**MWCOG GIS Committee Meeting Minutes**
Tuesday, August 24, 2010

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Robert Horne (WRTAC Fusion Center) began the meeting with brief introductions of GIS Committee Members, COG staff, and guests. Mr. Horne introduced Anthony Puzzo of ESRI. Barney Krucoff (DC GIS) recapped last month’s presentation about VirtualUSA and suggested that ESRI’s ArcGIS.com services that Mr. Puzzo will be speaking about today may provide another way of sharing regional data. Mr. Krucoff added that there is a year to complete the project.

Mr. Puzzo asked Mr. Krucoff how the GIS Data Exchange project is related to the Lockheed project in Maryland. Mr. Krucoff explained that the GIS Data Exchange project is funded through Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) while the Maryland project is funded through Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) funds. The goals of the projects are similar. The GIS Data Exchange project will build upon what was learned in Maryland.

Marshall Stevenson (Frederick County) asked if anyone has received materials from Lockheed. Mr. Krucoff replied that Martha Kile (MWCOG) had requested the materials, but had not received a response.

Mr. Puzzo said that they were not on the Lockheed contract, but are software providers. He asked the committee whether the data sharing for the GIS data exchange would be through COG or a compilation of different systems. Mr. Horne commented that having a central system would be a step backward. Rather, the group wants to develop an index in a single source so that we can serve the data we have.

Mr. Stevenson reported that everything is now working and up and running with the Lockheed project. We now have an application, with the hardware housed in Prince George’s county. Patrick Callahan (Prince George’s County GIS) was instrumental in getting the system in place. It is an Adobe Flex application using ESRI base data. The application is running over NCRnet. More security will be added at a later date.

Mr. Krucoff announced that a Regional Public Safety Communications and Interoperability – All Hazards Consortium Workshop will take place in Rehoboth, DE from September 7-9, 2010. Dale Spangenberg will represent the CIOs, Mr. Krucoff suggested that someone from the GIS Committee try to attend.

**2. Data Sharing through ArcGIS.com**

Mr. Puzzo began his presentation with an introduction of the new ArcGIS 10 software. The software is available as a download only, but copies on discs may be requested. The program is based on cloud services, the web, and ArcGIS server. Mr. Puzzo presented a slide illustrating two solutions for data sharing. One is ArcGIS.com, which serves more users, but has less metadata and the other is Geoportal Extension, which contains more complete metadata.

ArcGIS.com is service-orientated and collaborative. Users can save their work that can be accessed through a URL. Mr. Puzzo provided a demonstration of how the ArcGIS.com software functions. He highlighted the community base maps, of which he mentioned DC is a founding partner. Virginia is in the process of providing base maps and Maryland is beginning to discuss sharing base map data.

He continued to explain how GeoApps created by users are available online, as are mobile applications for iOS, tablets and other mobile platforms. The applications list provides a starting point to learn what types of map products and applications are possible. Users can access content, save maps on the cloud, share maps with groups or the public, and can email into a URL. Groups can be searchable or not searchable.

Mr. Krucoff asked whether there is a notification feature. Mr. Puzzo said that notifications are available when one is logged in and through email.

Mr. Puzzo explained that all of the ArcGIS.com interfaces are developed in an API framework. Therefore, users can plug an application into a separate data appliance and use the framework independently.

Mr. Stevenson asked about what security measures are available. Mr. Puzzo replied that currently, users only need a global ESRI account.

Mr. Puzzo demonstrated other features, including the ability to capture slides that can be fed with live data and refreshed. The services are built around the web and more GIS functionality will be moving online. Users can also import external data, such as .csv files and register content and add files to share with whomever they would like. The services are still in beta version.

He also showed the community basemap project, which now includes 40 jurisdictions. The basemaps include imagery and other data from the jurisdictions.

Mr. Puzzo added that one advantage to the service is that it allows user to build on others’ experiences and data to get GIS data into more people’s hands.

**3. LiDAR data from NGA Update**

Mr. Krucoff updated the group on LiDAR data from the NGA. The University of Vermont had received funding from the USDA to look at tree canopies and noticed indentations in the form of straight lines in the imagery. The DC Office of Planning is looking at extracts of the data and has noticed it does not match the 1:200 building foot prints and also noticed some gaps in LiDAR.

Roger Barlow (USGS) said it would be interesting to know what the process to mosaic the tiles was. SAIC was the contractor and should include something about the process in their metadata.

Mr. Krucoff believes that the LiDAR data is still useful, especially for small areas, but that the data accuracy must be taken into account. It would be useful to see the original point cloud to be able to determine what happened, but that is not available. Roger Barlow pointed out that maybe it was not part of the original deliverable.

**4. GIS Data Exchange Project**

Mr. Stevenson recapped his update on the PSIC project in Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties. Lockheed delivered the application and it is up and running on the NCRnet. Patrick Callahan was instrumental in getting the system up and running and housed in Prince George’s County. The application is an Adobe Flex 2.0 viewer. The next phase will involve adding additional security and CAD functionality.

Mr. Callahan added that the servers will eventually move out of the data center in Prince George’s County and to a Verizon data center. There is funding to move everything out by February or March.

Apollo Teng (Montgomery County) requested data from DC to be included. Mr. Krucoff said that he would assist in making the data available. Mr. Stevenson added that the system functions for cross border data exchange among the Maryland jurisdictions, but not DC. Right now they are using MDiMap for addressing, but DC addresses are not included. Lockheed would not add that functionality for free. Marshall said that he could demonstrate it but that it would be too slow over the wireless connection.

Mr. Horne reported that there was nothing new to report for the GIS Data Exchange Project. The money is available and that there needs to be a team to write the RFP.

Mr. Conry stated that it would be helpful to see the documentation that Lockheed produced for the project, specially the needs assessment, so that we can validate the data needs for the entire NCR rather than reinventing the wheel. Everybody wins if we follow-on the work that has already been done. Dale Spangenberg (Frederick County) said that he will send the documents to Martha to distribute.

Tom Conry (Fairfax County GIS) discussed pushing CAD data in real time that can overlay with static data for region-wide sharing. There is a group in Virginia that is looking into the logistics of sharing CAD data, they do not yet have funding to do it, but they are determining what is necessary. Mr. Horne stated that there is also a group working on a similar initiative that is run out of the FBI. Mr. Conry and Mr. Horne agreed to exchange their information on these two groups.

**Upcoming Meetings:**
September 28th 10:00am
October 26th 10:00am
November 23rd 10:00 am