SEMN GIS Users Group

Olmsted County Planning: 2122 Campus Drive SE, Rochester, MN
Thursday, January 8th, 2009 10am – 12:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Alan Laumeyer – Goodhue County
Dave Wittman – Olmsted County
Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County
Michelle Trager – Rice County
Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities
Shawn Gertken – Wabasha County
Bruce Whetstone – Olmsted County
Christiane Roy – NRCS
Nick Meyers – Winona County
Mark Engel – Yaggy/Colby & Associates
Danea Swenson – Fillmore County
Bob Hutton – MnDOT
Rubin Seifert – City of Faribault
Dave Wavrin – Steele County
Jamie Schulz - DNR
Lawrence Svien - NRCS
Tom Hoffmann – Winona County
Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County
Rick Garmers – Peoples Cooperative Electric
Randy Growden – Olmsted County
Peter Hartman - NRCS
Greg Rowley – Rochester Public Utilities
Mary Sheehan – Olmsted County
Sam Klimoski – ESRI
Peter Waskin – MnDOT
Kevin Morrissey - City of Rochester

Introductions

4 new people attended this meeting!

Olmsted County Roadway Network & E911 Addressing:

Dave Wittman and Bruce Whetstone – Olmsted County

- Roadway Network: Olmsted County currently has roughly 10,500 street segments in their roadway database.
- The County works closely with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDot) staff and their transportation codes.
- Database Fields:
  - County has a field to note whether a street segment is a private road or not.
  - Currently tracks up to 5 alias names for each road. Alias names can be truncated names for roads to for faster searching for law enforcement staff. Example: "Broadway Ave S" → "Bway S"
  - Keep track of 'actual' address ranges and the 'theoretical' address ranges for all roads.
  - County also keeps track of 'pending' and 'retired' road segments. These two types of features are not included in the roads dataset for the public but is very useful for County and City staff.
- The County has included names for all of their ramps in the database as well. Example: "Highway 52 ramp to 5th St"
- E911 Addressing:
  - *See attachment for full presentation information.*
  - Currently the County only captures the 5-digit zip code information for each address, not the additional 4-digit zip code information.
  - Commercial properties have proven to be more difficult to update and maintain.
  - This database is working well for properties with multiple addresses at one location.

NRCS Soil Data Viewer and Soil Data Mart:

Christiane Roy and Peter Hartman - NRCS

The full version of this presentation is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.

- Soil Data Viewer is an application created by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and works either as a stand-alone application OR within ESRI ArcGIS 9.2 software. This application is intended for GIS or other professionals with technical skills.
    - There are 116 different reports that can be run on this data!
- Web Soil Survey (WSS) is an online application created by the NRCS where users can access soils information and run queries to produce reports. This application is intended for members of the general public.
    - The same 116 reports that can be run on the soils data via the Soil Data Viewer application can also be accessed through the WSS!
    - You can search for an area of interest by Township, Range, and Section OR by Address.
- Soils information is updated 1-2 times per year.

** Christiane mentioned that the Southeast MN LIDAR project will be completed this spring. It would be beneficial to have a brainstorming session with involved counties to hear what kind of LIDAR information counties want to see. NRCS will be performing analysis on the new LIDAR data for their own use and could share those datasets with regional counties/agencies if they could also use that data.

** This would be a great item to add to the next SEMNUG meeting in April. Try to get Tim Loesch to come and talk about the LIDAR project and also have a group discussion from involved counties/agencies.*

Goodhue County GIS Users Group:

Alan Laumeyer & Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County

The full version of this presentation is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.

- Sarah and Alan presented to the SEMN group in April 2008 regarding the recent formation of their County GIS users group. This presentation is focusing more on what was accomplished through the users group during 2008.
- One of the main goals of the users group is to assist all member agencies in reaching a common level of basic GIS technology. Member agencies vary greatly in size and because of their involvement with the users group, they all have the same access to GIS data & tools through online GIS mapping sites and the Goodhue County GIS staff.
- Over 500hours of County GIS staff time was spent filling requests from member agencies. Requests from agencies were categorized as the following: Data Creation, Map Creation, Datasets Shared, Maps Shared, Site Visits, Meetings, and other Services.
    - Examples of Datasets Created for Member Agencies: City zoning, subdivisions, and structure outlines.
    - Examples of Maps Created for Member Agencies: Zoning, Subdivisions, Address Maps
    - Examples of Datasets and Maps Shared: County Base Data (parcels, roads, imagery, PLS sections, and municipal boundaries), 2ft contours, and much more. Many County highway maps and County Plat Books were given to members agencies at no cost.
    - Users Group meetings occurred once per month and County staff also travelled to meet individually with member agencies throughout the year.
    - Other services included sending data to be updated on the online GIS mapping sites for member agencies.
- Future projects include but are not limited to: 2009 color county-wide imagery, Convert to a new version of online GIS mapping sites, and add more data and functionality to online GIS mapping sites.

Mapping Service Trucks in Real-Time Using ArcGIS:

Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities (RPU)

More information from this presentation is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.

- RPU developed a Visual Basic .NET application to track their service trucks in real-time. (Only being used for some of their vehicles)
  - Signals are sent and received every two minutes.
  - Results come up as an XML file which can then be saved as a text file and read by ArcMap to map the location points.
  - RPU created a second Visual Basic .NET application to create a custom button in ArcMap.
- This application has been beneficial to provide better safety for crews and more efficient dispatching of vehicles.
- Approximate Costs:
  - $300-500 per truck for the tracking software.
  - $30 per truck for network card
  - Additional $$ for cell service for each truck.
- In the future RPU would like to:
  - Add this capability to all of its fleet vehicles. (65 total)
  - Create an ArcGIS Server application to display the fleet location data.
  - Change the application so that it runs as a Server service instead of as a Scheduled Task.
  - Change the application so that truck locations are automatically added as a layer into ArcMap.

Announcement:

- GIS/LIS Spring Workshops to be held in May 2009 in Arden Hills. More information about the workshops will be available at www.mngislis.org

Meeting ended at 12:15pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 16th, Faribault, MN – *Hosted by Rice County*

Rice County Government Services Building, Conference rooms 3A & B, 320 3rd Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021

****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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