

NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

26 June 2013 | 10:00 – 10:54 a.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Mike Jabot, Susan Nixon, Rich Quodomine

1. Alex and Mike shared their experience at T3G last week in Redlands. Both were very enthusiastic. The focus was on ArcGIS Online (AGO). There is an increasing amount of analysis that will be available on AGO, so that ArcGIS Desktop will eventually be geared toward “power users.” An EMO (Esri Maps Office) plugin will be available for Excel to access AGO. As certified Earth Science teachers, both Mike and Alex look forward to reaching out to NYS K-12 Earth Science teachers using AGO. The Earth Science community in NYS is very well organized, thus making it an ideal candidate for concerted outreach. Amy Work was at T3G teaching, so Mike and Alex were able to catch up with her. She is using primarily AGO in her work in Costa Rica.
2. Ann announced that Lisa Mattheis-Wiza of Erie County Environment & Planning, Erie Community College has joined the Education Committee. Unfortunately, Lisa was called away to a meeting and was unable to join us. She will be formally welcomed at the next meeting.
3. Dale Morris, Ann and Lisa Matthies-Wiza met last week in Buffalo to discuss the apparent decline of Community College GIS programs locally. Lisa provided a history of GIS at ECC, and shared some potential allies for GIS there. While she is working with Dale at Erie County, she is still teaching a GIS course at ECC. She was also able to provide a bit of background on what may be going on at Niagara Community College.
 - Lisa is going to be in touch with Professor Gonzalez of the Emergency Management program at ECC to discuss the possibility of collaboration.
 - Ann will talk with Amy Work about her experience through IAGT and work with SUNY Community Colleges.
 - Ann will then contact Professor Tom Mueller of the California University of Pennsylvania who will soon be taking a leadership position with the GeoTech Center.
 - Sue recommended the TeachGIS website white paper by Diana Sinton, titled “How to Talk to University Administrators about GIS,” as a resource for programs seeking to grow or get started.
 - Rich suggested we should encourage the strongest department within a particular college/university with the most resources, where applicable, to adopt GIS courses. For example, the University of New Haven’s safety science program, has no titled GIS program, but uses it. We can use any appropriate applied tech with geospatial uses and approach it as a means to improve or add the GIS program.
4. Ann stated that there were still a few unanswered questions regarding NYGeoCon 2013. Sue said those should be answered soon as the Conference Committee gets close to posting the registration information. Below are the outstanding items and questions.

- 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?*
- *Question: Will there be a poster session/competition for students, in particular, or attendees, in general?*

5. The group discussed the Academic Institution Membership flyer.

- Mike suggested getting a sense of how many Assn members there are at each campus to give us an idea of how many memberships an annual sustaining membership should cover.
- Mike and Ann agree that students should not be included; they should have their own for resume-building purposes.
- Mike suggested an annual fee of \$250 per institution that might include 20 memberships or perhaps just 10.
- Sue pointed out that we need to be careful about distinguishing sustaining memberships from both NYGeoCon and Summit sponsorships.
- Rich suggested that we might want to further distinguish between sustaining memberships for larger institutions/organizations and smaller ones to minimize the financial impact on participation.
- Rich recommended dropping the Legislative item from the flyer and focusing more on the potential for publishing, research and funding collaboration, and learning opportunities for students. Ann will make those changes.
- Ann closed the discussion by asking everyone to forward further suggestions for improving the ROI Academic Institution flyer.

6. **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.
- Alex and Eileen are participating in the Google program during the 3rd week of July.

7. **Outstanding Action Items from 27 March 2013 Meeting:**

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

8. **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. *Done.*~~
- 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.

9. **Outstanding 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. *Revised. See item 10, below.*~~
- 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. *In Progress.*
- ~~Ann will report back to the Board regarding Higher Ed memberships. *Done.*~~
- ~~Ann will report back to the Board regarding the loss of geospatial programs at NCCC and ECC. *Done.*~~

10. **Action Items from 26 June 2013 Meeting**

- Ann will revise the Academic Institution ROI flyer based on Committee feedback.
- Ann will contact Tom Mueller once his affiliation with the GeoTech Center is formally announced. This contact is to learn more about what the Education Committee might do to foster the growth of GIS at Community Colleges in NYS.
- Outstanding Action Items from 3/27/13, 4/24/13 and 5/29/13 meetings.