GIS Users Group – 2014 Summary
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In an effort to continually improve the experience for everyone involved with the GIS Users Group meetings, please find below a review of the Group's activities over the past year. Based heavily on positive feedback received from participants, the Center for Shared Solutions (CSS) continued with the same format as in 2013 for the GIS Users Group in 2014:

- The meeting was held on a bi-monthly basis on even numbered months.
- Meetings were broken into morning and afternoon sessions.
  - The morning session consisted of networking time, organizational updates and a thirty minute special topic.
  - The afternoon session was a two hour education session that usually consisted of a PowerPoint, demonstration, and discussion. (List Below)
- CSS provided coffee, tea, and snacks (e.g. bagels or donuts) during the morning networking time.
- CSS continued its support of the meetings by assigning 2 staff members, each at 10% FTE, to act as a liaison for this meeting to ensure that it was planned, marketed, and run smoothly every other month. The Liaisons for 2014 were Joshua Ross and Nan Ewald.

The 2014 GIS User Group meetings continued to build on the success established in 2013.

- The average meeting attendance for 2014 was steady at around 40 participants. (avg. 2-4 dial in remotely), with an average 75% of the morning session participants returning for the afternoon educational sessions.
- There was also a notable increase in new participants to the meeting. Throughout 2014, over 53 new names were added to the attendee list and 149 people joined the GIS ListServ, raising the ListServ participation to over 700 members.
- Meeting attendance continued to be diverse in nature, representing GIS Users from across disciplines – Local, State, and Federal government, academia, private sector, and not-for-profit entities.

In a further effort to improve the GIS Users Meeting, CSS has been working to secure a single location for all of 2014. This has been accomplished with one exception in the month of February. In 2014, CSS investigated the potential to both live broadcast and/or record the meetings to make them available to those who cannot make it to Lansing. Unfortunately, after review of several options, CSS did not find a feasible solution at this time. However, CSS is considering the use of webinar technology to provide remote access to presentations and documents being shared in the room for those who join the conference bridge.

Special Topic and Educational Sessions held in 2014
Further information and meeting minutes are available at the GIS Users Group website
(http://www.michigan.gov/cgi/0,4548,7-158-52927_53037_12761_15235---,00.html):

February
- Morning - "Michigan GIS Users Group – A Foundation for Collaboration", by Eric Swanson
- Afternoon – "GIS Professional Certification", by Elizabeth McNichols.

April
- Morning - "Michigan GIS Users Forum Collaboration Site", by Everett Root and Paul Harmon.
- Afternoon - "GIS Education at Michigan Colleges and Universities", By Ashton Shortridge, MSU, Rebecca Rogers, LCC, Benjamin Heumann, CMU, Jon Carroll, Oakland University, Neil Carlson, Calvin College, Gabor Barsai, FSU, and Andrew Miller SVSU.

June
- Morning – "IMAGIN Conference Update", by Scott Ambs
- Afternoon – "United States Census Bureau – Partnerships to Enhance Geospatial Data Quality: The Geographic Support System Initative (GSS-I) and Boundary and Annexation Survey", by Gail A. Krmenec

August
- Morning – "Vehicle Crash Location Data: How the MSP interfaces with the MGF to process traffic crashes and how MDOT utilizes this data to make traffic safety decisions" by Scott Carlson, Sydney Smith, Bob Rios and Heidi Spangler.
- Afternoon - "Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority (MLB)" by Ryan McNeil, and "Spatial Video of Detroit Blight Areas" by Tom Veldman

October
- Morning - "MICAMP Update", by Andrew Hartwick. "Sanborn Lidar and Oblique Solutions", by Sanchit Agarwal
- Afternoon - "Non Motorized Trail Mapping", by Nancy Krupiarz, Lori Eschenburg, Laura Tschirhart and Kim Kennedy.

December
- Morning – "The ever increasing need for data transport speed and the changing landscape of Broadband", by Jack Harris
- Afternoon – "The GRACE(Geographic Information System Resources and Applications for Career Education) Project", by Andrew Hartwick and Yichun Xie.

Looking Ahead - 2015
In an effort to keep the meetings fresh, 2015 will explore a few changes.
- On April 2nd in collaboration with the IMAGIN Organization, the GIS Users Group will host the 2015 IMAGIN Student Paper and Poster Competition at Constitution Hall.
- The GIS Users Group meeting will be taking "summer road trips" to better accommodate GIS users throughout Michigan's diverse geography. The June 9th meeting will be held in conjunction with the IMAGIN Conference at Great Wolf Lodge in

Traverse City and the August 6th meeting will be hosted by Midland County GIS Director, Chris Cantrell.

As always, if you have any questions/comments regarding the meetings please forward them to Nan Ewald at the Center for Shared Solutions (517-373-7910). Thanks again for helping to make 2014 such a success.