

Southwest Minnesota GIS Users Group Minutes

Wednesday July 14, 2004
Lyon County Public Works Building
Conference Room
Marshall, MN

Minutes:

- After introductions, Charlie Kost informed the group of an opportunity for metadata training. The group reviewed the agenda of a metadata workshop presented this spring in Moorhead by Chris Cialek of LMIC. LMIC has a grant that would allow them to conduct a similar workshop in southwest Minnesota. The group decided to contact LMIC to try to schedule a workshop.
- The group talked about the recent release of ESRI's upgrade to ArcGIS 9. Shawn Strong is currently using the updated software and talked about the changes.
- Charlie Kost reported on some of the recent actions of the MN Governor's Council and the MN GIS/LIS Consortium. The annual MN GIS/LIS fall conference will be in St. Cloud on October 4 – 6 this year. More information on the Governor's Council can be found at www.gis.state.mn.us and MN GIS/LIS information and newsletter can be found on the web at www.mngislis.org.
- Charlie Kost talked about the progress of a proposal to the Coteau Des Prairies RC&D to fund student GIS workers to work on spatial data projects for area agencies. The proposal has received preliminary approval and awaits funding. As funding becomes available, area agencies will be able to submit GIS related project requests to be completed by SMSU students. It is anticipated that funding will be available near the end of the year or early in 2005. Information about the process for submitting project requests will be available after funding is confirmed.
- Shawn Strong has offered to create and maintain a website for the SW MN GIS Users group to be used for communication of group information. The group looked at an existing site for a metro area group and Shawn demonstrated a skeleton of a possible site for our group. SMSU has agreed to host the site. The group gave Shawn the go ahead to create a site. Shawn expressed a willingness to share website responsibilities with any interested member. Please contact Shawn if you would like to help with the creation and maintenance of the website.

Presentation:

- Shawn Strong gave the group an overview of GIS mapping via the web. The demonstration included comparisons between ArcIMS and MapServer applications, with a discussion of the differences in cost, installation requirements, and functionality. Shawn talked about the installation of ArcIMS and a web server at Lyon County. The group discussed the possibility of other agencies using the Lyon County site as a host. Shawn is available to answer any questions you may have regarding web mapping – 507.532.8212, shawnstrong@co.lyon.mn.us

Next Meeting:

The group decided to try to schedule a metadata workshop for the next meeting. Charlie Kost will contact LMIC to coordinate a workshop in southwest Minnesota. Location and date will be communicated as they become available.

Attendees:

Brian Green, Redwood County Environmental Office
Charlie Kost, SMSU
Ross Eischens, Lyon SWCD
Joel Connot, Schwan's
John Polasky, Schwan's
Randall Johnson, Schwan's
Shawn Wohnoutka, RCRC
Lincoln Ferguson, Jackson County
Dan Eischens, Jackson County
Ardis Hotzler, Jackson County
Arlyn Gehrke, Rock County
Jeff Sehr, Rock County
Shawn Strong, Lyon County