

Northwest Indiana GIS Forum Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 21, 2013 - 9:00 - 11:00 am
Meeting Location: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Members in Attendance: Tim Bohn, SURDEX; Jason Dravet, Town of St. John; Sarah Geinosky, NIRPC; Andrew Harrison, Schneider; Tim Kingsland, Hobart Sanitary District; Steve Leatherman, WTH; Shannon Lefever; Lake County Surveyor's Office; Becky McKinley, Hammond Sanitary District; Agustin Perez Maldonado, NPS; Kevin Miller, IDEM; Cele Morris, IUN/NWI Center for Data & Analysis; Dan Niksch, City of Crown Point Engineering; Nathan Pavlovic, Save the Dunes Tom Ramker, Hammond Sanitary District; Tim Sutherland, IUN; Anthony Walker, Lake County Surveyor's Office; Gregory White, Town of Lowell

Local Implementation

Hammond received parcels and address point data from Lake County. Each year a homestead analysis is completed using rental registration information for the city. Registered rentals are compared to the homestead exemption data. Last year, over 600 parcels were identified as potential abusers of the exemption. The auditor is following up on these cases. Monthly mapping of sheriff's foreclosures by city council district continues for Hammond. Maps are also created for the Lake County Housing Task force county wide. This data is currently being delivered in pdf format to whoever is designated as a housing task force contact. If others would like to do further analysis for your community on the point data let Becky know. A number of data sets are being updated in preparation for upload to the Hammond online map; truck routes also structures that have been take out but are still remaining within the flood plain (LOMAR, LOMAS). It is more current than DFIRM data.

They have been working with the city Planner to finish up reconciliation of the zoning layer to county parcel data. Analysis has been completed with zoning codes assigned to most parcels. Issues have been identified with right of ways/bikeways and rivers and a few parcels with multiple codes. The Hammond GIS interactive web map is undergoing adjustment. Additional functionality and new layers have been added flood plain hazard, local weather and an interesting traffic layer provided by Google. They are increasing their control of updating their online map. Tom recently participated in an IGIC webinar showcasing their interactive map. The webinar has been archived on IGIC website for future viewing. Any feedback on the archived presentation would be appreciated by Becky and Tom. A more in depth workshop on the interactive map is scheduled for the IGIC conference in May.

Save the Dunes – will be hiring a new GIS employee in the near future. The job posting is listed on their website – looking for someone interested in working on natural resources, the environment and GIS. They are currently involved with checking maps for the Enbridge pipeline project in Lake County. It has been found that generally, the maps are poorly constructed.

NIRPC is currently updating the Marquette Plan. They are identifying where projects are located and talking to stakeholders. The Livable Centers project is highly GIS based in terms of where walkable parts of the region exist. This will hopefully move into a funded project to support those areas. Work continues to organize and understand what data currently exists at NIRPC.

St. John has been working on projects other than GIS lately. They hope to get their street sign inventory underway this year using Cartiograph software. Future release of the software in April will support retro-reflectivity guns so it will show all data from the gun as well as how much life is left in signs.

The Data Center at **Indiana University Northwest** received a small grant from the Lake County Substance Abuse Council to provide mapping of asset resources. Google map was used to provide a way to visualize Lake County organizations involved with prevention, treatment and law enforcement substance abuse issues. SPEA is active with the Gary PD, East Chicago PD and Gary FD with mapping. Geosciences faculty is working with NPS to map changes in Mount Baldy using LiDAR data. Small has been grant received from Lake Michigan Coastal Program to update EPA Region 5 ArcGIS instruction program to include data for our watershed.

Crown Point Liberty Park annexation project - street lights are being planned. Scenarios for several plan design projects are being explored. They continue to use their Street View data for projects. Fire map books are being updated. Using address points and parcels from County. Building footprints had been completed for ~60% of the city. Work to finish up the remainder of footprints for residential and commercial property is underway. All schools, business complexes are being addressed separately if necessary. 200 extra hydrants have been identified in the project.

Lowell – Greg has been hired by the Town of Lowell and will set up GIS for the town. Computer/monitors /GPS/plotter/data have been installed. GEOSPAN is driving the streets to pick up signage inlets and information for ADA. Data sets are being created for zoning, land use, MS4, signs, schools, hydrants. Greg is also involved with the Boy Scouts/Calumet Council as a counselor for geocaching/orienteering merit badges. Contact Greg if you need information or would like help with this event. 2013 State aerial photography project for our region is underway.

WTH does a lot of public safety work. They have an ongoing interest in the National Grid. There is growing discussion with EM/state /districts about how the National grid can be implemented. Their approach is an ongoing soft release, discussion, education and software changes. One change has been made in all their hosted county websites. Lat/long lookup includes national grid location. In about 2 months, the reverse will be available linking the national grid location to lat/long. They are having discussions with EMA personnel to see what they would like to have integrated. IGS has state level national grid in map library. For an example, see **Jasper County** website and do a lat/long lookup – grid will then be displayed. They are also looking at how to display LiDAR data. They include it for display with 2 ft. contours. Check out **Brown County** test case (layers, elevation)

Hobart Sanitary District – has entered into an agreement with American Structure Point and 39 Degrees North to develop their GIS website/program. Website should be up and running in the next few months. Currently the website is driven by utility assets. There are over 5000 utility assets in ground that they are locating. Next phase is to provide mobile capability to field crew in place of blue prints. In the future, training will be provided to personnel so that map updates can be completed in-house. Data sharing agreements have been made with the County and Indiana American Water Company. Discussions about how to integrate the municipal 311 system with GIS will be held soon. Data collection continues on signage, trees, and sidewalks. Some data collection will be outsourced.

IDEM – developed environmental restrictive covenant layer for the state available on Indiana Map. Inventory and mapping coal combustion waste sites in southern part of state. Not much of a problem in Northwest Indiana, but southern Indiana has 22 electric generating facilities with those there are 48 nasty ponds. Not many regulations exist for this type of issue and EPA is beginning to look closer so IDEM is getting ready for any new regulations. GLI funding will be used to pay for LiDAR acquisition for Porter County. Public mapping sites are available for testing – IDEM data office of water mgmt.

[Wellhead Protection Proximity Finder](#)
[Impaired Waters/e303d](#)
[Volunteer Mitigation](#)

The following 2 services lead to services for IDEM, IDNR and IDOT.

[State of Indiana GIS services](#)
[State of Indiana Imagery services](#)

Lake County – Shannon is presently getting settled in Surveyor's Office. They are working on the Illiana project. INDOT data will be key, parcel corridor, road closures, drains and variance issues are all being determined. Working with DNR to help update their Parks Layer – managed lands update (parcels). The County is also working with the Little Calumet River Basin Commission to identify properties so that they may be taxed properly. The State has possession of Lake County parcel and address points. Lake County is waiting for IGS to post the data on the IndianaMap. It is unknown how often data is harvested for update. Thanks to Surveyor's office for help with parcel data linking to Assessors Office data. 33min

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has been collecting data over the past year. They are presently doing local outreach for data help. They are generating 1ft. contours from LiDAR data. More current surveys of Mt. Baldy are being compared using Porter county LiDAR data.

Schneider – Their online permitting app rolled out in December – It marries GIS technology to tax data and helps to manage workflow for integrating info. Minnesota and Iowa are using it for everything from gun permits to marriage licenses. Andrew recently attended URISA GIS and CAMA conferences. He observes a trend in the market from the appraiser side. They have completed some mobile map testing for INDOT (cities & towns). They survey the road then deliver the LiDAR from their truck. They have achieved successful results with accuracy dead on. This process can help to determine how much asphalt is needed for paving. Terrestrial scanners are also available with amazing accuracy. They are working on sign inventories around Indiana. Test with driving to collect data – reflectivity a big part. Work with State of IN to convert linear referencing system. They have just hired local GIS trainer. Indiana HB 1219 is being closely followed. Any public portal will have to respond to requests for data not to be included publically. Local gov't will have to pass ordinances about how they will deal with maintenance.

IGIC conference is coming up May 7 and 8th in Muncie at the Horizon Conference Center. There will be a golf outing the day before the conference starts. Check the **IGIC** website for conference information. They may attempt to use tracking software to help people sign up for membership when money is available. Nominations for awards in GIS are being accepted at this time.

Training

Work will begin on EPA materials for training sessions as soon as the grant account paperwork is complete.

Opportunities for future ArcGIS training will be forwarded through the listserv.

IGIC provides educational opportunities throughout the year. Check their website regularly to see what is currently being offered.

Visit the **ESRI** website for any additional free webinars currently available.

Administration

Meeting notes will continue to be posted to [the NWI GIS Forum website](#) as soon as possible after meetings (click on Minutes). Please contact Cele Morris (cmorris@iun.edu) with any comments or input on the website.

Special Presentation by:

Tim Bohn – Surdex Corp.

Developing Contour Maps Using LiDAR

As LiDAR becomes more prevalent in the GIS arena, various product derivatives are being offered based on that technology. This presentation will focus on development of contour maps using LiDAR. Deliverables can be developed in several levels beginning with a fully automated product (least costly) thru a cartographically enhanced product (highest quality). The various costs vs. benefits of each level will be explained so that users can better understand what product best fits their needs and budget.

Meeting of the D1 GIS DRTF - 11am