

## **San Juan GIS User Group Meeting Notes**

Thursday, March 15, 2007

### **Agenda:**

- Upcoming meeting schedule
- Demos and presentations for this year's meetings
- Show the website and get input from the group
- Start a dialogue on data needs and collaborative strategies
- Open discussion of technical issues, data, questions and anything else you'd like to bring up to the group

The meeting was called to order by Keary Howley at 5:30 PM. The first item discussed was old business of alternative meeting times brought up at the previous meeting. An email was sent out requesting alternative times for meetings. Most attending members and email respondents expressed support for lunchtime meetings. A few said that time would not work for their schedules. It was decided that we would try to rotate the meeting time between evenings and lunches on the third Thursday of each month. The April 19, 2007 meeting will be the first lunch meeting with details to follow on meeting place, topics and speakers.

Presentations and demos were then discussed for upcoming meetings. A tentative presentation schedule was created for the next few months as follows. Ian Reed and Bob Green may present on establishing a GPS Virtual Reference System for the Four Corners; Shawn Servoss, Farmington District BLM, will present on BLM GIS projects at the April or June meeting; Evan O'Keefe, San Juan County, will present on County's map server website; Keary Howley, San Juan College, will present on Using Representations in ArcGIS 9.2 at the July meeting. Additionally, the possibility of holding meetings at member sites was discussed. Upcoming meetings may be hosted by San Juan County and Farmington District BLM.

The User Group's website was discussed next. The website was displayed on the projector for review by the attending members. The website first draft was positively received by the group. All were in agreement that the layout and content worked well. A request from Keary Howley to the members to please submit coordinates for their organization's location and internet URLs for links. The website will go online shortly with a few minor revisions and the addition of links and content.

The website link to the College's Four Corners GIS map and data server generated discussion on the meetings next topic which was beginning a dialogue on GIS data sharing and collection strategies (the GIST program at San Juan College is developing a GIS map and data server as part of its mission and goals of the NSF implementation grant to be a regional GIS data center). Keary Howley hoped to generate an ongoing discussion of in-common data needs between organizations thereby maximizing our limited resources and reducing duplicated efforts. This led to discussing the possibility of sharing of roads and petroleum wells GIS data between member organizations.

An open discussion of technical issues brought an editing in ArcGIS question from Bob Estes, Western Cultural Resources Management. The group was able to explain the problem of digitizing and saving an incomplete large polygon, and provided tips for resolving the issue. This also generated discussion on editing in ArcMap in general and some of the hurdles to overcome.

Finally, upcoming events were planned. Bob Estes' suggestion of a "GPS in the Park" was talked about. The intent of the outreach event is to help attendees learn how to use their GPS units. The group decided the best day to schedule it was April 21, 2007 at the Farmington Riverside Nature Center as part of this year's Earth Day celebration. Bob will contact Donna Thatcher at the Nature Center, and Keary will work on promoting the event and giveaways. Several members expressed interest in participating in the event. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:30 PM.