

NYS GIS Association Education Committee

SUBJECT: Education Committee Summary

DATE: 11 January 2010

LOCATION: Conference Call

The teleconference meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and ended at 10:47 a.m.

Meeting Purpose

Welcome and introduce NYS GIS Association Education Committee members, review proposed Work Plan, and discuss potential member(s) to represent the K-12 sector.

Attendance

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

Member Introduction

- Ann Deakin, SUNY Fredonia: Associate Professor, Department of Geosciences; Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Studies in GIS
- Shazia Bee, Formerly of the City of Cincinnati and GIS Dynamics in the process of relocating to NYS
- John Borst, NYS Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination
- Alexander Chaucer, Skidmore College: GIS Instructional Technologist, GIS Center for Interdisciplinary Research
- Susan Nixon, City of Ithaca GIS Program: GIS Specialist, DPW – Water & Sewer Division

Discussion of Proposed Work Plan

- Establish timeline for goals and objectives
- Pursue a video training session on Open Source GIS for NYSGISA membership that could be available through the NYSGISA website
 - Is Open Source GIS a reasonable long term expectation or are commercial GIS packages, such as ESRI, inevitable regardless of user budgets?
 - Open a conversation with Charlie Schweik of the University of Massachusetts regarding the role of Open Source GIS and possible approaches to training and training resources for current and new GIS users. Schweik is very involved with the OSGeo Education and Curriculum Committee (www.osgeo.org/education). (Contact information from Alex.)
 - Explore Open Source GIS activities in NYC. Steven Romalewski, Director of the CUNY Mapping Service, is another potential contact. (Contact information for Romalewski from Sue.)
 - Paul Ramsey might also be a resource. Is anyone acquainted with him and/or willing to make contact?

- Are there NYSGISA funds to hire someone to make this presentation and have it recorded?
- Educating non-members. Should we focus on a particular group of potential users? Coordinate with the Marketing Committee.
- How do we go about connecting with educators, particularly K-12 teachers, so as to bridge the gap between students - prospective GIS professionals - and the GIS profession?
 - Several names were suggested as possible contacts for this effort: Karen Edelstein of the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart & William Smith Colleges and Bob Brower of IAGT.
 - The NYS Geographic Alliance is another possibility.
 - Reference previous work done to connect GIS to the 5 Themes of Geography as part of Social Studies education in NYS.
- Ann will revise the Work Plan and distribute to the Committee.

Discussion of Additional Committee Membership

- Robert Jones, Retired Technology Teacher, Kenney Middle School (*Contact information from John.*)
- NYS Geographic Alliance may be a resource for other K-12 representatives. (*Contact information from John.*)
- It was agreed that Ann will contact Bob Brower to participate as a member of the Committee rather than in an advisory capacity. His contacts would be valuable to our collective efforts.

Next Meeting

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