

## **Southwest Minnesota GIS Users Group Minutes**

Wednesday, April 13, 2005  
Lyon County Public Works Building  
Conference Room  
Marshall, MN

### Members Present

Charlie Kost – SMSU  
Shawn Strong – Lyon County  
Kathy Henderschiedt – Nobles County  
Beth Collins – NRCS  
Kari Howey – Lincoln County  
John Shepard – SWRDC  
Brian Green – Redwood County  
Tom Kresko – BWSR  
Chris Hanson – Murray County  
Nate Petersen – Schwan's  
Jean Christoffels – Murray County  
Shawn Wohnoutka - RCRCA

Charlie Kost began the meeting with introductions.

Charlie presented the plan for the out-state GIS groups to meet at the MN GIS/LIS conference this fall. The intent is to discuss what each group is working on and how the groups are run. The SWMNGIS members that are planning to attend the conference were in favor of the meeting (Monday night - Oct3). An update (and discussion) will be made at our July meeting.

Charlie mentioned the most recent meeting of the Governor's Council. They are preparing a document that demonstrates the benefits of GIS. There is continued hope that eventually money may be made available to rural counties to begin, further, or complete their parcel mapping.

Charlie mentioned that the LMIC budget may have been reinstated within a legislative committee but was unsure if it made it through any further steps.

Shawn Strong will be going to the ESRI conference in July and offered to retrieve materials from vendors that other members may be interested in.

Shawn led a "free GIS" demonstration and discussion. The intent was to provide an overview of how to acquire, view, and distribute data with little or no cost. Slides included data sources, file format conversion, projections, viewers, functionality, and data sharing.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13 – 10:00am at the SMSU GIS Center. The topic is a hands-on demonstration of projections and file conversion to carry on today's discussion of acquiring data. Members are encouraged to bring their own data or projects to work on.