

**March Southwest Minnesota GIS Users Group Minutes**  
Wednesday April 14, 2004  
at the office of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District  
Minneota, MN

Began at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, Minneota, Minnesota.

Though it was a small group, we had a good group discussion on GIS software programs, present and future. The use of GIS in government and private industries is growing rapidly.

The presentation was made by Cindy Potz, YMRW District GIS technician, and Terry Renken, YMRW district administrator.

Terry gave an overall view and introduction of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, its boundaries, the municipalities within the watershed, the fall of the elevation of the watershed's land, and the subsequent fall of the Yellow Medicine River and its tributaries, starting at Lake Shaokatan, and ending at the Minnesota River near Granite Falls.

Cindy showed a power point presentation during his presentation and hers, displaying several maps depicting the watersheds' characteristics. Her presentation showed the development of a TMDL (total maximum daily load) project in the South branch of the Yellow Medicine River, which is labeled impaired by EPA, impaired for excess fecal coliform. We covered the location of the impaired stream, the monitoring sites, landuse, septic system locations, feedlot locations, and other pertinent sources, etc. of the excess fecal coliform loads.

Discussion then followed on the watershed districts' proposed solutions for addressing the problems found in the diagnostic program, and plans for future implementation of the best management practices determined to be most effective for reducing the runoff and direct "deposits" of the fecal coliform into the stream.

Porterhouse steak was grilled for 12:00 noon lunch, along with baked potatoes and a salad bar. ( April Fool's! )

The next SW MN GIS users group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2004 at the Lyon County Government Center, presented by Shawn Strong, new Lyon County GIS coordinator. Shawn will give a presentation on the use of GIS within our websites.

Those in attendance:

Charlie Kost, SMSU GIS coordinator  
Ross Eischens, Lyon SWCD technician  
Shawn Strong, Lyon County GIS coordinator  
Shawn Wohnoutka, RCRCRCA GIS outreach coordinator

Cindy Potz, YMRWD  
Terry Renken, YMRWD