AIMS Coordinators Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2009
Host: AIMS
Location: Johnson County Admin Building

Next Meeting:
September 10, 2009
Host: AIMS
Location: Johnson County Admin Building

Announcements

- Brian Hiller, ESRI announced that the Kansas City Arc Info User Group meeting for the month of September will be held at the ESRI offices in Leawood. The meeting will consist of a recap of the ESRI User Conference. An email will be sent out and an RSVP will be needed because seats are limited. It will be in the morning followed by a BBQ lunch. Be looking for more information soon or go to http://www.kcaiug.missouri.edu
- The new FEMA flood plain maps were adopted on August 3rd, 2009.
- The Johnson County, Board of County Commissioners and County Managers have produced a folded county road map and are for sale in the BOCC offices for $5.
- Jay Heermann encouraged the cities to provide support and push the participation of the upcoming CENSUS data canvassing for the 2010 census. This data is an important part of many organizations so the more people that are involved, the more accurate and comprehensive the data will be. A good source would be contact your communications department in providing assistance in this effort.

Recap of 2009 ESRI User Conference
(Keith Shaw)

Keith talked about the highlights that he came away with while attending the ESRI User Conference in July. He made note that there were broken up clips of the Plenary Sessions on ESRI's web page to view. He felt there was some good content in all the presentations as well as the keynote speakers.

Keith gave an over view of some of the new and/or interesting things going on at ERSI. He talked about the new version 9.4, and all the things taking place with this upgrade and some of the improved features. Also discussed were the things he saw in regards to ArcGIS Server, including trends and its future development. The third thing Keith talked about was LIDAR. He talked about some of the best practices and the new abilities with LIDAR and how AIMS Coordinators could leverage its use. The next topic covered was on spatial data types. It was discussed of the new possibilities by using this and the functionality of them as well. The last topic was the new version of Arc Explorer and its upcoming release and how we should look to utilize this tool more for smaller

cites and departments that do not have or can take advantage of ArcGIS. There are many new features that could be useful in this upgrade.

The last part of Keith presentation was a quick mention how Tony Perkins, from the City of Lenexa, was part of the Lighting Talks demonstrating one of their Arc Server in the FLEX environment application.

(Jay Heermann)

Jay talked about what he came away with at the conference as well. He told his perspective on what he looks for at presentations and sessions. He talked the benefits that he sees when attending. He looks at it from a different perspective than most and he uses it as a bench mark on where not only AIMS stands as far as GIS, but Johnson County and all the coordinators as far as where we have positioned ourselves for the future. He feels that we as a group have set ourselves up very well, for future growth and expansions in the GIS field. Jay also made mentions to some of the "buzz words" that he heard out there to gain a sense of what the latest trends are and how we are doing in each of those trends.

Jay closed his presentation by opening it up to any comments from Tony Perkins (Lenexa) and Jennifer Daddy (Gardner), who also attended. Tony only added that there was a new AOI for businesses analyst, as well as a Fiddler utility for developers on IE. A similar product, Firebug is for Fire Fox. Jennifer added some comments about the interesting changes coming in 9.4 in regards to editing that will seem to make editing much easier and user friendly.

Crime Mapping
(Dan Steen)

Dan discussed the efforts being taken in regards to upgrading the Johnson County Sheriff's department crime mapping web site. This site is being developed using the JavaScript API with a Google Interface for a better user experience. AIMS has been working with the Sheriff Department in making changes to the site, by adding new enhanced features such as layering capabilities, bookmarks as well as enhancements on the performance. Also, Dan is working on making the website more user friendly and more eye appealing to the user. This will primarily be used for inter office workers and in the future expand to a more mobile if they so desire. Dan demonstrated how the site works, the ability to query based on crimes or calls identify on layers and the other features he has added. Data is being pulled from the ICAD and ILEADS databases daily, so any city that participates with this database, their data will be part of this application. Dan feels the Sheriff department is seeing the potential and benefit to this site. If you have any questions about this site, please contact Dan.

AIMS Tray and AIMS Geocoder
(Keith Shaw)

Keith demonstrated an application he developed to aid in address verification and geodcoding. He has developed two separate tools that allow a user to check addresses before they are entered into a database. It is much easier to work with address before rather than trying to alter the database. The first application he showed was a web service that aids you in verifying the address as it is being entered. It gives you options

to a correct address, including suite numbers. Once the user finds the correct address, you select it and you can copy and paste the verified address and/or other attribute information regarding that address (i.e. lat/long). This uses the AIMS address web service so an internet connection is needed to use this. The second part to the address verification piece, he developed an AIMS Tray address verification tool that is an application at sits in your desktop tray. It behaves in the same manner as the web piece but on the desktop side. A direct connection the county network is needed to use this since it hits the database directly instead of the address web service.

The second application he showed was the AIMS bulk web geocoder. This allows users to upload either an access database, excel spreadsheet or text document with address to geocoded. You can also input X, Y or property ID numbers and get back the location of each of those. What his does, it utilizes the AIMS address web service for address that is matched with in Johnson County. For address that it cannot find matches for, it uses Yahoo's Geocoding Service, so this becomes a global geocoder. From this you can get a map of the locations you geocoded, print that, and/or download a excel file with the original data with the lat/long added to the file. A KML file is also available to download to load into Google Earth. A limitation of this is that you are limited to 500 records. For larger amounts of geocoding, it is recommended you use a different application. If you have any questions on any of these tools please contact Keith.

The meeting ended by announcing that AIMS will be hosting next month's meeting, but plans are not finalized at this time, but it will have a sustainability theme. It will be held at the Johnson County Administration Building.

The Power Point presentations can be viewed at from our AIMS Coordinators page and if you have any questions or would like any more information you can contact AIMS at 913-715-1600.