

SEM N GIS Users Group

Rice County Government Services Building: 320 3rd Street NW, Faribault, MN

Thursday, April 16th, 2009 10:00am – 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
Jim Bunning – Scott County
Christiane Roy – NRCS
Nick Meyers – Winona County
Rubin Seifert – City of Faribault
Kevin Morrissey – City of Rochester
Kevin Alishouse – Greater MN Gas
Josh Schoen – Rice County
Kyle Pemrick – Rice County
Tim Loesch – DNR Metro

Dave Wavrin – Steele County
Jamie Schulz – DNR Fisheries
Brian Welch – City of Northfield
Tom Hoffmann – Winona County
Jeanne Franz – City of Winona
Rick Garmers – Peoples Cooperative Electric
Leanne Knott – City of Red Wing
Randy Knippel – Dakota County
Greg Rowley – Rochester Public Utilities
Mary Sheehan – Olmsted County
Stephen Seifert – Jaguar Communications
Teresa Ennis – Rice County
Stan Smiley – Rice County
Adam Ramseth – Jaguar Communications

Introductions

8 new people attended this meeting!

US National Grid, Standard Emergency Response Maps, and the FGCD CAP Grant for Structures Data

Randy Knippel – GIS Manager for Dakota County

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

US National Grid (USNG)

- “The USNG provides an efficient way to specify location information at different levels of detail anywhere in the United States.” (*Source: MN Office of Enterprise Technology website*)
- On March 25th, 2009, the Minnesota adopted the US National Grid standards.
 - It is recommended that other agencies or municipalities adopt these standards as well but it is purely a voluntary basis. These standards will NOT be forced onto agencies or municipalities.
- Dakota County has used the USNG to prepare standardized Fire District maps for emergency personnel. They have not completely automated their process yet but hope to do so in the future.
 - By using the USNG standards and the DS Map Book extension, making maps for their emergency responders has been a much better process.
- Dakota County would like to integrate the USNG information into the E911 Dispatch Center. By using the USNG information along with existing resources in the Dispatch CAD system, it could help increase the response time by emergency personnel.
- MetroGIS agencies are currently working towards incorporating the USNG into their methods. This includes Dakota, Scott, and Carver counties, and the cities of Edina, Eagan, and Inver Grove Heights.

- There is still a lot to work on such as defining map standards, creating supporting documents, and providing training to emergency personnel, GIS staff, and others.
- More information regarding the US National Grid is available online at:
<http://www.gis.state.mn.us/commitee/emprep/download/USNG>

Structures Data

- MetroGIS has created standard symbology for many structure points such as schools, police stations, fire stations, hospitals and clinics. MetroGIS has also created a flowchart for GIS staff and local contacts regarding working with and updating datasets.
- In order to build successful data stewardship, you need to identify data sources, data custodians, engage local government and then create supporting systems.

Southeastern MN LIDAR Project: Overview of Project and Update on Progress

Tim Loesch – GIS Operations Supervisor for the MN DNR – Metro

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

- Tropical Storm Erin dropped many inches of rain on Southeastern Minnesota in August of 2007. As a result, 7 counties were declared disaster areas and then Special Session Legislation appropriated monies for flood relief and mitigation. \$624,000 Surplus funds were allocated towards the collection of Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data in order to create 2ft contours for the counties affected by the storm. The resulting data will be publicly available without restrictions.
- Counties covered by this project are: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.
- Financial contributing agencies for this project are: State of Minnesota – Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Transportation, US Geological Survey, and Mower & Freeborn counties – Shell Rock River, Turtle Creek, and Cedar River Watershed Districts.
- The deliverables of this project include 2foot contours that are breakline enforced, and 1 meter DEM with the units in meters. The data will be publicly available on the Department of Natural Resources Data Deli. DNR staff is also exploring other web delivery options. General time frame for delivering data to the partner agencies is May – June, 2009.

Announcements/Updates

GIS/LIS Spring Workshops are being held on May 21st, 2009 at the Mn DOT Training Center in Arden Hills. More information will be available soon at <http://www.mngislis.org>

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 9th, Red Wing, MN – *Hosted by City of Red Wing*

****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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