

**April 16, 2003**  
**SW GIS Users Group Minutes**

The meeting started with introductions at 10:00am at the Schwan Food Company in Marshall.

**Current Events**

Charlie Kost reported that Governor Pawlenty has reauthorized the Governor's Council on Geographic Information for the coming year. With the state budget shortfall and some administrative reorganization, there had been some concern about the future status of the council.

Kost also reminded the group about the upcoming (May16) spring MN GIS/LIS training workshops at the Arden Hills Mn/DOT facility. Additional information is available on line at [www.mngislis.org](http://www.mngislis.org).

**Presentation: GIS at Schwan's**

Joel Connot & Jim Wetterau presented how GIS is used at Schwan's Home Service Corporation a business unit of the Schwan Food Company. Their presentation included software used at Schwan, (MapInfo Professional v7.0, RiMMs, SQL Server, Cognos PowerPlay) data sources (Customer Data from the Hand Held Computer, StreetPro and TargetPro data from MapInfo), the roles of GIS users within the organization. Also, a snapshot of future technologies that Schwan is testing to increase their efficiencies with the use of spatial technologies, like merging the use wireless communication, on board GPS, map data on Pocket PC's to create an on board real time navigation system complete with voice driving directions.

The presentation also highlighted the work that Jim and Joel have been doing for Schwan. Jim presented on the role of the Strategic Route Planner – reorganizing routes to improve efficiency and increase sales, while reducing the amount of time route managers are at work. In turn, these improvements will not only help with increase sales and decrease mileage, but also increase employee retention and decrease pollution caused by wasted fuel and vehicle wear and tear. Jim's work focuses on finding solutions to immediate problems uses GIS technology.

Joel presented the role of the Strategic Network Analyst, where he is tasked with analyzing depot locations and areas of potential future growth. His work is focused on finding solutions to longer-term problems that will keep Schwan aligned with changes in population distribution, as well as other considerations associated with those shifts.

For further information or explanation Joel & Jim can be contacted via the following e-mail addresses:

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**Open Discussion items:**

Geoff Cunfer asked the group for help in finding a data set of area county park locations.

Wayne Smith asked for help in locating digital floodplain data.

Tom Kresko talked about the closing of the Soil and Water Conservation program at MN West Canby.

Kyle Krier asked about the progress on a GIS project proposal to the new Prairie Coteau Resource Conservation and Development organization. Kost noted that a proposal was submitted to the RC&D for funds to pay student workers to develop GIS spatial data for regional organizations. The proposal is one of many to the forming RC&D and Kost did not expect to get a decision in the near future.

Since the group has been in existence for a year, Kost asked the group for feedback about changes or improvements needed to the group's meeting structure. General consensus is to continue with the group as is.

### **Plan the next meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively planned for July 9, 2003 at SSU in Marshall. The planned topic will be a presentation of selected student projects and internships. Dr. Geoff Cunfer and available students will be presenters.

Minutes created by Charlie Kost and Joel.

#### Members present:

Charlie Kost, SSU GIS Center  
Gordy Olson, Jackson County  
Ardis Hotzler, Jackson County  
Joel Connot, Schwan Food Co.  
Jean Christoffels, Murray County  
Chris Hansen, Murray County  
Mark Koster, Noble County  
Lee Webskowsky, Schwan Food Co.  
Dennis Guse, Schwan Food Co.  
Peter McDonald, Schwan Food Co.  
Jolene Johnson, Yellow Medicine Co.  
Geoff Cunfer, SSU CRRS

Clint Sires, SRDC  
Wayne Smith, Nobles County  
Ross Eischens, Lyon County SWCD  
Kelli Daberkow, Cottonwood County  
Marlene Smith, Cottonwood County  
B J Justice-Kamp, SSU Student  
Wade Gillingham, MPCA Marshall  
Jim Wetterau, Schwan Food Co.  
Kyle Krier, Pipestone Co.  
Tom Kresko, MN BWSR  
Tony LaSota, Schwan Food Co.