

## January Southwest Minnesota GIS Users Group Minutes

Wednesday January 14, 2004 in the conference room of the Rock County Ag Service Center, Land Management Office, 311 West Gabrielson Road, Luverne, MN

### Minutes:

- After introductions, Charlie Kost reminded the group that Chris Winter is leaving Lyon County and will be moving to the twin cities to continue his education to become a Civil engineer. There will be an open house for him at the Lyon County Public Works Facility on Thursday, January 15 from 2 - 4 p.m. and continuing after that time at the Wooden Nickel.
- The new 2003 FSA one meter color photos are now available. If anyone has trouble downloading them they can contact Charlie and he will help them. They may not be geo-rectified to this degree for another 5-6 years.
- Charlie is putting on a Intro to ArcGIS class during the spring semester. They had their first class Monday and you can still sign up. The class meets 2:30 p.m - 4:30p.m. (January 12 - April 26). This is basically a software course using ArcView 8.1

### Presentation:

- Arlyn Gehrke, Tom Kresco, and Jeff Sehr presented how Rock County uses GIS and the Feedlot Evaluation Model Program (FLEval) in their feedlot inventory process. The FLEval factors in the soil type, amount of clean water entering the feedlot, amount of clean water entering the buffer area, length and slope of buffer area and buffer cover type.

It then determines a number 0-100 with a higher number a greater potential pollution problem. The program is somewhat subjective depending on what is chosen as the point of discharge. The SWCD uses a Garmin GPX map 76 to determine the exact location of the feedlot. Using Arc View 3.2 they use the aerial photo, soil map and topo map to help complete the FLEval and feedlot application. This is after an on-site inspection. They have 597 mapped feedlots and have done 425 on-site visits since July 2002. They use DNR protected waters layer to determine feedlots within a shoreline area. They can project by watershed, township, animal units, type of animal, number of feedlots, feedlots by sq. mile and many other parameters.

### User Updates

- Rock County has started using a home made parcel layer for conditional use meetings. Murray County, using CAD, closed and completed their much of their

partial layer and is finishing up around lakes area.

- Lyon County SWCD is discussing the possibility of doing a Level III Feedlot Inventory with the County Board.
- Kevin Anderson works with Ag retailers and farmers. A field data team is kept busy measuring fields for insurance companies, going to real time data will be the way of the future.
- B.J. Justice-Kauf is working with an organization to measure program penetrations in Southwest Minnesota and mapping historical data by zip code.
- Yellow Medicine Watershed District - is using GIS differential data layers including feedlots, ISTS, and soil to develop diagnostic data sets to address TMDL impaired waters in the Lake Shaokaton area and those out the YMWD.
- Redwood is working with the new 2003 photos and comparing them to 2002.
- Nobles is looking to Pro-West & Associates to develop a parcel layer over a three year time period.
- The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Yellow Medicine Watershed District Office in Minneota. Presentation will be by the Yellow Medicine Watershed District.

Attendees:

Charlie Kost, SMSU	Gordy Olson, Jackson County
B.J. Justice-Kauf, Independent GIS consultant, Redwood Falls	
Ardis Hotzler, Jackson County	Wayne Smith, Nobles County
Shannon Wohnoutka, RCRCA	Byron Swart, Nobles County
Kane Radel, Redwood SWCD	Cindy Potz, Yellow Medicine WD
Ross Eischens, Lyon SWCD	Pam Friesen, Murray County
Kevin Anderson, Farm Rx	Jean Christoffers, Murray County
Alrene Vee, Jackson County	Arlyn Gehrke, Rock County
Tom Kresko, BWSR	Jeff Sehr, Rock County
Doug Bos, Rock County	