NYS GIS Association Education Committee

SUBJECT: Education Committee Summary

DATE: 14 December 2010

LOCATION: Conference Call

The teleconference meeting began at 2:00 p.m. and ended 2:54 p.m.

Meeting Purpose
Summarize Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session of 11/20/2010 (Ann), discuss use of GISNY-L to reach out to K-12 community (Ann, Amy), update on ESRI Statewide Site License (Amy, Alex), Galileo Award e-mail blast (Ann), webinar options

Attendance
Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Bob Jones, Susan Nixson, Rich Quodomine, Amy Work

NYS GIS Association Board of Directors Strategic Planning Summary
- Ann briefly reviewed the Board's Strategic Planning session held in Utica on 11/20/2010. She forwarded Verne LaClair's summary prior to the meeting.
    - Thanks to John for his suggestions, which were duly shared with the Board.
    - Ann will share the Responsibility Matrix with the Education Committee.
    - The Board thought the training focus of the Education Committee should be on GIS professionals rather than other groups, such as the K-12 community. A webinar that is more hands-on must be presented soon. The challenge, of course, is how to make a webinar "hands-on."
    - Amy noted that it would be helpful to know exactly what training it is that our professional membership wants. The results from the NYS GIS Conference Advisory Council meeting on 12/16/2010 may inform us as will the Association's annual survey.
    - While there was generally enthusiastic support for our efforts toward a statewide ESRI site license, there was also a bit of skepticism regarding whether this was time well-spent.
    - The seriousness of the situation with the group hired to complete the website was highlighted. Alex wondered if the website was still an issue as it appears to be up to date. Ann and Rich will pursue this at the December BoD meeting on 12/15/2010 to determine the website status.

Use of GISNY-L
- Ann and Amy have compiled a brief invitation the Committee members can use to share with their K-12 contacts encouraging them to join GISNY-L. Ann will make the final edits and forward it to the group.
- It was decided not to include "EDUCATION" in the subject line as much of what already appears on the listserv is education-related.

ESRI Statewide Site License Update
- Amy reported the results of her research into Virginia's efforts toward an ESRI statewide site license.
    - She spoke at length with Bob Kolvood of James Madison University.
    - JMU has assumed implementation of the license from the Virginia Department of Education.

- o Interestingly, Luvelle Brown, formerly CIO of Albemarle County Public Schools in Charlottesville, Virginia, is now the new Superintendent of the Ithaca City School District.
  - o Brown attended a GIS presentation while still in Albemarle County, so he does have a GIS connection.
  - o Amy is planning to contact Brown as a possible connection for the statewide site license for NYS
- Alex has been in contact with Charlie Fitzpatrick of ESRI and has tracked down a connection in Michigan to learn more about their experience.
- Amy and Alex will chat following the meeting today to discuss working up a draft that can be distributed to those in NYS who are involved in GIS education.
- Amy found a connection for us at SUNY ITEC, Betty Spencer, which Ann will pursue. Alex noted that SUNY ITEC administrates the SUNY-wide site license so they might be a possibility for the state wide license.
- Rich put us in touch with Chris French of ESRI who shared on article on NYC schools and their use of ESRI software. Ann posted this to GISNY-L .

Galileo Award
- Rich volunteered to send out an e-mail blast encouraging applicants for the Galileo Award.

Webinar
- Discussion on a way to offer a training opportunity in the form of a webinar that has a hands-on component. In order to achieve this, it was decided that, in the near term, an Open Source theme is too broad – some want to use specific open source packages such as QGIS, others want to do some simple web mapping and still others want to do more sophisticated web mapping by learning Python and/or Java. Given the popularity of LiDAR, this is tentatively a possibility for a webinar late next month.
- Although hands-on and webinar don't go together at this point, the following format was suggested:
  - o Week 1 Webinar (duration 1 hour): Overview of LiDAR concepts
  - o Week 2 Webinar (duration 1 hour): Application of LiDAR concepts to a typical project using ArcGIS et al.
  - o Week 3 Webinar (duration 1 hour): Step-by-step demonstration in ArcGIS of LiDAR application using a very small data set (e.g., < 100,000 points). This demonstration would be downloadable as a transcript or list of step-by-step instructions. Participants would work through the tutorial over the coming week.
  - o Week 4 Webinar (duration 1 hour): Participants would ask questions about problems they had getting the tutorial to work.
- Ann has already started to put together content for Week 3. Perhaps Ben Houston and Verne LaClair could be prevailed upon to lead the Week 1 and Week 2 webinars, respectively. Ben Houston ran the LiDAR workshop at the NYS GIS Conference in October 2010 and Verne LaClair presented a detailed application of LiDAR at the Conference.
- The Committee is also going to brainstorm this idea of providing hands-on training remotely as that's, apparently, what our membership wants – although we are looking for documented evidence of this in the form of responses to the annual survey and the conference debriefing.

Next Meeting
- Ann will send out a Doodle request for our January meeting. The focus of this meeting will be our work plan and budget proposal for 2011.