



## GIS Users Group Meeting May 23, 2008

### MINUTES

#### Attendance:

Trey Cleaton, Land Management & Development (LMD), GIS Division

Kathryn Clifton, LMD, GIS Division

Vickie Eddleman, LMD, Engineering Division

Patrick Kennerly, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU), Administration Division

Jeff Jones, SRU, Planning & Research Division

Preston Mitchell, LMD, Planning Division

Marshall Moore, Fire, Training Division

Wendy Spry, LMD, Development Services Division

Chris Tester, SRU, Engineering Division

#### 1. Welcome and Announcements

Kathryn Clifton welcomed those in attendance, and recognized Wendy Spry as the new Salisbury-Rowan Utilities GIS Analyst, to begin June 9, 2008. Introductions were made around the room in an effort to familiarize new employee Chris Tester with the other members of the GIS Users Group.

#### 2. Transition to ArcGIS Server 9.2

Kathryn Clifton indicated that the transition to ArcGIS Server 9.2 is on target.

- ArcIMS has been upgraded on server Daniel to ArcGIS Server Standard Enterprise on a new server, Sarah.
- Desktop users of ArcGIS have been upgraded to version 9.2 with Service Pack 4 (and various other service packs), Crystal XI, Python 2.4, and XTools Pro 5.1.
- ArcSDE has been upgraded on server Emma to ArcGIS Server Basic.
- There are several items that still remain to be done:



- Confirm that all users of ArcReader have been upgraded to version 9.2.
- Convert all editors of ArcSDE from SDE-authenticated users to Windows-authenticated users. This should only affect Patrick Kennerly and Kathryn Clifton.
- Convert some feature classes that are currently within a feature dataset to stand-alone feature classes. When this change has been implemented, the layer files will be updated for the users to access the data in the new location.

### 3. GIS Division website changes

Kathryn Clifton indicated that with the change to the new web server Sarah that the GIS Division website will be completely revamped as well. Online mapping solutions will be highlighted, and data downloads will be a new feature implemented.

### 4. Online mapping changes

Kathryn Clifton pointed out that the move to ArcGIS Server Standard from ArcIMS will make online application development easier. Design of data sources may now be accomplished within ArcMap. Providing enhanced security for online mapping applications has now been made easier to implement as well.

Patrick Kennerly brought up the talking point about access to GIS information by persons in the field (mobile access). At present, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities employees use an ArcReader document published from ArcMap through the use of the ArcPublisher extension. This has been a great resource to them, but is updated on an infrequent, irregular basis. Also, aerial photography is not a part of the current ArcReader implementation.

Kathryn Clifton stated that Fire Department personnel are also using GIS information in a similar manner. They are able to have access to aerial photography through use of a MrSID mosaic image.

Jeff Jones expressed concern about making sure that large segments of water and sewer infrastructure could not be easily accessed and printed online, even by City employees.



Kathryn Clifton indicated that the scale at which water and sewer infrastructure is visible could easily be set for an online application, but that would not preclude someone from printing out tiles of maps and then piecing them together manually. She suggested that the City craft some language regarding the appropriate use of water and sewer infrastructure data. Trey Cleaton stated that this had been a topic of interest on several occasions at the NC GIS Conference, and he agreed that it was a good idea.

## 5. Project Updates

### a. Water meter project

Trey Cleaton provided an update on the water meter project. He indicated that the water meter project has been going on for about a year, and that it is nearly complete. There are only about 900 more meters to be collected out of a total of 17,000. He and GIS Intern Jennifer Goble have been reviewing the route detail sheets and comparing them against the existing GIS inventory. What now remains is to collect the remaining water meters in the field using GPS.

Jeff Jones indicated that he is working under a deadline of August 2008 to submit a report to the EPA.

### b. Census Local Update of Addresses (LUCA)

Kathryn Clifton provided an update on the LUCA project. She indicated that she, Trey Cleaton and Jennifer Goble served as official reviewers of the Census address information, which is protected by Title XIII. A total of 2,502 new addresses were submitted. A phone call just this week came from the Census regional office in Charlotte, and inquired about 6 of the addresses.

Kathryn indicated that the review this time was much easier than the paper review conducted in 1999.

### c. City street centerline

Kathryn Clifton stated that the City street centerline data had been migrated to ArcSDE. GIS Intern Jennifer Goble has been populating the address range



information for the City street centerline data layer, and it is nearly 85-90% complete. The next step will be to identify locations where the City and County data may be “married” to provide a comprehensive, accurate data layer.

d. Implementation of TheAddresser

The extension to ArcGIS Desktop known as “TheAddresser” written by Bradshaw Consulting Services, Inc. (BCS) is scheduled to be implemented in June 2008.

e. Other projects

- i. Marshall Moore requested that a live link be made to FireInfo so that the information within that software can be used within ArcGIS.
- ii. Kathryn Clifton indicated that of the AutoCAD and Civil 3D users at the City that no one had responded to her request regarding upgrading AutoDesk software from 2006 to a newer version. Individuals present at the meeting who are users of AutoDesk software requested that the 2009 version be implemented.

Free online AutoDesk training invitations will be sent to new Salisbury-Rowan Utilities employees Chris Tester and Jason Wilson.

- iii. Marshall Moore indicated that soon Fire vehicles will be equipped with GPS and AVL.
- iv. Marshall Moore requested that the GIS Division assist with mapping buildings that have Fire Department Connections. At present, he has a text list of the locations.
- v. Jeff Jones indicated that Salisbury-Rowan Utilities will be working on mapping all of the water and sewer easements within client communities. This data layer should be moved to ArcSDE.
- vi. Vickie Eddleman stated that she has received/will receive an updated file from Duke Power regarding the location of street lights. She would like to have a data layer that she can maintain independently of Duke Power



to keep track of changes that take place throughout the year. Kathryn Clifton and Trey Cleaton advised her that to begin the process of the creation of such a new data layer, that she should begin working on an Information Product Description (IPD) and consider how she wants to use the data layer for reporting, mapping, etc.

6. Strategic Plan Update coming this fall with assistance from Doug Paris

Kathryn Clifton stated that she had met with Assistant to the City Manager Doug Paris to discuss the update of the GIS Strategic Plan this year. In years past, Dr. Garry Cooper of Appalachian State University has assisted with this process, and done an excellent job. Doug represents an internal resource that can be used for this process, at no additional cost to the City.

A preliminary agenda has been compiled, and dates are now being selected for the month of August 2008.

7. Customized Training Opportunities

Kathryn Clifton mentioned that one new element of the GIS Strategic Plan this year would include a request to identify desired customized training opportunities. She acknowledged that as an ESRI Authorized Training Center that the City of Salisbury regularly offers Introduction to ArcGIS I and Introduction to ArcGIS II courses. However, she indicated that she felt that more customized, tailored training classes could provide additional benefit to those using City and County data. She asked that members of the GIS Users Group provide some feedback on this item. The following discussion ensued.

Marshall Moore indicated that it is difficult for Fire Department staff to come downtown to the Training Room for training because the crew needs to stay in close proximity to their fire truck in the event that they should be called to respond to a fire. He requested that training be done through the means of a teleconference so that Fire Department personnel at all stations be able to attend and still remain ready to respond quickly to emergencies. Kathryn Clifton indicated that she would be happy to do that, and appreciated Marshall bringing that information to her attention.



The following topics for training were identified:

- Field data collection with Trimble GPS equipment
- Introduction to GIS data that is available within the City
- How to use online application(s)
- How to use data developed specifically for a certain department/division
- Geocoding
- Recession/secession planning
- Lunch n' Learn question and answer sessions

#### 8. GIS Day – November 19, 2008

Marshall Moore inquired as to whether any plans had been made for the next GIS Day. He suggested that we showcase GIS projects and coordinate with Rowan County. Kathryn Clifton agreed it was an excellent idea, and suggested that this be discussed in more detail at the next GIS Users Group Meeting.

#### 9. Next Meeting Scheduled

The next GIS Users Group Meeting will be held June 27, 2008 at 9 am at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

The meeting concluded at 11:00 am.