

Southwest Minnesota GIS Users Group Minutes

Wednesday, February 16, 2005
Lyon County Public Works Building
Conference Room
Marshall, MN

Members Present

Charlie Kost – SMSU
Shawn Strong – Lyon County
Kathy Henderschiedt – Nobles County
Bill Schuna – DNR Wildlife
Beth Collins – NRCS
Kari Howey – Lincoln County
Ardis Hotzler – Jackson County
John Shepard – SWRDC
Brian Green – Redwood County

Charlie Kost began the meeting with introductions – Beth, Bill, Kari, and John were all attending for the first time.

Charlie discussed activities with the MN Governor's Council on Geographic Information and the Land Records Modernization Committee. The latest state budget has recommended cutting the Land Management Information Center (LMIC) by 75% which would reduce staff from 8.5 FTE to 2 FTE. The concern among GIS professionals is that LMIC has been a major coordinator of GIS in Minnesota and any reduction will affect everyone using GIS in Minnesota. Charlie has written a letter and encouraged SWMNGIS members to contact legislature to voice concerns about the cuts.

Charlie mentioned that MN GIS/LIS spring workshops should be announced soon. There are openings on some sub-committees at MN GIS/LIS if anyone is interested.

Member Updates:

Charlie has been working with Murray County – converting rural parcel lines in CAD into polygons, work in the cities will begin soon. He is currently teaching a spring semester course on GIS and plans to offer a fall semester course - evenings (6-8pm).

Beth Collins started as a GIS Specialist with NRCS in Marshall during the summer of 2004. She has been involved with data management issues, training, and converting from 3.x to 8.3.

Kari Howey started as a GIS Technician with Lincoln County in January 2005. She has been working with organizing data, metadata, and parcels. A parcels layer existed upon her arrival, created in part by the Yellow Medicine

Watershed. Lincoln County plans to contract with Lyon County GIS to host a web mapping application (ArcIMS) in the near future.

Ardis Hotzler (Jackson County) has been working with feedlots and manure management, as well as E911 addressing. We do digital presentations for the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments. The GIS is used daily and a big help with the Planning & Zoning aspect of the County. Their parcel data is created in CAD and sent to a consultant three times a year for conversion into shapefiles. A Jackson County's website is being started and is in the "under construction" phase – www.co.jackson.mn.us

John Shepard started as the new Development Planner at the Southwest Regional Development Commission in January 2005. He will be doing mostly land use planning, with GIS allocated about a day a week. SWRDC is migrating from ArcView 3.x to 9.x.

Shawn Strong (Lyon County) presented scanned documents that were scanned by a newly acquired large format scanner. Demonstrated a web mapping application (ArcIMS) that is being worked on for use by staff and eventually the public. Discussed the 2004 FSA aerial photography – the interim product is currently available for \$50 on CD, the final product should be available in the summer of 2005, no mention of cost from FSA.

Noon -- Charlie had to leave and the remaining folks gave quick reports.

Brian Green (Redwood County) works with GIS when time allows.

Kathy Henderschiedt (Nobles County) discussed the status of their parcel layer – contracted with ProWest who is about half done. Discussed e-link.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13 – 10:00am at the Lyon County Public Works. The topic was left undecided, but will be determined as soon as possible.