

HARRIS COUNTY GIS TASK FORCE



MINUTES OF THE December 16, 2004 COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the offices of the Harris County PHES - Mosquito Control District

PRESENT:

André Bally	Harris County PID – Engineering
Pat Brill	Harris County PHES
Randy Davidson	Harris County ITC – JIMS
Charles Ellis	Harris County ITC
Roger Forshee	Harris County ITC – JIMS
Christina Hailey	Harris County PHES – Mosquito Control District
Carol Gaines	Harris County ITC – Education and Career Dev.
Candace Marullo	Harris County ITC – Education and Career Dev.
Charles Monney	Harris County PHES – Epidemiology
Stefan Nawrocki	Harris County PHES – Mosquito Control District
Osato Okorodudu	Harris County ITC
Ashli Prejean	Harris County ITC – JIMS
Amber Thomas	Harris County PID – Storm Water Quality Section
Michael Walters	Harris County PID – Flood Control District
John Wong	Harris County ITC – JIMS

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility	Due Date
Call to Order	Roger Forshee – HC-JIMS, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.	Roger Forshee	Monthly
Adoption of Minutes for Oct. 21, 2004	With no changes, the minutes were unanimously approved and accepted.	All	Monthly
Introductions	Two new members were in attendance: Candace Marullo of the HC-ITC Education & Career Development Dept. and Stephan Nawrocki of the HC-PHES Mosquito Control Dept. Introductions were given by all members in attendance.	All	Monthly
Status Reports			
	No reports were given.	All	Monthly
Review of the Dec. 8th H-GAC GDC Meeting			
Date/Location Change	<p>The GDC is changing its meeting schedule beginning in January 2005. The committee will begin meeting on the first Wednesday of each month in conference room A. This is a more technologically advanced facility with a microphone/speaker system for each member and a built in projection system.</p> <p>The HC GIS TF committee discussed whether it should follow suit and adjust its schedule in order to continue to meet on the Thursday after the GDC. It was determined that no changes to the meeting schedule should occur.</p>	Roger Forshee	Jan. 2005
- STAR*Map® Status	The 4 th Quarter release of the STAR*Map will be available the first week of January 2005.	Roger Forshee	Monthly
- GDC Technical Advisory Committee on Remote Editing	<p>The HCPID-ENG Dept. is working with the H-GAC to complete its connection and set up of the GoSync Edit software. One issue that PID is facing is the addition of proposed roads to the STAR*Map. They are currently developing procedures.</p> <p>The HC-JIMS is also participating in the GoSync pilot project with the H-GAC and began providing live, real-time updates to the street name attributes. They are also working on proposed roads and cross-streets.</p>	Roger Forshee	Monthly
- Training	<p>The H-GAC is planning to schedule a local training class on “Managing a Versioned Geodatabase” in February 2005. They will bring in a certified ESRI instructor and have space for approx. 12 students. This will be a 3-day class and will be priced below the standard ESRI rate.</p> <p>Members were informed to contact Grant Garrison at the H-GAC for more information.</p>	Roger Forshee	Monthly

Old Business			
<p>- Migration to ESRI 9.0 Series: Issues and Resolutions</p>	<p>Many agencies are attempting to migrate fully to 9.0 and are experiencing various problems.</p> <p>Randy Davidson of the HC-JIMS mentioned that they were experiencing workstation-specific problems. He recommended that Users of the 9.0 software add as much RAM as possible to their computers. He also recommended using a graphics card with its own cache available to enhance performance.</p> <p>It was mentioned that a new service pack has been released for the ESRI software. Service Pack 2 provides updates and fixes to a variety of products and can be downloaded from the ESRI Support website at http://support.esri.com.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
<p>- GIS Day 2004 Review</p>	<p>The committee discussed the successes of this year's event and areas to improve upon next year.</p> <p>Carol mentioned that the inaugural Mentor Program was a great success; allowing participating students to gain exposure and insight to the GIS technology. This type of program actually helped many of them in their school's GIS studies and was incorporated as part of their grade.</p> <p>The ITC's GIS group (JIMS) mentored students from the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and their projects took first place in the mentoring project category. ESRI awarded the school with a free license of the ArcGIS 9.0 software. The school presented the students with a plaque during half-time of one of their basketball games and Carol submitted the story and photo to ESRI's ArcNews publication.</p> <p>Also a great success, the inaugural Map Gallery featured map submittals from multiple governmental agencies in the region, private companies and mentored HISD schools. This was the initial focal point of the event and helped draw passers-by into the main event room.</p> <p>The HC Flood Control District was awarded the distinction of Best of Show for its submittal of a map series of the Cypress Creek watershed.</p> <p>A key to the success of this year's event remains in the fact that there was a major increase in awareness through advertising. Carol Gaines was instrumental in informing the public of the event through print and broadcast media.</p> <p>Areas discussed for improving next year's event included improving the coordination with the Audio/Visual group at UH-D. Also, the possibility of inviting additional school districts other than only HISD for the Kid's Day portion of the event. It's imperative that the total number</p>	<p>Roger Forshee Carol Gaines André Bally</p>	

<p>Old Business - GIS Day 2004 Review (continued)</p>	<p>of students does not exceed 500.</p> <p>The final GIS Day 2004 meeting was held on Friday, 12/10/04. Maria Vera of TranStar was nominated as the Chair for 2005. The GDC will officially elect officers at its January meeting. The GIS Day Sub-committee plans to begin meeting in May or June 2005 so that it can be more effective at the next ESRI User Conference.</p>		
<p>- 2004 Aerial Imagery</p>	<p>The imagery project has been completed and images distributed to the participants of the cost-shared purchase. However, there are some images that were either corrupted or are missing from the vendor's delivery. H-GAC is working to make the missing imagery available.</p> <p>The HC-JIMS is working to create mosaics of each county and is encountering problems with the newest version of their MrSID software. The mosaic process is extremely time-consuming and JIMS is resorting to use of the previous, command line version of the software in some cases. For example, the mosaic of Waller County required 3 days of processing to complete.</p> <p>JIMS is currently accepting requests from all Harris County agencies to provide mosaics of imagery for user-specified areas. The mosaicked images can be delivered on a portable storage device to requesting agencies.</p>	<p>Roger Forshee</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
<p>New Business</p>			
<p>- Go!Sync Software</p>	<p>Roger mentioned that the H-GAC is working with interested agencies to provide assistance for installation and configuration of the Go!Sync Edit software. He said that they should have a solution available in January 2005 to support the many STAR*Map gdb table structures.</p> <p>The HCPID-ENG Dept. is contracting an integration team to assist them in the migration of their road log from IFAS into a personal geodatabase. This will be used to facilitate updates to the STAR*Map.</p>	<p>Roger Forshee</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
<p>- HC GIS Training</p>	<p>Candace Marullo, Manager of the HCITC-Education & Career Development Department attended this meeting to determine the type and level of GIS training needed in Harris County. Her department currently offers MS Office, IFAS and WebFocus training. She inquired to those in attendance about the degree of use of GIS and level of ESRI software used in their agencies. The responses varied. She also asked about the cost of purchasing the software.</p> <p>It was mentioned that Christina Hailey of the HC-PHES Mosquito Control District is an ESRI-certified ArcGIS 9.0 trainer. She described some of her HC-employed students as interested in GIS, but without the software available.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Monthly</p>

<p>New Business - HC GIS Training (continued)</p>	<p>André Bally of the HCPID-ENG arranged for a diverse group of engineers from his office to attend Christina's GIS classes and found that while most were excited about the possibility to use the software, others had trouble grasping the concepts. A suggestion was made to offer a prerequisite to the HC GIS training that would serve as an intro to GIS and provide an overview to the technology.</p> <p>In order to attempt to better inform HC employees about the many uses of GIS and to describe how the technology works and is being utilized in HC, it was mentioned that a HC GIS Open House be organized. The intent will be to showcase county use of GIS and to determine the agencies that are interested in utilizing the technology.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the HC 2010 Technology Committee has a GIS sub-committee that has already contacted all HC agencies and conducted interviews to determine their GIS interest. Although the final report is not yet available, preliminary indications show that the majority of HC agencies are very interested in the technology.</p> <p>The suggestion was given to consider organizing the open house in the scale and fashion of the annual HC employee management conference usually held at the Reliant Park complex. HCPID-ENG and HC-JIMS volunteered to work with Candace to organize the open house.</p> <p>Discussion focused again on GIS software. Candace asked if there were a GIS interface for WebFocus. It was stated that WebFocus uses ESRI's ArcIMS as its map engine. There are many HC agencies that have begun development of their own ArcIMS-based GIS applications and web sites. It was mentioned that with the proliferation of these sites and the release of ArcIMS 9.2 near the end of 2005, links could be established between each of these sites and data shared.</p> <p>Candace will try to arrange for a representative from WebFocus to attend the next HC GIS TF meeting to provide a demonstration of the software.</p>		
<p>- Election of Officers</p>	<p>Michael Walters of the HCFCFCD has completed his tenure as the committee Secretary by serving his one-year term.</p> <p>Committee members provided nominations and voted to elect Christina Hailey as the HC GIS TF Committee Secretary for the 2005 year.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Annually</p>

Open Forum			
- User Group Discussion	<p>Stefan Nawrocki of the HC-PHES Mosquito Control District mentioned that he is a member of the HC Health Dept's GIS data steering committee. He is interested in organizing an employee GIS Forum. He also discussed the need for a county-wide GIS user group.</p> <p>The HC GIS TF committee mentioned that this was in fact a recommendation made to the HC 2010 Technology Committee. It's anticipated that the Task Force's membership will increase dramatically once the 2010 Committee's recommendations are adopted by the HC Commissioners Court in 2005.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that there is a regional meeting available with the Houston Area Arc User Group (HAAUG) which meets on a semi-regular basis.</p>	All	Monthly
- Cultural Databases	<p>Roger Forshee announced that the HC-JIMS will purchase the InfoUSA Residential database through the H-GAC's Geographic Data Committee (GDC). HC-JIMS is also participating in the cost-shared purchase with other GDC members of the Business database which covers the 13-county region. Both databases will be made available to any county agency upon request.</p>		
Announcements			
-Next Harris County GIS Task Force Meeting	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2005 and will be held at the offices of the HC JIMS located at 406 Caroline, 2nd floor. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.</p>	All	Monthly
Adjournment			
	<p>A motion was made by Roger Forshee to adjourn the meeting. There was a second and the meeting adjourned.</p>	All	Monthly