

Southeastern Minnesota GIS Users Group Meeting 1/24/08

Rochester Public Utilities Community Room

4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906

Attendees:

Tom Hoffman – Winona County

Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County

Jeanne Franz – City of Winona

Dan Pitts – City of Northfield

Leanne Knott – City of Red Wing

Dave Wavrin – Steele County

Greg Rowley – Rochester Public Utilities

Michelle Trager – Rice County

Shawn Gertken – Wabasha County

Dave Wittman – Olmsted County

Jarrold Klug

Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities

Heidi Andrist – Rochester Public Utilities

Stan Moellers – Sidwell/Decorah, IA

AGENDA

Introductions

Topics

I. New ESRI Site licensing options for local government agencies

Greg Rowley led discussion on new site licensing options made available by ESRI for local government units. ESRI recently released this Small Local Government ELA program as a way for small government entities to gain access to unlimited GIS software and implement a true enterprise GIS solution. More detailed information is available in the **Small Government ELA Program.doc** posted on the Yahoo Tech Group Site.

II. LUCA Census Update

Dave Wavrin led discussion on his experience in working with the Census Bureau's MAF/TIGER Partnership Software Program. Dave passed around a screen shot copy of his ArcInfo desktop mapping laid over the LUCA update program to help describe his process. He is checking his CAMA database against the LUCA address database. Dave described the challenge of working with downtown apartments in verifying multiple addresses per single parcel. One benefit for Dave was a chance to QA/QC his local data. The LUCA Census update return is due in March, 2008. A pdf copy of the screen shot has been uploaded to the Yahoo Tech User Group Files page.

III. Capturing accurate Z data using Trimble GeoXH, cell phone, and MNDOT VRS base station data

Ryan Moore led discussion on recent advances in their GPS equipment and process. His department now utilizes a cell phone with a data plan and one of Trimble's new H-star technology GPS to capture sub-foot Z data real-time. A Bluetooth connection is established between the GPS unit and the cell phone. Once established, a new modem connection is created on the GPS utilizing the Dial-up Networking service of the phone. To open the new modem connection you can either click and hold on the connection on the GPS and select connect, or alternatively launch Internet Explorer and refresh a web page. More detailed information is available by linking to **Capturing accurate Z data using Trimble GeoXH.pdf** at the Yahoo Tech User Group Files page.

IV. Getting more out Pictometry data- Pilot project for 2008

The City of Rochester Public Works and Rochester Public Utilities has entered a supplemental agreement with Pictometry to have a flight done of approximately 190 square miles on years opposite the County wide flight that is done every two years. This is a pilot project to see if the accuracy of this data will meet the needs of these departments instead of doing traditional orthophotography. The Pictometry data won't be certified, but the underlying Digital Elevation Model used is the same as the previous years traditional orthophotography flight. If successful, the overall cost will be similar to the traditional flight, but yield a higher resolution (4inch/pixel vs. 6inch/pixel). Color depth and less shadowing appear to be better on the Pictometry data as well. The contract signed does give the City an out if the deliverables don't meet expectations.

V. Group Discussion

Round-table discussion regarding GIS hardware maintenance (purchasing processes, replacement schedules, etc.) This was followed by additional discussion on different agencies' GIS projects for 2008.

Meeting Change: A decision was made to reschedule the next meeting from April 24th to the 17th due to a scheduling conflict with the next Rowekamp Tech Forum. Ryan was asked to contact Sarah Schrader to be sure she could still host the event on this new date. Leanne offered to host at City of Red Wing if Goodhue County was unable to host.

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 17th, THURSDAY
GOODHUE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER (tentative)**