

Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council

Education and Outreach Working Group

Meeting Minutes

4 May 2010

- The meeting started at 13:38

- Present included: P. Sandgren, P. Petrella, T. Dymkowski, B. DeGrazia, A. Borden

- Discussion regarding the Municipal GIS Survey
 - Survey revision was brought up for discussion
 - the original motivation for the survey was mentioned - to develop a database of statewide GIS contacts, to identify towns needing support for GIS, and to foster statewide collaboration in GIS
 - the original survey had 11 questions
 - some towns responded that they have digital parcels or a web page with a vendor, but do not use GIS in-house
 - it was proposed that we should have a second map showing just the regional GIS

 - Phase 1 of the revision was direct email to the town GIS contacts

 - phase 2 was direct email to RPO and COG GIS people who are listed as contacts for some of the towns without their own GIS departments
 - This has had some success

 - Phase 3 of the survey was discussed
 - This involves contacting the first selectmen, or chief elected officials for the towns that have not responded or responded with no GIS

- Pete S. will divide up the contacts from the database and ask for volunteers to call
 - The goal would be to find the contact person, preferably a municipal employee, for GIS
 - This may involve calling the Assessor, Planner, or Engineer for the town
 - The possibility of creating new questions or additional questions was mentioned
 - The basis would be to answer the “who/what/where” for the town GIS
- Discussion regarding GIS Day 2010 preliminary plans
 - Thad noted that he had been in contact with Don Cooke from Tele Atlas about being a keynote speaker
 - Last December, Mr. Cooke said he was “probable” for participating
 - Thad will contact him and try to get a confirmation
 - Peter S. brought up taking advantage of remaining NEARC materials that we might use (materials left over following the 2010 NEARC conference, November 7-10, in Newport)
 - Thad mentioned that we should once again make recognition of this year’s Connecticut Geography Bee winner (took place April 9)
 - Bill will provide contact information
 - Peter S. will once again provide the certificate
 - Peter S. will inquire with Beth about the citation that she assisted in providing last year
 - Bill mentioned having some additional materials to also provide

- Thad mentioned wanting to recognize the winner of Connecticut's High School Geography Challenge
 - Bill explained what the High School Geography Challenge was, and that 15 CT schools are involved
- Bill mentioned that NESTVAL will be at UCONN about 3 weeks prior to GIS Day
 - Thad mentioned that it would be great to have advertising posters up at NESTVAL about GIS Day
- Thad mentioned getting more participation from the CT GIS User to User group aside from a table display.
 - New president Al Sylvestre will likely be very interested in promoting the U2U Network
- Bill mentioned getting more school participation
 - Bill is willing to spread the word to the members of CGA
 - Bill talked about having some sort of educational activity for students at GIS Day to give them reason to stay longer than some award presentation
 - Thad noted that notice must go out to schools before the end of the school year to plan logistics, bussing, etc
- Thad requested that the next meeting of the group be a GIS Day planning meeting to discuss ideas, plans, activities, etc
- Discussion regarding CGA
 - Peter S. inquired whether Bill had ever submitted an introductory article about CGA- who/what/why they are
 - Peter S. also suggested something for GeoFocus showcasing the "cities of the world" feature every other Friday in Hartford Courant

- Bill will try and put together an article for the Summer GeoFocus
 - Thad noted Beth's absolute deadline of June 18- no later for articles

- Discussion regarding Maps For All program
 - Bill mentioned that he would be meeting with a representative from the New England Cognitive Center- Louise Loomis
 - They are looking to distribute maps to children

 - Thad mentioned that Bill should get contact info, so that we may be able to assist with putting her in contact with the GIS people for each town to get a map of each town

- Discussion regarding legislation on TGIF (Teaching Geography Is Fundamental)
 - Bill recently met with government officials to discuss the progress

 - Bill noted that Sen. Dodd is hoping to have the bill signed into law by the end of his current term

- Meeting adjourned at 14:55