

Notes from the GIS Users Group meeting on March 7, 2002 at the Lyon County Government Center.

**In attendance:** Anthony LaSota, Lee Webskowski, Nate Petersen, Dennis Guse, Arlyn Gehrke, Jean Christoffels, Chris Hansen, Tom Kresko, Brent Riess, James Doering, Kane Radel, Wade Gillingham, Gregg Swanson, Chris Winter, Stephanie McLain, Charles Kost

**Presentation:** Charles Kost the director of the GIS Center at Southwest State University demonstrated image display using ArcView software.

**Discussion** of user group organization topics:

**Group purpose/objectives:** The following ideas were mentioned – sharing knowledge, growth/promotion of GIS, access/understanding of data and knowledge, increase awareness, save time and frustration. It was decided that a preliminary statement of purpose would be drafted for consideration by the group at the next meeting.

Thanks to Jim Doering for the following draft of the groups' statement of purpose and list of objectives:

To share GIS information in order to improve productivity, data access and solve individual project problems.

Objectives: 1.) Technology updates 2.) Topic demonstrations 3.) Data sharing – resource identification 4.) Individual project problem solving 5.) Advisory group to local organizations.

**Leadership:** The group decided to move forward as an informal organization with the leadership for each meeting provided by the host members.

**Meetings:** The group plans to hold quarterly meetings. The meeting location will be determined by the host member. Meeting agendas will include introductions, discussion of current events (all members are responsible for noting significant GIS related events to bring for discussion), a presentation of the chosen topic, a group discussion of problems or other issues (all members can provide topics for discussion at the end of the meeting), and plan the next meeting.

Some topics discussed for consideration for future meetings: E911, web based mapping, CAD and GIS, watershed planning, soils, metadata, Schwans routing.

**Communications:** Charles Kost volunteered to coordinate communications for the group via email.

**Next meeting plans:** Tom Kresko volunteered to host the next meeting. The presentation topic will be GPS. The presenter will be Craig Christensen of the Murray County SWCD. The tentative meeting date and location is Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Murray County Courthouse meeting room in Slayton.

A meeting notice and call for agenda items will be emailed in early May, but feel free to send information items at any time.

**Goodies:** The group thought it would be a good idea (but not mandatory) for the host members to provide treats at future meetings.