPS data collection and data maintenance
- Move away from paper – mobile GIS

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2010 Flood Impact

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