

MINUTES

MID SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL
GIS COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 26, 2011
Talbot County Emergency Management
Operations Center
605 Port Street
Easton MD 21601
9:00 a.m.

Introductions

Michael Scott called the GIS Committee meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., the following members were present: Scott Warner, Michael Scott, Mary Creamer, Erin Silva, Mark Cohoon, Kate Donovan, Megan DelGaudio, and Sam Stanton.

ESRGC update

Michael Scott gave a recap of incoming GIO Barney Krucoff's plans for GIO's office and future state initiatives including creating a permanent GIO staff, the longevity of Maryland iMap, and developing free data sharing agreements in Maryland. He then gave an overview of Broadband Mapping Initiative, Critical Area Mapping and Gnappworks. He asked that the group keep him informed of any app ideas they might have for Gnappworks.

County Discussion of progress, challenges and needs

The group discussed at length the idea of offering their counties GIS data in a free, downloadable format and whether they thought local officials would be opposed to the idea. The group agreed that the requests for data is relatively low and is not a major source of profit for the counties. It was agreed that it's likely in the counties best interest to offer the data for free in an effort to ensure decisions are being made based on quality datasets. The benefits of free downloadable data was also discussed from a disaster recovery perspective. The idea of the ESRGC hosting a regional data download site or a site that simply points to various other sites was discussed as a way to minimize the number of websites users needed to visit to download GIS data. Data Licensing Agreements were also reviewed and how it would be desirable to ultimately have these phased out and replaced with a simple statement that absolves the distributing organization from any harm associated with free downloaded data. Recent data developments were discussed including the acquisition and release of new LiDAR for Anne Arundel, Howard, and Worcester Counties. Mark Cohoon informed the group that the Talbot County Emergency Management PSAPs were still working with Axis Geospatial to resolve the sid mosaic issues. The group discussed preferences for ongoing Ortho Imagery Acquisition and agreed that a three to four year acquisition cycle was sufficient and that updating of other critical layers such as LiDAR, centerlines, address points are currently more important.

Mark, Kate, and Megan were all involved in emergency preparedness for their respective counties during Hurricane Irene and they talked about their experiences and brainstormed about how GIS could be more effectively used in future disaster planning. Several meeting members are involved in the Delmarva Task Force (DTF) and the idea was formed of a DTF dashboard/webmaps, etc that would pull in various data from multiple monitoring sites (NOAA, tide gauges, wide speed and direction, etc) to assist emergency managers. Also, Twitter and Facebook pages as communication options during severe storms was discussed. The group thought that it would be beneficial to organize a meeting with ESRI and the DTF to discuss these ideas. Grants involving the DTF were also discussed as ways to acquire oblique imagery for the Eastern Shore. Redistricting was also discussed at length as all three counties present were currently involved in that effort. BTOP was discussed briefly and the on-going issues with connecting CAIs.

Mid-Shore Regional Council Updates

Scott Warner updated the group about how Dept of Agriculture is using Ortho imagery to analyze cover crop effectiveness and how they might be interested in coupling with the state to acquire new Imagery in the next acquisition cycle. Also Scott W. informed the group about the four million dollar Rural MD Prosperity Fund which the Regional Councils are attempting to secure in order to supply services and data to local governments. The Councils need ideas for possible uses of this money and it was mentioned that the next MSRC meeting would include a discussion about how best to use that money if it is secured.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.