

**SEMN GIS User Group**  
**Olmsted County Planning Department: 2122 Campus Drive SE, Rochester, MN**  
**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
*Meeting Minutes*

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**Attendees:**

Alan Laumeyer – Goodhue County  
Dave Wittman – Olmsted County  
Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County  
Tom Hoffmann – Winona County  
Leanne Knott – City of Red Wing  
Rick Garmers – Peoples Cooperative Electric  
Nick Meyers – Winona County  
Randy Growden – Olmsted County  
George Jordan – Widseth Smith Nolting  
Greta Bernatz – St. Mary's University  
John Orris – Olmsted County Surveying  
Kevin Morrissey – Rochester Public Works  
Mark Schoenfelder – MnDOT  
Bruce Whetstone – Olmsted County

Dave Wavrin – Steele County  
Peter Hartman - USDA  
Matt Sapola – Olmsted County  
Ryan Kraft – Olmsted County  
Debbie Persoon-Mement - MnDOT  
Len Urban - MnDOT  
Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County  
Mark Engel – Yaggy Colby & Associates  
Mark Krupski – Olmsted County  
John Ebert – St. Mary's University  
Sandi Goslee – Olmsted County Planning  
Jeanne Franz – City of Winona  
Jan Chezick – Olmsted County GIS

**Introductions**

7 new people attended this meeting!

**Crop Productivity Index vs Crop Equivalency Rating**

**Peter Hartman - USDA**

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

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Crop Productivity Index (CPI) was developed for several reasons including to compare soils across Minnesota to eliminate out of date corn and soybean yields in county databases. The CPI ratings provide a relative ranking of soils based on their potential for intensive row crop production. An index can be used to rate the potential yield of one soil against another over a period of time. Even though predicted average yields will change with time, the productivity indices are expected to remain relatively constant in relation to one another over time. There are many differences between the CPI and the Crop Equivalency Rating (CER).

In addition to CPI, there are different farmland classifications that correlate to the CPI information. Most productive soils are also usually considered “prime farmland”. Prime farmland has the least risk of being damaged under intensive crop production. However, prime farmland is not directly related to the highest yielding as there are areas of “statewide importance” and “other” farmland that have higher yielding than some prime farmland areas.

**ArcGIS Server Project – Historic Places in Goodhue County**

**Alan Laumeyer & Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County**

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

Goodhue County staff is currently working on an ArcGIS Server application to show historic places and associated information for Goodhue County. The locations of historic features are an important part of making land use decisions at the county. The most recent County Comprehensive Plan update included

goals to protect historical structures and amenities. In the past there had been incidents where proposed building development would have affected a historical site, structure or district.

County staff researched sites listed on the National Historic Registry as well as sites with local historical significance and cemeteries. Associated documentation such as scanned photos, current-day photos, website resources or publications were compiled and formatted in a pdf site document for each feature. County staff has worked closely with local historical societies and citizens to collect information. The GIS locations for each feature was captured in polygon format and linked to a site document.

The ArcGIS Server application is an out-of-the-box solution using ArcGIS Server 9.3.1. There are basic 'find' tools to assist users in locating sites by name. There are also helpful web links for more information. The application is cached to improve performance and viewability. As users zoom in more information is shown such as section lines and imagery. Users can identify sites or select them to bring up additional information. There is a hyperlink located in the 'identify' information box where users will link to the feature's site pdf document.

County staff hopes to be completed with this project by the end of March 2010. When completed, the site will be accessible from a link on the Goodhue County Historical Society's website.

### **ArcGIS Server project using Microsoft Silverlight API**

**Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities**

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

Ryan has been working with the Microsoft Silverlight API for ArcGIS Server for the past few weeks. This presentation is an overview of how to get started with working with the Silverlight API, available resources, and tips and quirks.

Key points are that all software needed to work with the Silverlight API is free but some software upgrades are available for a fee. ESRI has a resource center devoted to working with Silverlight that contains code samples and a lot of helpful information.

### **Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) - Overview**

**Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County**

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

The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) was signed into law in 2008 as an integral component of Health Care Reform. The overall goal is to help Minnesotans live longer, better, healthier lives by reducing the burden of chronic diseases by addressing physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use. The SHIP program is being planned and implemented on a regional basis and focuses on four main areas: Schools, Communities, Worksites, and Health Care facilities. The SE region covers 9 of the 11 counties representing the SEMNGIS users group area. Olmsted and Rice counties are excluded from the regional planning since these counties applied and are receiving separate funds from SHIP.

Representatives for each county meet to discuss which projects or interventions to work on with SHIP funds and then the regional SHIP group decides which to implement on a regional basis. The planned

regional interventions are: Healthy eating in schools, Active communities, Comprehensive worksite wellness, and Health care referrals to local resources. GIS is being used to map locations of assets such as schools, medical facilities, farmers markets, trails, parks and much more. This information will be used by SHIP representatives to better implement the interventions. A future goal of the regional SHIP group is to create an interactive mapping site similar to Carver County's "GoCarverGo" site. As the work continues towards implementing the mapping site for the region, more information and assistance will be needed from county (and other agency) GIS staff.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Location to be determined.

**\*\*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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