Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council

Education and Outreach Working Group

Meeting Minutes

3 May 2011

* The meeting started at 13:30
* Present included: P. Sandgren, E. Wilson, A. Borden, B. DeGrazia, T. Dymkowski
* Emily reported on the April GIS Council meeting
* Bill reported on the state Geograpy Bee of April 1. Bee is sponsored by Google and National Geographic. Winning student is from Darien, and this is the third time that teacher Barbara Ivey, Middlesex Middle School, has had a student qualify for the National Bee. Winner gets $100 and goes to D.C. for the final. Bill will send a brief article to Beth for the newsletter. The High School Geography Challenge takes place at UConn on May 17. Bill also was in DC for the TGIF (Teaching Geography is Fundamental) bill, which is locally sponsored by Congressman Courtney. There is also going to be a 1 day workshop at Mystic aquarium (Robert Ballard’s organization is involved or sponsoring). Bill also reported on the CGA strategic plan, which is to include GIS technology in the teaching of geography.
* GIS Day is 6 months out. Thad reminded us that we should expect a GIS poster from every member of the council (or at least their agency/town). A suggestion came up for asking for 1 poster from each town – we could use the survey to contact the towns. Another suggestion – a poster showing what towns have contributed to GIS day in this and previous years.
* Thad suggested a theme: “help shape GIS Day” to be spread by the listserves and surveys.
* Discussion on evaluations – online evaluation suggested, also a paper form distributed or put on each seat before each presentation. This received the most approval.
* Discussion on GIS Day keynote speaker. US Census Bureau person is not available. Roger Tomlinson, the “father of GIS” has been asked. He is in Montreal and a long shot. Northeast Geographer’s network mentioned as a source of a speaker.
* Our theme this year – GIS Saves money, increases efficienty.
* User 2 User Group meeting in June at UConn Htfd
* GIS Day audience – discussion on aiming for tech audience or general audience. The challenge is to appeal to a broader audience, beyond our GIS colleagues.
* Suggestion for a lightning talk on GeoCaching.
* Other suggestions for talks, including history of CT GIS with Howie and Sandy Prisloe suggested.
* Another suggestion – smart phone apps for GIS or maps
* CClickFix
* Mansour Raad suggested as speaker