

Northwest Indiana GIS Forum Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 27, 2014 - 9:00 - 11:00 am
Meeting Location: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Members in Attendance: Rex Burton, Highland Sanitary Board; Jason Dravet, Town of St. John; Joe Eberts, City of Portage; Sarah Geinosky, NIRPC; Tim Kingsland, Hobart Sanitary District; Shannon Lefever; Lake County Surveyor's Office; Becky McKinley, Hammond Sanitary District; Cele Morris, IUN/NWI Center for Data & Analysis; Tom Ramker, Hammond Sanitary District; Tim Sutherland, IUN; Anthony Walker, Lake County Surveyor's Office; Gregory White, Town of Lowell

Local Implementation

Hammond is using the 2013 aerial photography to update planimetrics, building footprints (approximately 2000 changes, including demolitions and additions), edge of pavement, transportation layer is ~ 80% complete, and data for impervious surface model. They received a state grant to identify vacant properties for demolition. Focus is presently on using GIS to prescreen properties for field verification. A TV truck will be utilized for sewer investigation. Integration of GIS with TV truck software is a goal.

NIRPC is currently working on the **Livable Communities Report**. They continue to update existing tabular data to include GIS. A future online GIS presence may be possible.

Lake County – GIS servers have recently been moved and there has been issues with sporadic downtime. Maintenance on centerline data, address points and building footprints continues. Parcel data with tax information is available from the county. GIS professionals in Lake County are planning to meet with the new Surveyor, Bill Emerson, Jr. The 2013 aerial photography has been uploaded to the county GIS. The Northwest Indiana Storm Water Advisory group has been discussing how to develop the new lidar data for issues related to surface water, impervious surface, high risk structures, land cover and tree canopy.

Hobart Sanitary District – is partnering with other MS4 communities as well as Lake County to look for savings for their programs as a group. U.S. EPA has requested information about Sanitary Sewer Outflows (SSO's) from Hobart for the last 5 years to include in GIS.

Lowell – Paper documents are being scanned to pdf by interns. The 2013 aerial photography is being used to map infrastructure. Information related to private and municipal ponds are being accumulated in GIS. The technology is being well received in Lowell. An ADA plan for Lowell is being initiated. Sidewalks are being closely documented.

Portage – Joe Eberts will be providing GIS support for the city. They have data layers provided by Porter County.

St. John is presently recreating its water and sanitary sewer master plans. They are providing data to engineers to create the plans.

The **Highland Sanitary District** has contracted out to convert sanitary sewer data to geodatabase format. The system will be rated and data will feed into a work order system.

The Data Center at **Indiana University Northwest** received a small grant from the Lake County Substance Abuse Council to create a LibGuide containing resources for Lake County substance abuse professionals and information for the general public. The **LibGuide**

includes **Google Mapping** of locations for Lake County organizations involved in substance abuse treatment, prevention, law enforcement and education. The LibGuide resides as a resource within the IUN library webpages. Prof. J. Ferrandino of IUN SPEA is actively assisting the Gary, East Chicago, Portage, Griffith, Merrillville, Schererville, Munster police departments, and Porter County Sheriff dept. with crime mapping. Personnel from each department is being instructed on how to geocode crime. ArcGIS Online will be used for the project. A small grant has been received from Lake Michigan Coastal Program to update EPA Region 5 ArcGIS instruction program to include data for our watershed. A training session will be offered in June to test the instructional materials.

IGIC conference is coming up May 7 and 8th in Indianapolis at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone Crossing. Check the **IGIC** website for conference information. The Legislative Committee continues to investigate funding for statewide GIS.

D1 GIS DRTF (District 1 Disaster Relief Task Force) is proceeding with setup of equipment for the district van. Meetings are held the 1st Friday of each month for interested parties (generally held at Porter County EMA office). Contact Becky McKinley for more information.

Training

An Intro to ArcGIS for Environmental professionals will be offered in June to satisfy grant funding received from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. An announcement will be distributed via the NWI GIS Forum listserv.

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.