South Coast Users Group—Summer Solstice Meeting

June 23, 2016

## Meeting minutes – Final

Attending: Dan Seals, Amy Dibble, Steve Jansen, Rob Schafer, Jordan Fanning, Brian Mladenich, Betsy Smith, Linda Spurgeon, Erin Minster, Evan Tobia, Robin Harkins, John Guetterman, John Sharrard, John Bragg, Hannah Schraeger, Tanya Haddad

John B opened the meeting with welcome and introductions then gave an update of ORURISA Board of Director meetings and activities he participated in in May and June.

# URISA news

Following up on the outcomes from a board leadership retreat earlier in the year, the board has begun prioritizing projects, events and chapter needs for the near future, using an online document to rank various projects or activities that had previously been identified. They included (in descending priority) connecting with new audiences, supporting the user groups and special interest groups (SIGs), planning for GIS in Action, education and training, other events, public relations and branding, relations with URISA International, ORURISA policy, website management, and internal board communication. Rather than try to work with 10 priorities, the board is lumping these to arrive at a more compact and cohesive set of priorities.

Regarding relations with URISA Int’l, ORURISA is piloting a unified membership model that would allow members to belong to URISA Int’l. and one or more ORURISA chapter user groups. Currently users belong to the international group or a chapter, or both, but there is little connection between the two. The membership model allows greater collaboration and sharing of international resources with chapters. If approved, the model should result in more services for members at lower cost.

Upcoming events on the coast that may be of interest to SCUG include:

Oregon Tsunami Conference, Dec. 7-8 at the Florence Event Center

Green Infrastructure: Best practices for onsite stormwater management, Oct 25 and Oct. 26 at Mill Casino, Coos Bay

Symposium by the Sea, dates to be announced, in Newport this fall.

# SCUG news

John Guetterman, BLM, requested help with a raster analysis challenge. Perhaps he will enlighten us to the challenge and response at the next meeting.

Robin Harkins, Coquille Indian Tribe IT Dept., is busy with green employees and providing data access. She introduced Evan Tobia, who is doing GIS training with the tribe.

Erin Minster, Curry SWCD, joined the group. She “inherited” her GIS duties, is also busy helping new people get access to old data, including old layers from when the district was first using GIS to do a watershed assessment, a folder full of old shapefiles. Using these materials efficiently has grown difficult. Erin has been working with Wild River Coast Alliance and the Curry-Coos Gorse Action Group to map gorse and indicate areas where it is likely to spread.

Tanya Haddad, Oregon Coastal Program, works primarily with coastal and marine data. One of her challenges is to “unhide hidden data” like disks in cabinets. She works a lot with big data sets of the outer coasts, provided by NOAA. Currently she’s using oblique photographs of the coastal shorelands and LiDAR images to build three dimensional photographic representations.

Tanya offered to provide a presentation of this shore zone photography at a future SCUG meeting. John B. will work with Tanya and report back to the group.

Tanya said NOAA released new Environmental Sensitivity Index data sets in April. Contact Tanya (971-673-0962) for more info.

Tanya also noted:

* She’s putting together a new data set of coastal access points for estuaries, rivers, and beaches; it will be ready to roll out in June 2017.
* DOGAMI (Department of Geology and Mineral Industries) and the US Geological Survey have developed a new coastal background layer for mapping, based on the national hydrography dataset (NHD) and incorporating LiDAR

Brian Mladenich introduced himself as the new GIS specialist working at South Slough NERR.

Jordan Fanning, City of Brookings, has been engaged in data creation to prepare files for GIS analysis and is now managing data and getting it out to city officials to decide in which direction to take the city.

Hannah Schraeger, SSNERR, said she’s attended Symposium by the Sea and recommends it as a worthwhile investment (“thirty five dollars and a good lunch”), and good professional exchange. Re training needs, she would like SCUG to provide a series of “how-to” sessions, e.g., how to organize and manage data files. She said SSNERR does not have a permanent GIS specialist on staff, but would be interested in co-supporting a GIS position with another agency. She’s also concerned about access to data.

Hannah mentioned DOGAMI has LiDAR of Coos Bay from 2014 (part of a survey of a larger coastal area).

Tanya mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) is nearing the end of a two-year LiDAR survey of the entire Oregon-Washington coast; should be available soon, maybe by Aug. 26.

Dan Seals said the Coos Assessors Office is using GIS for change detection information in land parcel data and making it available publicly. Steve Jansen is using shapefiles from the state’s database to develop a user’s guide for new computer users accessing the county’s website, e.g., to get ownership data or change detection based on USDA one-meter resolution. It’s a free service to the public.

**Need attribution** Someone mentioned Cascadia Rising, and Raptor (Real-time Assessment and Planning Tool for Oregon) ,a GIS tool developed by Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM). According to the website, RAPTOR, developed in 2010, uses GIS and geospatial information providing real-time information in combination with traditional GIS layers to create a comprehensive picture anywhere, anytime, to support emergency planning, response, and mitigation. For more information, google raptor oregon.

There was a suggestion of having a presentation or extended discussion of Raptor at an upcoming meeting. John B. will look into this and report back to the group.

In response to a question, Hannah gave an overview of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW), a stakeholder group based in Coos County that has created a socioeconomic data inventory for Coos County. The PCW has been around for about four years, is facilitated by SSNERR staff, and includes county, tribal, and city governments and agencies, Oregon’s Department of Land Conservation and Development, and private partners. It’s undertaken a hydrographic model of the Coos estuary and created a buildable lands inventory. The goal is to update the Coos estuary management plan.

Amy Dibble, Coos County Planning Office, said the county is currently addressing internal planning and communications needs.

*Discussion*

Erin mentioned OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) is looking to partnerships like the PCW for data on the health of coastal ecosystems. “Our weakest data sets are in the estuaries and lowlands,” she said. Curry County has also identified the Coquille River estuary as an interest area, but needs to know who to talk to before assuming any role there in revising the estuary plan.

There was discussion of the accuracy of streamline data. Tanya said the lines are based on the NHD, and that regional or local editors are trained to edit the streams and distinguish between watershed boundaries, but having an accurate fundamental data set is a high priority.

Erin said, regarding agricultural drains and ditches, ‘You really don’t know the local hydro connections.”

Tanya said Oregon’s Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO) has some funds for editing data through the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC).

Erin mentioned metadata as a potential training need – e.g., documenting workflows, dates, or projections – and noted that GIS tools have changed in frustrating ways.

**Need attribution** Lane Council of Governments built a template for creating metadata. It’s a plug in for Arc Map and available from the Oregon State Library.

John Sharrard, GIS Solutions Engineer for ESRI, said that prior to 2010, metadata standards were developed and published worldwide. But standards change, and every time a standard changes, GIS staff have to redeploy their metadata schema. Arc Server 10 provided one common schema to manage metadata using filters for customized views.

ArcGIS Online in December 2015 began to support open data, allowing users to harvest data from many sources to add to a database. It creates customizable webpage layouts that allow all system infrastructure can be shared with a group, and the app notifies users of changes that have been made.

*ESRI Technical Presentation*

John Sharrard gave a technical presentation on ArcGIS for Server. Details of his presentation are not included in these minutes.

*Wrap up.*

The next SCUG meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016, 10 AM – 2 PM. Host: Jordan Fanning, City of Brookings