

NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

20 August 2015 | 1:00 – 1:59 p.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Eileen Allen, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Andy Mendola, Pete Walsemann

1. Eileen has been working with STEM master's students through a workshop on the Plattsburgh campus. Each day of the workshop is on a different STEM topic. Eileen is doing the GIS topic. She is encouraging teachers to contact SUNY Plattsburgh for support and help with projects. This is a good opportunity to formalize the relationship between SUNY Plattsburgh GIS and K-12.
 - a. Eileen is interested in putting together a series of formal workshops that might start with GoogleMaps and continuing on with Esri products.
 - b. It was noted that the retirement of the GoogleEarth API will occur on 12 December 2015.
 - i. Pete has run into changes regarding GoogleEarth in terms of a platform switch.
2. Andy spoke at a luncheon for STEM teachers and met Nadia Harvieux of Hobart and William Smith Colleges Finger Lakes Institute. She is an Education Program Manager with FLI and is also a faculty member at the FLCC Conservation Department. Nadia met with Andy at Pictometry on Monday, the 17th, for about 3 hours. She is putting together an environmental science curriculum geared toward K-12. Andy is interested in pursuing something like Eileen described in his area within the context of Nadia's work.
3. Andy asked Bruce Oswald about reserving space for an Education Committee at the NYGeoCon2015.
4. Andy and Susan shared their discussion proposing a session titled, "Connecting Geospatial Education with Industry and Government: A New York Experience." Susan pointed out that Education Tracks at conferences tend to attract only educators. The session would include:
 - a. Jon Little's work with establishing a pipeline between high schools and geospatial companies.
 - b. Andy's work with Dr. Paul Richards of SUNY Brockport on mapping septic fields
 - c. Susan and the Cooperative Extension
 - d. Pete's experience at Carthage Central School District
 - e. Other?
5. Ann mentioned that one of her students, Zakkary Hess, submitted an abstract about his work with the City of Dunkirk Department of Public Works to the NYGeoCon 2015. If it is accepted, we

wouldn't want it to be scheduled at the same time as the aforementioned Education Session. It's an example of what the session is showcasing.

6. Susan and Chip Malone are attending NUAir Alliance Industry Days (nuairalliance.org/industry-days/) September 22 – 23, 2015. There will be tours on the first day. The second day will feature updates on legislation, industry innovation, etc.
7. NYGeoCon 2015 student updates:
 - a. Pete's suggestion for having registrants donate to student conference attendance was taken.
 - b. More options for students will be available on September 1st.
8. Student representation to the Education Committee.
 - a. Andy will follow up with Alex to see if he has a student from Skidmore.
 - b. Ann can find a student from Fredonia if a second student is needed.
 - c. Ideally, we would like to include them in the September meeting
9. Pete mentioned the letter to Senator Lamar Alexander regarding funding for Geography in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act..
 - a. It's certainly in our purview to advocate rather than lobby.
 - b. Reference was made to Sam Wear's August 6, 2015 blog in this context (espatiallynewyork.com/2015/08/06/2015-nys-gis-legislative-gac-summertime-blues/)
10. Pete just finished his course sequence on QGIS. They are looking to revamp some of the courses.
11. Ann updated the group on what is needed to post GIS education-related conferences to the NYS GIS Association website.
 - a. Specific dates, not just the month
 - b. A brief description of the conference or event
 - c. Should it be posted in the sidebar of the homepage?
 - d. Perhaps 2 columns could be added to the spreadsheet that would allow for the brief description to be entered and an indicator as to whether we want it to be included on the homepage sidebar in addition to the calendar.
 - e. Ann will forward the NUAir Alliance Industry Days information to Carol for posting.
12. Andy would like us to start thinking how we want to spend our time at the face-to-face October meeting in Albany
 - a. Plan a workshop outline?

- b. Student input?
- c. Goals progress?
- d. Strategic planning?
- e. Other ideas?

13. We will meet by WebEx, as usual, in September.