NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes
20 February 2013 | 2:30 – 3:27 p.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Eileen Allen, Alexander Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Mike Jabot, Sue Nixson, Rich Quodomine, David Stern

1. The Committee welcomed David Stern and Jon Little (in absentia) to its ranks. Thanks for joining us!

2. **Susan H. | Landsat 8 Launch**. Susan reported on her trip to witness the launch of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) at Vandenburg Air Force Base. She represents 4-H Geospatial Science on the LDCM Citizen Science Team. She taught us what a Tweetup is. NASA organized one prior to the launch so social media was involved in the event.

   Susan and the rest of the Citizen Science Team are working on the protocols for the Adopt-a-Pixel program. Eventually, "citizen scientists" will be able to upload pictures they take at a self-reported location (pixel), including photos N, S, E, W, up, and down at that location. These photos will become part of a larger database that will be used to calibrate the imagery captured by the LDCM.

   Susan will keep us posted regarding the program, and, in the meantime, forward Ann some information and photos for posting to the Association website.

3. **Alex | NYS Esri K-12 Implementation**. Alex updated the group regarding the Tech Support procedure should school districts need help in that regard. It will be handled by Darren Faccilonga's staff at NYIT. Ann shared that Deirde Dougherty of NYIT has set up documents for us to populate with the content for the web page at the Association website. Darren Faccilonga of NYIT has given us the go-ahead to proceed with the "migration" of the web page to the Association website.

4. **Susan H. | NYS Forum for GIS Applications in Education.** Susan and Amy have developed an exhaustive list of the various groups with an interest in geoeducation. Alex wondered if it was too early to involve these groups in an event at NY GeoCon 2013 or GIS Day 2013. Susan thought something small might be possible.

5. Alan Leidner's idea regarding undergraduate and graduate internship opportunities in NYS government based on Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address. **Deferred until March 2013 meeting.**

6. **Sue N. | K-12 and Higher Ed participation in NY GeoCon 2013**. Sue elaborated on her e-mail to the group yesterday regarding the NY GeoCon conference committees request for input regarding the involvement of K-12 and higher participation. The timing of the conference immediately after Veterans Day could be a help or a hindrance. The tentative schedule of the conference suggests that students could attend the reception Tuesday night for networking in addition to the other events… Spatial Spotlights, Workshops, and the Concurrent Technical Sessions on Wednesday.

Alex pointed out that Skidmore has a brand new GIS lab that could be highlighted as part of the education component. Rich suggested inviting employers so that could see what students are learning. Eileen suggestion that they might also be willing to provide students with geospatial job tips for interviewing, similar to the panels Rich has served on at the annual AAG Conference.

In terms of encouraging participation on the part of the education community, Eileen suggested a jury that could evaluate student presentations. Mike, Sue N. and Rich suggested posters. Sue N. pointed out that space might be a problem, though, so Eileen suggested posters be submitted as PDFs that could be on a loop and displayed on a screen. She also pointed out that getting students to submit posters has been difficult in the past. Alex suggested trying to connect people online before the conference. There could be a team competition prior to the conference that would use the venue as an opportunity for students to connect. Perhaps a scholarship could be given to a student or group that shares a project on which they have been working.

To assist students in defraying the cost of the conference, Ann suggested that students could perhaps just pay for their food. Eileen suggested vendors sponsoring them as Pictometry did at the Summit this year. Alex and others also suggested an incentive for teams of people to come…administrators + teachers + students from individual schools. There could be a promotion for student teams or an award rate for the most students that come from a particular school. Eileen thought giving a 1 year membership to the Association could be another incentive. Alex suggested an application process that would include a commitment on the part of the applicant to register as a GeoMentor, for example.

There were also suggestions for leveraging all of our local college and school connections and the schools participating in the NYS Esri K-12 license to encourage student involvement. Sue N. recommended the Education Committee specifically foster networking between the education community and the larger NYS GIS community so that the education community is integrated rather than treated separately. The reception could be highlighted as an opportunity to network and find out more about those in the field. Dave chimed in that from a Community College perspective, networking with 4-year schools would be helpful. His students could learn what's available to them should they decide to continue taking GIS courses beyond Community College.

Ann mentioned that it might be nice to get students together to network among themselves. Alex suggested some activity like a scavenger hunt to get students connected. Sue N. thought a student sub-committee of the Education Committee might be valuable. Eileen wondered if there was a geospatial fraternity. Ann said there is a Geography fraternity, GTU (Gamma Theta Upsilon), but there's no reason we couldn't start one focused on geospatial. Sue N. identified the nearby active GTU chapters:

- Zeta Rho – Binghamton University
- Lambda Gamma – SUNY Oneonta
- Epsilon Psi – Colgate University
- Theta Mu – Syracuse University
- Theta Beta – Keene State College
- Eta Alpha – University of Vermont

- Epsilon Omega – SUNY Plattsburgh
- Lambda Mu – US Military Academy
- Theta Pi - Hunter College – CUNY
- Mu Kappa – Hofstra University
- Eta Gamma – SUNY Geneseo
- Eta Alpha – SUNY Buffalo

Review of Action Items from 16 January 2013 Meeting:
- ~~Ann will e-mail the Committee the link to the Google NYS Esri K-12 Implementation website.~~ **Done**
- ~~Ann will forward the Committee the call-in information for the next NYS Esri K-12 Implementation meeting Alex arranged.~~ **Done**
- ~~Alex will e-mail Darren Faccilonga (NYIT) regarding migration of the NYS Esri K-12 Implementation website from Google to the NYS GIS Association website.~~ **Done**
    - ~~Once Alex hears back from Darren, Ann will e-mail Carol Zollweg (NYS GIS Assn Communications Committee Chair) about how to proceed with the website migration.~~ **Done**
- Amy will pursue possible members based on her K-12 contacts. **Ongoing**
- Alex will continue to work on the NYS GIS K-12 Consortium MailChimp template. **Ongoing**
- Susan H. will keep us apprised of the NASA Adopt-a-Pixel program. **Ongoing, see item 2. above**
- ~~Susan H. and Amy will start compiling a list of groups who might participate in a NYS forum on GIS applications in the formal and informal education sector.~~ **Done**
    - ~~The Committee members will forward Susan possible contacts.~~
    - ~~Ann will forward the higher education spreadsheet has soon as it is complete.~~ **Done**
- ~~Ann will send out a Doodle poll for the February 2013 meeting.~~ **Done**

Action Items for March Meeting:
- Consider the conference ideas for further discussion and perhaps arriving at some decisions regarding how we should proceed. Sue N. will share our discussion with the Conference Committee. **New**.
- Amy will pursue possible members based on her K-12 contacts. **Ongoing**
- Alex will continue to work on the NYS GIS K-12 Consortium MailChimp template. **Ongoing**
- Susan H. will keep us apprised of the NASA Adopt-a-Pixel program. **Ongoing, see item 2. Above**
- Ann will send out a Doodle poll for the March 2013 meeting. **New**.