

Southeastern Minnesota Counties GIS Users Group Meeting Summary

Winona, MN: 9:30am – 2:30pm, Tuesday, September 21st, 2004

Attendees:

Dave Wavrin, Steele County
Jeremy Maul, Fillmore SWCD
Darrin Dahl
Jeff Cooper, Fillmore SWCD
Ryan Kiefer, GeoSpatial Services
Jay Meehl, GeoSpatial Services
Danea Larson, Fillmore SWCD
Patrick Thorsell, GeoSpatial Services
Khalid Mubarak
Ryan Moore, City of Rochester Public Works
Mitch Moline, GeoSpatial Services
Michelle Trager, Rice County
Dave Wittman, Olmsted County
Ron Hensley, Olmsted County
Dean Schrandt
Shawn Gertken, Wabasha County
Kevin Morrissey, City of Rochester
Sarah Midler, Goodhue County
Tom Hoffmann, Winona County
Lonnie Meinke, Winona County

Introductions

There were 7 new people who attended this meeting.

Presentation: “Parcels and the Enterprise Geodatabase” – Mitch Moline

The full version of this powerpoint presentation will be available online on the users group website

* Advantages of topology in ArcSDE geodatabase:

- improved handling of COGO attributes
- more robust rules to define topological relationship
- feature-linked annotation will speed up editing

*Best practices for editing ArcSDE geodatabase parcels:

- use scale threshold
- minimize the layers to speed up the re-draw process
- create overview layers
- simplify symbology
- use the edit cache!
- create “chunky edits” versus “chatty edits”
- build indexes on Primary and Foreign keys
- use automatic labeling only when necessary

Presentation: “ArcIMS demonstrations” – Patrick Thorsell

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Total of 3 demonstrations:

1. Mapping program for the campus of St. Mary’s University in Winona, MN
 - a. Uses aerial photos, water lines, storm sewers, gas lines, and other layers
 - b. University’s maintenance dept. currently uses this program for daily projects such as figuring acreage/square footage for fields and lawns that they have to re-seed or add

- fertilizer. It is a time saver because they can get this information in their office without actually going out to the field and measuring by hand.
- c. Staff can draw polygons within program for measuring purposes and when the polygon is closed, the program will automatically display the segment lengths and the square footage.
 - d. Slight downside to program is that you have to wait for screen to redraw each time you draw a side to the polygon.
2. City of Winona mapping site: http://gis.cityofwinona-mn.com/website/base_map/viewer.htm
 - a. You can do searches, add buffers with this site.
 - b. Available data layers include fire hydrants, landcover, soils, railroads, aerial photos, rivers, roads, and other layers.
 3. Agridata website
 - a. This site is password-protected
 - b. This mapping site does NOT need to refresh the screen when digitizing on the site! Much faster to work with.
 - c. Keep in mind that the digitizing and computing acreage etc. is all done over the internet! Then, the new polygons and data made can be saved. This saves time and money for agencies that are tracking information such as crop acreage for insurance reasons. They can log-in and view aerial photos and existing polygons with information. Then, they can digitize new polygons and add its respective information and then SAVE it!

Presentation: “Model Builder in ArcGIS 9.0” – Ryan Keifer

The full version of this powerpoint presentation is currently available online on the users group website.

Host Presentation: “Demo of IcoMap Software” – Tom Hoffmann, Winona County

Brief history of GIS in Winona County:

1997 – GIS Analyst hired

1998 – County gets ArcView software and produces new Comprehensive Plan

**Comp. Plan later wins different awards

2001 – Presented the Comp. Plan at the ESRI Users Conference

*County received ArcMap through an ESRI grant

2002 – GIS Technician hired

*Rural addressing for county begins

2004 – Rural addressing project is completed

*Work on parcel project begins

Data utilized by county:

-MN Planning -MN DNR -MNDOT -FSA (photos) -SWCD -Lambda Tech (centerlines)
 -section corners -geodatabase items as well

- There are many departments within the county that use the GIS data
- Most of what GIS is used for within Winona County are mapping and planning
 - Recently assisted Law Enforcement with a search & rescue effort by creating large aerial maps for dispatch and the search teams
- Other uses are for the Comprehensive Plan, All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Water plan, and staff reports

Long range goals for the Winona County GIS Dept. are to become a central GIS service for ALL of the departments within the county.

Demo of IcoMap: *The demo was not able to take place as the computer was not working properly.*

- The program sets up as an icon within ArcMap
- The program scans a legal description for the measurements, directions, etc. of a parcel and then will automatically attribute the data.
- The document being scanned has to be a .txt file. It can be in .tiff format but then the legal description information must be manually highlighted.
- Cost is around \$1500 by "Euclid" a company in Madison, WI

Questions for presenter:

*Dave Wavrin; Is the county working together with the City of Winona?

-Not right now. Both parties have their separate GIS projects. The City doesn't really have any GIS planning projects at this point.

*Has Winona used Lambda Tech to pick up sign locations?

-Not at this time. There isn't really a need for it.

*Is the county compiling their digital parcels in-house?

-No, there is a consulting firm handling the parcel data.

*Jeremy Maul; Where did you get the plats etc. for the parcel compilation?

-The MN DNR used scanned original plats from 1850's

Group Discussion

*Michelle Trager; During Rice County's parcel compilation, took all plats and mylars but then ran into a problem that the legals and mylars didn't match. Staff then had to go through information and decide which record was correct.

*Dave Wittman, Ron Hensley; Olmsted County has different scripts that they use in order to get through the many steps of extracting AS400 information and getting it attached to the GIS data and then converting it to geodatabases.

*Tom Hoffman; County has no mylars of plats, just the legal descriptions

*Jeremy Maul; Ran into meets & bounds information for their parcels and noticed some errors.

*Ron Hensley; Advice is to work on getting digital parcel information done. As you update your section corners and other similar information, you can then go back to your parcel data and adjust it accordingly.

*Winona County's approximate cost for their parcel mapping: \$7-10 per parcel or about \$200,000. The end product will be in geodatabase format. The county will maintain this database once it has been created.

*Jeremy Maul volunteered to set up a gathering at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium in October

Next Meeting:

January 2005: Dave Wittman and Ron Hensley of Olmsted County, volunteered to host the next users group meeting. An email notice will be sent out when more details become available regarding the next meeting.

Meeting ended approximately 2pm