Southeastern Minnesota GIS Users Group

MnDot Region 6 Headquarters – Rochester, MN
Thursday, January 20th 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Debbie Persoon-Bement – MnDOT-Rochester
Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities
Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County
Alan Laumeyer – Goodhue County
Leanne Knott – City of Red Wing
Mark Engel – Yaggy Colby
Ruth Betcher – MnDot
Rick Kostohryz – MnDot
Kevin Snook – MnDot
Tom Hoffmann – Winona County
Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County
Ashley Ignatius – St. Mary's University
Greg Pates – MnDot
Michelle Trager – Rice County
Jen Rand – Olmsted County
Randy Growden – Olmsted County
Ramai Riba - MnDot
Ben Ogren – McGhie & Betts
Jessica Wiens – MnDot
Nancy Klema – MnDot
Michael Schweyer – MnDot
Shawn Gertken – Wabasha County
Kevin Morrissey – Rochester Public Works
Jesse Pearson – MnDot
Paul Weinberger – MnDot
Rick Kostohyrz - MnDot

10:00am Introductions
11 new members attended this meeting!

Overview of Mn/DOT GIS Web Services, Public Applications, and Data:
Jesse Pearson, Paul Weinberger, and Rick Kostohryz – MnDot
The full version of the MnDot presentations is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.

- MnDot has several ArcIMS services available. These services can be access through ArcMap or ArcCatalog and a URL that is listed in the powerpoint presentation document.
- MnDot also has over twenty external ArcGIS services available. These services can be access through ArcMap or ArcCatalog and a URL that is listed in the powerpoint presentation document.
- MnDot now has a new basemap application that was created with the GeoCortex software by Latitude Geographics. *(The URL to access this application is available in the powerpoint presentation document.)*
    - In this application, a user can select a location and get the transportation attributes such as road name, true mile point, and more.
    - Map layouts are available for 8X11 and 11X17 in this application.
    - There is a GeoCortex users group meeting on January 25th, 2011 in Roseville.
- There are other application available online such as;
    - Right-of-Way Mapping & Monitoring Viewer
    - Geodetics Viewer
    - Aggregate Source Information System
- MnDot also has GIS data available for download online. *(The URL to access the downloadable GIS data is available in the powerpoint presentation document.)*

MnDot Flood Support Efforts – Spring 2010 and Fall 2010 Events:

- For the Spring 2010 floods, MnDot created 26 separate editing applications for counties to enter and edit their own data.

- The information was then displayed in a public ArcGIS application. MnDot entered the 511 road closure information.
- Challenges:
    - Closures were not updated (sometimes only on a weekly basis)
    - Closures came in different formats(fax, website, email, press releases and by phone)
    - Data wasn't always accurate and came in map or text format
- For the Fall 2010 floods, MnDot created a different Road viewer application using Silverlight technology.
- Advantages:
    - Faster, quicker and better graphics. Include damage pictures
- Disadvantages:
    - Required the Silverlight plug-in for the public to view
- Kept the same Road editor application that was used in the Spring 2010 floods.
- Also utilized the Homeland Security/Emergency Management (HSEM) Common Operating Picture application along with the Road Closure application to deal with daily recovery efforts in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
- MnDot staff created map books for county road closures and then made the maps available on the MnDot public website.
- Staff from the MnDot Rochester Traffic Office worked with real-time detours and managing them during the flood events. Staff used paper county highway maps rather than GIS software to decide where the detours should be. Staff did a lot of forecasting where other possible flooding would occur and what detours may be needed in the near future.
- Staff from the MnDot Public Relations department used many GIS maps to provide helpful and updated information to the public.
- Spring 2011 Flood Preparation:
    - MnDot staff plans to keep the Silverlight road viewer application from the Fall 2010 flood events and plans to continue to create the pdf map books of road closures.
    - MnDot staff is working to better include regular road closures due to construction along with the flood-related road closures.

*What are some pre-made maps that can be helpful?
Maps that highlight which roads or bridges are the most likely to flood. Watershed or drainage area maps. It would be helpful if local agency staff analyze now which areas would flood first or the worst so that information can be used during the next flood event.

Demonstration and Training Session for Spring 2011 MnDot Flood Web Application:

- Symbology set for road status:
    - Green = Road is Open
    - Yellow = Caution
    - Orange = Detour Route
    - Red = Closed
    - Grey = Other
    - The editing options look just like the Web ADF version.
- The next version of the road editor application will allow the edits to snap to the roads data instead of just being a map graphic.
- The application has the option to export the road closures information into a .csv file which can then be opened in Microsoft Excel.

- MnDot staff originally contacted county Public Works staff to provide them with access to this application. Next, county Emergency Managers were contacted. Finally, GIS staff were notified of the availability of this application. In the future, all three of these groups of staff will be contacted.
- Local agency staff should think about how to handle updating the road closures information after regular work hours or over the weekend during a flooding event. Which staff members would be available during these times?

Regional SHIP Project Update – GIS Web Application
Ashley Ignatius-St. Mary's University/Winona County intern

Contact Address

- We need to know the web application contact information by **February 7th**.
  Determine who will be the contact for each county as it relates to the GIS web application.
  →Provide Ashley with Name/Title/Department/Address/Phone/Fax/Email
- Currently, we envision a Map User (MU) contacting us with comments/questions/concerns by going to a "Contact Us" page on the website, and then selecting (for example, through a drop-down box) which county he or she is from or about which he or she has a question. The user could then write the question/comment in the "comment" box. The message would then be forwarded to the appropriate email (i.e. the county GIS staff.)
- At this point, we are not sure how many emails to expect from site users. It may be many in the first couple months of use or perhaps it will depend on the size or number of features in your county, or the season (as summer comes, the site's popularity may grow, etc.). We may be able to change the email address later on, but consider carefully to which email address you want the messages sent. Perhaps you will want to create a new email address, i.e. ship.freeborngis@co.freeborn.mn.us.

Updating Data

- ***Individual County GIS staff or similar staff will be in charge of maintaining (updating and continuing QA/QC) the county's data set on a quarterly basis.*** This data is currently being developed and will be provided to you. Data will come with further instruction and guidelines on maintenance.
- A "Community Editor" function is being developed to allow persons with all levels of GIS abilities to edit/manage the data. Therefore, it is possible that Public Health Staff, interns and others can collaborate with GIS staff to maintain the data on a more continual basis. We will need to draw up an agreement between individual County GIS Staff and Winona County GIS Staff (managing/hosting the website/server/data). This agreement will state that the data will, in fact, be reviewed and updated quarterly. Another agreement will be drawn up for use between Individual County GIS Staff and their corresponding Public Health Staff regarding time expended and who will be assigned to maintain data and answer the public's questions.

- Data/Information Still Needed:
  - A digital county logo is needed for each of the 11 counties in the SE Minnesota region so that it can be added to the website. There is a "Partners" page planned where each of the participating counties will be listed along with their logo hyperlinked to their county website.
  - Address points data would be helpful to use geocoding on a regional basis. Contact Ashley for more information.

- All of the these data/information needs have also been communicated to the Public Health staff at each of the 11 counties in the SE Minnesota region. This web application project is possible by a Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant through the county Public Health departments and GIS is an integral part of this project. It is possible that you may also receive a request for this information from your Public Health staff.

Next Meeting: April 21st, 2011 – Hosted by Rochester Public Utilities

July 21st, 2011 Meeting – Hosted by the City of Red Wing
October 20th, 2011 Meeting – Hosted by Wabasha County

****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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