

# SEMN GIS Users Group

Winona City Hall: 207 Lafayette Street, Winona, MN

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 10am – 12:00pm

## *Meeting Minutes*

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### **Attendees:**

Alan Laumeyer – Goodhue County  
Dave Wittman – Olmsted County  
Leanne Knott – City of Red Wing  
Michelle Trager – Rice County  
Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities  
Shawn Gertken – Wabasha County  
Bruce Whetstone – Olmsted County  
Teresa Ennis – Rice County  
Dan Krzoska – Houston County  
James Bunning – Scott County

Dave Wavrin – Steele County  
Jeanne Franz – City of Winona  
Sarah Schrader – Goodhue County  
Tom Hoffmann – Winona County  
Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County  
Rick Garmers – Peoples Cooperative Electric  
Randy Growden – Olmsted County  
Josh Schoen – Rice County  
Nick Meyers – Winona County

### **Introductions**

4 new people attended this meeting!

### **“Mapping for a Comprehensive Plan”: Todd Zielsdorf – Winona County**

- Todd went through various pdf maps that he worked on for Winona County’s Comprehensive Plan. Some of the information shown included: Traffic flow, percentage slope, zoning, planned urban expansion, registered feedlots, 25-year future development, and much more.
- Winona County Planning staff also completed the Comprehensive Plans for the cities of St. Charles and Lewiston.

### **“Scott County Collaborations – Past, Present, & Future”:**

#### **James Bunning – Scott County**

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

- Scott County has a population of approximately 120,000 people and is mostly rural.
- Past GIS Projects/Collaboration:
  - Formed a county-wide GIS users group in 2000.
  - Collected LIDAR and 6” color imagery in 2003.
  - Created SCALE – Scott County Association of Leadership Efficiency
    - Made up of City Mayors, Administrators, County Staff, and others.
    - Bi-monthly meetings
    - Discuss shared data acquisition and shared infrastructure such as a fiber ring throughout County.
- Present GIS Projects/Collaboration:
  - Contracted with Pictometry for imagery and obliques in 2008.
  - Working with Dakota County to share GIS Data and eventually connect to each other’s SDE databases.
  - Working on implementing the National Grid information. Already has been used with their highway map.
  - Working with Carver and Dakota Counties to share the development of an ArcIMS interface. “ScottGIS”
  - MetroGIS
    - Centerlines, address points, and parcels.

- Future/Collaboration:
  - Web editing for staff
  - Leverage other experts
  - Share ArcGIS Server applications
  - Work more with Public Health Department

### **“Tips & Tricks in the 9.3 Environment”: Michelle Trager – Rice County**

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

- Remember to submit bug OR enhancement requests to ESRI! Regarding enhancement requests, the more requests ESRI receives, the more priority that enhancement is given for being developed and offered in the next software release.
- You can now add additional ‘Views’ to your Map Project. *(Not the same as ‘Views’ in ArcView 3.x but similar.)*
- In 9.3, you can better manage bookmarks. You can rename them, reorder them, and also save them out to re-load them in other projects!
- In a layer’s properties box, there is an option to create an HTML pop-up containing user-specified information.
- There are advanced sorting options now available in a layer’s data table such as sorting by multiple fields!
- You can now rename field names in a layer’s data table. Note: *These changes will NOT save though when you export that shapefile or feature class into a new shape or feature class.*
- Check out ESRI’s Resource Centers online. <http://resources.esri.com> There are a lot of great resources for all aspects of ESRI software.
- Now in 9.3, you can clip rasters by a shapefile or a graphic! Right-click any raster file in ArcMap and choose to export. A new window will pop up with many options of how to export or clip the raster file, including an option to clip by a selected graphic.

### **“Common Interest Community Plats (CIC Plats)”: Dave Wittman – Olmsted County**

*More information from this presentation is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.*

- The Olmsted County GIS Department is working on a new way to map CIC Plats. Different County departments, from Planning to Assessors, are requesting to see the information differently.
- The mapping process includes creating the information in CAD first and then bringing it into ArcGIS.

### **“Automating Models with Python & Windows Schedule”:**

#### **Ryan Moore – Rochester Public Utilities**

*More information about this presentation is available for viewing on the SEMN Yahoo Groups website.*

- Create a model in ArcCatalog using Model Builder and then export it as a Python, VB, or Java script. You can then use the “Scheduled Tasks” to find that script and run it on certain days or at certain times.
- By bringing a python script into PythonWin, you can edit parts of the code. Delete parts that you don’t need or copy and paste other pieces into your script.
- TIP: Remember to set your script to overwrite your output!
- TIP: Recommend not using spaces or “\_” in the naming of data used in scripts. Many times, scripts will not run correctly if it runs into spaces or underscores in naming.
- TIP: Have ArcCatalog closed before you try to run your scripts.

**Set Future Meeting Dates:**

Tentatively schedule quarterly meeting dates for users group in 2009.

- Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Olmsted County
- Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Rice County
- Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – City of Red Wing
- Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Wabasha County

Members enjoyed the presentations from multiple agencies at this meeting. Would like to continue with this type of meeting in the future. Members are encouraged to present at a future meeting and to offer suggestions of vendors or other agencies to present.

*Meeting ended at 12:15pm*

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Rochester