

NYS GIS Association Education Committee

SUBJECT: Education Committee Summary

DATE: 5 March 2010

LOCATION: Conference Call

The teleconference meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and ended by 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Purpose

Welcome Bob Jones (retired Kenney Middle School teacher), summarize Board of Directors meeting, discuss Galileo Award, update on Open Source GIS training, discuss GeoMentor program.

Attendance

Shazia Bee, John Borst, Alexander Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Bob Jones, Susan Nixon

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting (3/3/2010) - Ann

- General NYS GIS Association meeting will be in Albany, tentatively March 31st or April 1st. This meeting will include a business meeting and a speaker. Will be held at NYS DoT or NYS Thruway.
 - *Announced on 3/10/2010: March 31st, Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at NYS Thruway Authority - Building 10.*
- Kass Green will be the keynote speaker at the NYS GIS Conference.
- NYS GIS Association meeting will be 3:30 - 5 p.m. on Monday afternoon at the NYS GIS Conference.
- Cuts to USGS and the impact on NYS GIS
- Ann shared the concern that we may not be able to hold the Summit on an annual basis. It's both expensive and difficult to sustain a fresh agenda every year.

NYS GIS Conference Update - Sue

- Kass Green will be the keynote speaker at the NYS GIS Conference.
- NYS GIS Association meeting will be 3:30 - 5 p.m. on Monday afternoon at the NYS GIS Conference.

Galileo Award - John

- John provided background on the Galileo Award
- It was determined that perhaps we need to investigate the extent to which GIS is used in the classroom so we have an idea of whether it would be worth it to offer the Award again
 - Sue contacted Susan Hoskins and learned that 4-H is doing quite a bit and would be keen to compete for the Award.
 - John is going to contact the NYS Geographic Alliance
 - Bob will contact Amy Work and Karen Edelstein
- If we do proceed with the Award, we could announce it in the Fall of 2010 with a March 2011 deadline. Winners would present their work and receive their awards at the Fall 2011 NYS GIS Conference.
 - The size of the submitted entries would be limited to 11 x 17 inches.
 - Award categories would include: 6th through 8th grades, 9th through 12th grades and undergraduates.
- John also provided information regarding vendor support in the form of prizes.

OS GIS Webinar - Ann

- The New England URISA chapter is indeed interested in collaborating with us on an Open Source GIS training session. Paul Samara will get back in touch with me in April as to how we might proceed.
- It was agreed that in addition to a webinar, we would sponsor a workshop at the NYS GIS Conference in Saratoga Springs this Fall. This could serve as a dry run for a perhaps more polished version that would be posted on the web site. We need to see who might be a good person to present this workshop. The only compensation would be free conference registration.
 - Ann will contact Charlie Schweik of OSGeo at UMass for recommendations.
 - Ann will contact Bryan MacBride regarding his interest, at least for the NYS GIS Conference version.
- Ann still needs to contact Steve Romalewski about Open Source activities in NYC

GeoMentor Program - All

- Alex suggested this as a way for the Association to connect with Educators. The Committee responded enthusiastically.
- Ann reported on the Ed Committee's interest in the GeoMentor Program at the BoD meeting.
 - Some Board members expressed concern that the Association might be perceived as aligning ourselves with one particular GIS purveyor, i.e., ESRI.
 - The Ed Committee agreed that no software recommendations were being made, rather the focus was GIS awareness. <www.geomentor.org>
 - Ann referred the matter back to the Board and there were no objections to proceeding with a NYS GIS Assn presence
- Alex will contact Charlie Fitzpatrick and/or others to let them know we plan to push NYS participation in this program.
- Ann will contact the NYS Geographic Alliance. Once the new web page is ready, we will publicize this there.
- Sue suggested coordinating this effort through the Regional Coordination Committee. Ann will follow up with Lis DeGeronimo on this.
- There may also be links to the Community Atlas Project. It was suggested that Austin Fisher be contacted.

Next Meeting

Ann will send out a Doodle link to schedule the April meeting.