

GIS Users Group – 2015 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 much the same format in 2015, with 2 exceptions. In an effort to touch base with more GIS folks out in the field, the June meeting was at the IMAGIN Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, and the August meeting was hosted by Chris Cantrell at Midland County's Dows Whiting Forest.

- 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 muffins) 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 2015 were Joshua Ross and Nan Ewald.

The 2015 GIS User Group meetings continued to build on the established success of previous years.

- The average meeting attendance for 2015 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 2015, over 53 new names were added to the attendee list and 149 people joined the GIS ListServ, raising the ListServ participation to over 725 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 2016 CSS has secured a single location of Constitution Hall for all the Lansing Meetings. This has been accomplished with one exception of being out on the road for the June meeting.

Special Topic and Educational Sessions held in 2015

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 – Introduction of Mark Holmes, Center for Shared Solutions Goespatial Services Manager. “Discussion of the Enterprise Information Management (EIM)Program” initiated by Executive Directive in November, 2013
- Afternoon – “GIS and the SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater) Grants”, by Valorie White, Project Manager, MDEQ, Jim Bennett, InfoGeographics, Inc., Ed Dempsey, Prein & Newhof.

April

- Morning – Poster Viewing and Judging for the IMAGIN Student Paper and Poster Competition. “Demo of the New CSS Open Data Portal” By Mark Holmes
- Afternoon – “IMAGIN Student Paper Competition” Students will give 20-30 minute paper presentations to be judged by a panel of Michigan University GIS professors.

June

- Meeting held offsite at the IMAGIN Conference, Traverse City, MI
- Afternoon – “Update on the State of Michigan GIS Activities to be followed by small group discussions on Framework, Parcels and addresses, and Imagery and LiDAR program”

August

- Meeting held offsite at Midland’s Dow Whiting Forest, hosted by Chris Cantrell, Morning session only.
- Morning – “CSS Updates on State Projects, State of Michigan Parcel and Address Repository Initiatives Update, and Imagery and 3DEP Update.”

October

- Morning – No Special Topic, Time was used for Updates from all agencies and vendors.
- Afternoon - “How is the State using the ESRI Collector Application? The application allows users to collect and update data in the field”, by Tim Hensley, ESRI, Matt Robinson, MDOT, and Peter Gamburg, MDNR.

December

- Morning – “How can Michigan accelerate geologic mapping?” by John A. Yellich, CPG, Director, Michigan Geological Survey
- Afternoon – “LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging)” by Steven Cross, GIS Analyst, CSS, Frank Boston, CP, Survey Support Unit, MDOT, Max Clever, Project Engineer, Spicer Group Inc.

Looking Ahead – 2016

2016 Highlights will include:

- On Tuesday, April 5th in collaboration with the IMAGIN Organization, the GIS Users Group will host the 2016 IMAGIN Student Paper and Poster Competition at Constitution Hall.
- The GIS Users Group meeting will be taking “a summer road trip” in June to better accommodate GIS users throughout Michigan’s diverse geography.

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 2015 such a success.