

## **Connecticut GIS User to User Network Meeting Summary March 4, 2004**

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The Connecticut GIS User to User Network Meeting was held on March 4, 2004 at the Metropolitan District Commission Training Center in Hartford, CT. The meeting was very well attended.

### **1. Network Business**

The Network adopted its first by-laws, which can be found at <http://ctgis.uconn.edu/pdfs/NetworkBylawsfinal.pdf>.

### **2. Connecticut's Changing Landscape: a Study of Statewide Change from 1985 to 2002 Based on New Digital Land Cover Data for 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.**

Presenters: Sandy Prisloe and Emily Wilson, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), UConn Cooperative Extension System.

Sandy Prisloe and Emily Wilson discussed CLEAR's study of land cover change in Connecticut from 1985 to 2002. The researchers developed the land cover data from satellite imagery with 30-meter resolution for the years 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2002. The imagery was classified into eleven land cover classes including a "Developed Land" category. This category identifies areas with high concentrations of impervious surface. The researchers added roads during the classification process to improve the accuracy of areas where tree cover obscured impervious road features. Afterwards, the researchers performed raster spatial analysis of land cover change in the state and released the results to the press. In addition, the researchers posted project information, summaries, and an interactive map at <http://clear.uconn.edu>, which is the web site of UConn's Center for Land Use Education and Research. The researchers will build upon their successes and use these land cover datasets to perform forest fragmentation, urban growth and impervious surface analyses.

### **3. The Capitol Region Parcel Level Land Use**

Presenters: Erik Snowden, Capitol Region Council of Governments; and Mike Olkin, Applied Geographics, Inc.

Erik Snowden of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and Mike Olkin of Applied Geographics, Inc. discussed the development of a region-wide, parcel-level land use map. The ambitious project was initiated to improve the accuracy of CRCOG's traffic model with detailed land use information. CRCOG decided to pursue a parcel-level approach instead of a remotely sensed approach because twenty-one out of the twenty-nine member municipalities had a parcel GIS layer with a link to a tax assessor's database, the project had the potential for many secondary benefits, and the approach was the most cost-effective one. Applied Geographics, Inc. helped CRCOG rectify town boundary conflicts, develop a parcel layer for the towns without GIS, and standardize the land use codes in the various tax assessors' databases to twenty-one categories. Upon completion, the land use information will provide valuable input into CRCOG's traffic model. Lastly, the parcel layer will be updated regularly.

### **4. Municipal Land Use and Smart Growth Strategies**

Presenters: Leslie Kane, Guilford GIS Manager; and Len Densen, Planimetrics, Inc.

Leslie Kane of the Town of Guilford and Len Dessen of Planimetrics, Inc. presented the use of GIS to promote smart growth strategies. The planning activities were facilitated through the use of SBC orthophotos, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Community Landscape Analysis, and custom layers developed by Planimetrics. Planimetrics merged the municipality's parcel layer with NRCS land

cover data to develop a unique GIS layer featuring both land use and land cover information. Planimetrics used the layer to develop a "Natural Assets Map" of the town. In addition, Planimetrics used software, called "CommunityViz," to facilitate community planning meetings where participants prioritized areas to protect and areas to encourage growth. CommunityViz is a GIS-based, decision support tool that allows users to quickly visualize various scenarios. More information about CommunityViz is available at <http://www.communityviz.com/>.

## **5. Statewide GIS Initiatives**

Presenter: John Scull, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

John Scull of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection provided an update a various statewide initiatives. First, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is sponsoring a statewide flight to capture new aerial photography that will be converted to digital orthophotos. The flight is scheduled for this spring. Secondly, representatives from various state agencies have created an ad hoc GIS Council to coordinate GIS data acquisition, collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination. For example, the Council met several times to discuss the products of the statewide flight sponsored by ConnDOT.

After the presentations, the attendees were encouraged to network with each other.

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