

Southeastern Minnesota GIS Users Group

Meeting Minutes

Rochester Public Utilities – Rochester, MN – February 25th, 2015 9:30-12:00 pm

Attendees:

Jonathon Graves – Waseca County

Leanne Knott – Goodhue County

Chris Cialek – Mn.IT Services

Kate Meixell – OPU

Andrew King-Scribbens – Hennepin Co

Rubin Seifert – City of Owatonna

Philip Nagel – City of Waseca

Christy Shostal – City of Rochester

Greg Roemhildt – City of Faribault

Chad Hanson – Goodhue County

Kevin Morrisey – Rochester Public Works

Greg Baugher – Olmsted County

Sidney Jackson – RPU

Meredie Sexton – Mayo Clinic

Jay Forstner – RPU

Greta Poser – St. Mary's University

Dave Wavrin – OPU

Michelle Trager – Rice County

Dan Krzoska – Houston County

Marty Mollenhauer – Winona County

Teresa Ennis – Rice County

Ashley Ignatius - MPCA

Joey Nadeau – Winona County

Eric Miller – Mower County

Jen Rand-Weaver – Olmsted County

Gordon Robertson – RPU

Ryan Moore – RPU

9:30 am Meeting Started

Minnesota's New Master Contract Program for Aerial Imagery

Chris Cialek – Mn.IT Services

- Chris Cialek provided an update of Mn.IT Services' new Master Contract Program for Aerial Imagery, including master contract basics, work orders, and early pricing patterns. Enterprise Master Contract Programs is designed to speed up the contracting process for state agencies, offices, board, and cooperative purchase venture members (CPV).
- CPVs provide a free service allowing eligible members to purchase goods and services under contracts established by the State of MN and includes counties, townships, school districts, universities, non-profits and others. Members can be from both inside and outside Minnesota.
- Goals for the Aerial Imagery Master Contract include a preselection of qualified vendors to bid on work orders without the need to go through RFP processes; digital aerial photography with a range from 2" to 1.5' resolution; and customized products. The contract would remain in force for two years with a three year extension option.
- The Master Contract can be used any time and can also be effective tool for improving project value by developing partnerships. Imagery price quote costs decline with greater participation.

Managing Hennepin County's Fiber Network

Andrew King-Scribbens – Hennepin County

- Andrew described the process for developing a fiber network for Hennepin County including staff identification for a need to invest in a fiber network and 2011 Capital Improvement Program financing.
- Hennepin County engaged several partners including LOGIS and local school districts to share the network infrastructure. Shared costs were dispersed through equal value exchanges. Future fiber partners will include Metro Transit and City of Minneapolis.
- Andrew demonstrated a custom toolset developed by Palmetto Engineering for managing the fiber geometric network in ArcGIS Desktop.

Automate Your GIS Using Python

Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities

- Ryan Moore demonstrated his workflow for Python scripting to automate some GIS administrative processes using ArcPy in ArcGIS's Python Command Window and PyScripter.
- The demonstration included running a simple ArcToolbox Tool from the command window and building an ArcPy script from a model created in Model Builder.
- Some steps for building a script in PyScripter include importing ArcPy modules, making use of the Debug tools and breakpoints, and utilizing the IDE windows under the View menu pulldown.
- Ryan is using scripting at RPU for geodatabase maintenance and map document changes/exports. He discussed using Windows Task Scheduler to set up a scheduled task process.
- Ryan provided links to additional resources on ArcPy including online help, books, and tutorials.

Utilizing Operations Dashboard for ArcGIS

Jay Forstner – Rochester Public Utilities

- Jay Forstner described his use of Operations Dashboard for ArcGIS – users will need to download Operations Dashboard and host on ArcGIS Online or ArcGIS Server 10.1 or later.
- RPU staff are currently utilizing Operations Dashboard for electrical outages, projects and inspections. Water operations include hydrant flushing, valve operations, and backflow inspections.
- Some of the advantages for utilizing Operations Dashboard include click-once application for easy install and updates, easy use and configuration, real-time data summaries, extensible with widgets, fast and lightweight application use. Some disadvantages include bugs, credit cost, and no iPad app.

Statewide Update

- Michelle Trager provided an update from the various statewide agencies. The Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council has provided a link on the statewide project to map 50ft vegetative buffers along rivers, streams and ditches as a way to filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment.
- National Geospatial legislation has been proposed to improve coordination and use of geospatial data.
- MnGeo projects include contracting for future aerial imagery flights and continuing work on drainage record modernization, Next Gen 9-11 and related Parcels, Centerlines and Address Points collection.
- Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium will be hosting Spring Workshops on Thursday, May 19 at the University of Minnesota with remote locations in Duluth, Moorhead and Winona. Registration will open in April.
- Upper Midwest Geospatial Conference 2016 will be held in LaCrosse, WI May 25-26 and will feature presentations on current trends in GIS.
- **Ashley Ignatius will be hosting the next Southeastern MN GIS Users Group Meeting summer 2016 (date TBD).**

12:00 pm Meeting Adjourned

**** Members are encouraged to present at a future meeting and to offer suggestions of vendors or other agencies to present. Please contact a Steering Committee member or the next meeting's host if you are interested in presenting.**

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