Southeastern Minnesota Counties GIS User Group Meeting Minutes

Winona, MN: 9:30 – 12:30. Thursday, April 6th, 2006

Attendees:

Doug Avoles, ADC
Dave Wittman, Olmsted County
Ron Hensley, Olmsted County
Dave Wavrin, Steele County
Jamie Schultz, DNR Fisheries
Shawn Gertken, Wabasha County
Jeremy Maul, Fillmore County SWCD
Leanne Knott, City of Red Wing
Jeanne Franz, City of Winona
Tom Hoffman, Winona County
Lonnie Mienke, Winona County

Presentation: Winona County's GIS Infrastructure, ArcSDE Development and Parcel Data Development

- Lonnie Meinke, Winona County
Gave an overview of the software and hardware used in Winona County's GIS, details on developing their parcel data and their ArcSDE development.
Discussed the pros and cons of ArcSDE.

(The full version of this powerpoint presentation is available in pdf format on the user group website)

Presentation: Maintaining Parcels

- Tom Hoffman, Winona County
Demonstrated procedures involved in maintaining parcels using ArcView's Traverse Tool.

Presentation: ArcView Tips & Tricks

- Tom Hoffman, Winona County
Time stamp – tool adds date and path to layout.
http://arcscripts.esri.com/details.asp?dbid=12424
Color Brewer! – tools for selecting colors for symbology.
http://www.personal.psu.edu/cab38/ColorBrewer/ColorBrewer_intro.html
Tray Color – grabs colors from items on desktop.
(available as a download on user group website as TrayColor.zip)
From Jeremy: SWCD common land unit for Minnesota counties available in shapefile format.
http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/
Lonnie recommended 3M's print driver for ArcView as a better alternative to ESRI's ArcPress.
http://www.3m.com/us/office/meetings/print_software/index.jhtml

Demonstrations:
- Lonnie Meinke, Winona County
- Fly-Through of a proposed residential development in Winona County using ArcView's 3D Analyst module.
- "Middleware" program Freeance (http://www.tdc-group.com/freeance/). Has many features superior to those found in ArcIMS.

Discussion:

- Lonnie brought up issues involving distribution and pricing of GIS products. After considerable research, found that there is very little consistency in cost justification of products; most counties compare to other counties to determine pricing. Lonnie suggested that we meet with the Pine to Prairie User Group and other concerned parties to discuss ways of developing consistent and justifiable pricing of products and services. Might need to hire a legal consultant that is familiar with GIS to guide us through the process.

Next Meeting:
Late August or early September: Leanne Knott of the City of Red Wing volunteered to host this meeting. She will try to get Dan Kolbe from ESRI to review what's new in ArcView release 9.2