

AIMS Coordinators Meeting Minutes

Hosted by GBA Master Series

9801 Renner Blvd

Lenexa, KS 66219

Announcements

Next month will be the annual AIMS golf outing following the meeting

Next meeting

Hosted by Overland Park

8500 Santa Fe

Overland Park, KS 66212

GBA Master Series and ArcGIS – Joel Knight GBAMS

Joel Knight gave a brief background on GBA Master Series. They used to be a part of GBA (George Butler Associates) before splitting into their own company. Currently GBAMS employs 20 people, has 4 offices across the nation, and is being used in 40 out of the 50 states within the US. Their asset management system is mainly being used by municipal Public Works departments as well as companies within the utility industry.

GBAMS offers a turn key approach in which clients can take advantage of the asset tracking software with little customization. Scalability allows organizations to take advantage of the software regardless of their size. In addition GBAMS offers a lite version that allows for simple functionality without the higher cost of an enterprise solution. Customized reports allow the users to tie in information from financial systems, HR, and work management systems.

GBAMS technology can be supported on Oracle, SQL Server or Access and is customized using Visual C++, Visual Basic, and Visual Basic .Net. The software can be integrated with AutoDesk and the full suite of ArcGIS products. GBAMS packages their software into defined modules; Storm Master, Street Master, Sewer Master, parks, traffic. Every client can choose which modules that it wished to support.

GIS centric vs. Data Centric

In the GIS Centric approach the geodatabase serves as the primary asset repository. All maintenance tracking and attributes are stored in the geodatabase and work orders are derived from the assets within the geodatabase. The Data centric approach allows the GBAMS RDBMS to share the data and maintenance responsibilities. Work orders and maintenance tracking can be derived from either the geodatabase or the GBAMS software.

Software demonstration

Joel gave a live demonstration of how the GBAMS software works. Under the user menus each module contained attribute information. For the Sewer Master the user

could look at pipes and all related work done to a particular pipe. All of the fields are customizable which allows the user to change the name of a field if they wish to store a different attribute. The main power of the GBAMS software is allowing the user to filter or query the data. A filter allows the user to see all work orders for a certain employee so if they were out sick their work could be quickly distributed to another employee. Time tracking becomes easier as you can calculate how much time and cost are spent on work related items and easily viewed within a report. The question was asked if GBAMS would become web-enable and Joel mentioned that they are currently working on a web module that would be released at a later date. In addition to data, GBAMS can store images, videos and scanned plans that can be linked to each feature stored in the database. GBAMS can also be used out in the field on a detached device. This allows users to make edits in the field and when the data is synched back in the office the geodatabase will update automatically.

ArcGIS Integration

GIS can tie into the GBAMS allowing users to not only track their assets, but map them as well. Any feature linked between GBAMS and ArcGIS can be edited and viewed within ArcMap. This provides a mapping advantage to customers with both ArcGIS and GBAMS loaded on their computer. Joel ran a filter within GBAMS that queried the pothole database which then was able to be viewed within ArcMap. Customers with network analyst can run network traces on geometric features. This could aid in hazardous spills or stormwater modeling. GBAMS provides its own toolbar for editing features so that all edits will be reflected in the GBAMS software. Most clients that choose to integrate ArcGIS and GBAMS use ArcSDE as the geodatabase engine. While clients could use a personal geodatabase it isn't recommended for multi users.

Overland Park – Cheryl Carner

Overland Park has been using GBA for their asset tracking and recently integrated with ArcGIS. They have purchased every module and currently have 100 users within the Public Works Department. They use a SQL Server platform along with ArcSDE for the geodatabase. In addition to customizing the GBAMS software, Overland Park has written a MapObjects application that allows their traffic division to access signals and traffic data. Cheryl pointed out that having GBAMS was a huge advantage during a FEMA cleanup effort. FEMA is very strict in how department's document time spent during a FEMA event. The GBA reporting made reimbursements easier and quicker. Another big advantage was centralizing the multiple databases that each department used. Instead of Parks and traffic having their own Access database, both departments just access GBA for all the maintenance needs.

Johnson County Wastewater – Jim Bills

Jim reported that they are in the process of converting to the geodatabase. They have imported all of their attribute data to the Sewer Master module. AIMS is hosting the ArcSDE geodatabase while the GBAMS database remains on JCW server. Jim pointed out that the most important thing they are working on is adding attribute

information. In the past JCW just viewed the scan images for additional information on sewers.