

# NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

29 May 2013 | 9:30 – 10:20 a.m. | Conference Call

**Attendees:** Eileen Allen, Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Mike Jabot, Dave

**Guests:** Rain Hennessy, Jim Kernan

1. Welcome to Jim Kernan, SUNY Geneseo, and Reyne Hennessy, 4-H Geospatial Intern. Jim has been very active in working with the Geneseo Central School District to use geospatial technology. He's joined the NYS Esri K-12 Site License Implementation Team. Reyne is working with Susan Hoskins this summer as a Geospatial Intern for 4-H.
2. Jon Little will continue to join us as he is able. He will be writing a brief piece for the NYGA newsletter on the benefits of membership in the NYS GIS Association.
3. **NYGeoCon 2013.** Sue Nixon was not able to join us, but she e-mailed Ann the latest Conference Committee discussion regarding the education component. Thus far, there is agreement on the following with Ann to follow up on the questions as noted:
  - Reduced student rate of \$95 for the entire conference
  - Possible 1-day rate with the education components occurring on one day. *Question: Would the 1-day rate be available to all or just students?*
  - Lunch with a mentor for students
  - Career panel
  - Student slide show
  - *Question: Will there be a poster session/competition for students, in particular, or attendees, in general?*
  - There was agreement that tables were not a good idea.
4. **NYS Esri K-12 License.** Alex convened a meeting of the Implementation Team last week. Jim and Ann were in attendance. His notes are below:
  - Ann requests some pictures for website enhancement of NYS K-12 using GIS/GPS. Jim may have some. *Done. Jim sent pictures. See <http://www.nysgis.net/featured/esrik12whatisgis/>*
  - Goals for Summer 2013:
    - 1) Goal: Figure out a way to get GIS/GPS training events in NYS recorded and findable suggestion: <http://www.nysgis.net/activities/calendar/> (Ann follow up?)
    - 2) Goal: Get the K-12 implementation website up and running with content by end of summer 2013. Task: all (Ann, continue leading this charge with support)
    - 3) Goal: Get 3 more school districts with site license by September 2013 (Have at least 10 by summer end)
    - 4) Goal: Get an email out to the list in July 2013 letting them know of our progress (Alex)
    - 5) Goal: Shut down the Google Site, capture an email address there, and point people to new website (Alex)  
<https://sites.google.com/site/nygisk12/>

Discussion:

Website:

Make it clear where NYC GIS folks should go, and add NYS contact to this page

<http://www.nysgis.net/featured/esrik12map/>

Website navigation - make it clear from the homepage where teachers should click (button on right - Teachers Start Here?)

Have a place to capture people's addresses for "Stay up-to-date on GIS Education Initiatives in NYS" Collect Name and Email Address only" Front page for implementation efforts.

Concerns: Website very slow when clicking on right hand side navigation on this page:

<http://www.nysgis.net/featured/esrik12map/>

#### 5. Discussion: Higher Ed Memberships in the Association

This was received positively with the following questions and comments. In addition to the Committee membership, thanks to Steve DeGloria at Cornell for canvassing his colleagues.

- How many memberships would be included in the \$95/year fee? Who would decide who received the free memberships? How many student versus staff memberships?
- Is there a danger of putting too much strain on the infrastructure? Too many people vying for webinar slots? Too much traffic on the web site?
- Institutions would need to be reminded of the benefits of membership.
- This would be a great opportunity to initiate geospatial clubs on campus and provide an overall forum for student participation in the geospatial community.

#### 6. Discussion: Loss of GIS Programs at NCCC (Niagara County Community College) and ECC (Erie Community College)

Ann shared with the Committee a point Dale Morris raised at the Board of Directors meeting last week regarding the loss of 2 higher education programs in western New York. The program at NCCC appears to be in decline since the death of Rob Lord and the ECC program does not appear to have the strength it once had since Lisa Matthies left to join the Erie County GIS staff. The Board agreed it was a cause for concern and a point of discussion for the Education Committee. Below are the general comments made by the Education Committee.

- What has been the experience of other geospatial programs at community colleges and otherwise?
- Dave Stern pointed out that, while there is only 1 GIS course at Nassau Community College it has grown to the point he will be able to offer 2 sections this coming semester (Fall 2013).
- Alex shared his experience at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. That was once a strong program, but appears to be in decline.
- Ann wondered to what extent the general state of the economy and its impact on SUNY might have anything to do with the fact that people aren't being replaced to teach these courses.

- Eileen observed that personality plays a significant role in the ability of a program to have staying power. All agreed that Rob Lord was a passionate individual who went a long way to make things happen.
- Eileen, Alex and Jim pointed out that it is often important for the program be integrated into other curricula, for example the Environmental Sciences. If GIS courses are required for students' majors, then there is no choice but for an institution to keep those courses staffed.
- Dave pointed out how critical geospatial technology is to STEM education, and that this might be an opportunity to pursue. He identified the ATE (Advanced Technological Education) NSF Community College Program (<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/ate/Pages/default.aspx>).
- Alex shared his experience with engaging Criminal Justice majors.
- Several committee members thought that Rob Lord had spearheaded an effort to get more community college involvement in geospatial technology. Ann will follow up with the GeoTech Center (e.g., Philip Davis, Ann Johnson, Ann Henderson) to see what connections might have been made there. The group wondered if that was the connection that ended up at IAGT/Cayuga Community College. Ann will contact Amy to sort that out and make sure we have all the pieces in place.
- Susan H. asked what the next step was. Do we need to draft a letter or how we should move forward? It was agreed that Ann would follow up with the GeoTech Center and Amy and report back to the group and share the discussion with the Board of Directors. Ann will also go through the higher ed list of contacts to make sure all SUNY community colleges offering at least a geospatial technology course are included.

#### 7. **Upcoming.**

- Susan H. and Amy have met since gathering the solicited resources for NYS K-12 GIS users. They will get together again in July and August to move forward.
- Jon Little is participating in the iGETT/RS program in June.
- Alex and Mike are participating in T3G in June
- Alex and Eileen are participating in the Google program in July.
- Eileen wondered if all this professional development activity might be shared via a session at NY GeoCon 2013. In addition to shared experiences from iGETT/RS, T3G and Google, Susan H. could share her work with the Adopt-a-Pixel program and the LDCM. This was enthusiastically supported by the committee.

#### 8. **Outstanding Action Items from 27 March 2013 Meeting:**

- Ann will start an e-mail discussion of Alan Leidner's suggestion for NYS GIS internships.

#### 9. **Outstanding Action Items from 24 April 2013 Meeting:**

- Ann will write a brief RFP for organizations conducting NYS summer camps for students with a geospatial component.
- Ann will compile the ideas on recruiting members for the Membership Committee.

- Ann will arrange for Andy Mendola of Pictometry to join us on one of our conference calls to talk about their K-12 efforts.
- Eileen will follow up on the balloon kits.

#### 10. **Actions Items from 29 May 2013 Meeting**

- Ann will follow up with the GeoTech Center (e.g., Philip Davis, Ann Johnson, Ann Henderson) to see what connections might have been made there.
- Ann will contact Amy to sort that out and make sure we have all the pieces in place.
- Ann will also go through the higher ed list of contacts to make sure all SUNY community colleges offering at least a geospatial technology course are included.
- Ann will report back to the Board regarding Higher Ed memberships.
- Ann will report back to the Board regarding the loss of geospatial programs at NCCC and ECC.
- Ann will send out a Doodle poll for the June meeting recognizing that a number of members will be tied up with professional development and work-related activities during the month of June.