

NYS GIS Association Education Committee

SUBJECT: Education Committee Summary

DATE: 29 March 2011

LOCATION: Conference Call

The teleconference meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and ended 9:41 a.m.

Meeting Purpose

Webinar recap (Ann), update on ESRI K-12 Statewide Site License (Alex, Amy), Conference/Summit (Sue), Panel for NEARC, Galileo Award

Attendance

Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Susan Nixon, Rich Quodomine, Amy Work

Webinar Recap

- Feedback both solicited and unsolicited has been positive. The survey results and the unsolicited responses are attached to the minutes. Unfortunately, only 14 attendees responded to the survey. The survey should, perhaps, have been sent immediately after the Webinar. It was sent a day later to include follow-up website links.
- Although the webinar was oversubscribed in terms of registration, only 76 actually joined the webinar. That number jumps to 83 if you include the additional viewers cited in the survey. I do know that 8 more participated at the NYS DoT, but the registrant didn't respond to the survey. In that case, we probably had closer to 91 viewers/listeners.
- Geographic representation:
 - There were registrants from Brazil, Czech Republic and Canada, but none of them actually attended.
 - In terms of state attendance, NYS had the most participation with MD, MA, MS, ND, SD, and VT also represented by one to three attendees each. There were registrants from FL, PA, TX, and WA who did not attend.
- Not surprisingly, many different agencies and industries were represented. Just a few of particular interest, perhaps...FAA, USDA, USGS, North Dakota Public Service Commission,
- An Excel file of the Registrants/Attendees was sent by e-mail to the Education Committee and the Board members.
- The recording of the webinar is now posted to the Association website at: <http://nysgis.org/pages/Video.aspx>. Ann edited out some of the initial chatter and the technical glitch about 20 minutes into the presentation.
- The Committee discussed some of the weaknesses with the presentation:
 - Some attendees could not view the slideshow.
 - Two attendees reported they couldn't get into in the Webinar, although they were registered and there was room for them.
 - The "management team" for the Webinar should include 3 rather than 2 roles. Ann was the Organizer and Barb & Dave were the Panelists. Ann should also have had an additional Organizer who spent the entire time either managing the chatting/questions or handling the troubleshooting.

Ann was attempting to do both. Not sure an additional person would have made a difference regarding the technical problems, but at least that person could have been constantly checking for responses from GoToWebinar Tech Support rather than bouncing back and forth between e-mail, Tech Support and the Webinar itself.

- The Committee also discussed weaknesses with GoToWebinar and possible alternatives.
 - Ann found the following as problems that would need to be addressed were we to use GoToWebinar again. She acknowledged that “the Organizer” could very well have been the weakness rather than GoToWebinar.
 - Unlimited number of people can register even though actual attendance is limited. Thus, the first person to register could be “locked out” when he/she went to attend the Webinar.
 - Only the Organizer can view the questions
 - Appears that there can only be 1 Organizer per webinar
 - GoToWebinar is highly recommended, so the problems may be on the part of the Organizer
 - Several other solutions were mentioned: Adobe Connect, which is used by Cornell, and Elluminate, which is used by Hamilton College. Perhaps an Association member with access to such a package through her/his employer would be willing to see whether the Association can access their license.

ESRI Statewide K-12 Site License

- Alex and Amy reported that this effort continues to move forward. Alex was able to make contact with NYIT as a possible signatory. Alex is in the process of setting up a meeting with NYIT.
- The subcommittee is comprised of Alex, as chair, Amy, Ann, Bruce Oswald, Chris French (ESRI), and Charlie Fitzpatrick (ESRI), and has been meeting biweekly.
- Alex asked if any Committee members would be interested in being part of the Implementation process. Amy and Ann would like to participate. Ann suggested that Lisa Andrews of the Marketing Committee might be willing to help.

Panel at Conference/Summit/NEARC

- Sue confirmed that the Conference will be in Spring 2012 rather than October 2011.
- The Summit is at Welch-Allyn Lodge in June 2011.
- Ann reported that the NEARC organizing committee is interested in having us propose a panel on, “What Makes a Valuable GIS Employee in 2011/2012” for the NEARC meeting in November in Saratoga Springs.
- Rich suggested we propose 2 panels, 1 for educators and 1 for practitioners, similar to what’s scheduled for the AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle. Rich will report back on how this works at our next meeting.
- Ann asked the group to start thinking about possible panel participants.

Galileo Award

- Ann reported that there were no submissions for the Galileo Award this year.
- The Committee thought that announcement of the Award should coincide with the start of the school year.
- More repeat notices should be made throughout the year.
- Ann will see if someone on the Committee would be willing to take the lead on the Galileo Award at the next meeting.

Other

- Ann announced that the Association will hold its Albany meeting at the NYS Thruway on April 21st.

- NEARC will allow time for the Association to meet at their Conference in Saratoga Springs in the Fall. Vacancies on the Board will be voted on then, if anyone is interested in running.

Next Meeting

- Ann will send out a Doodle request for our April meeting. The focus of this meeting will be the Panel for NEARC.