

Kankakee County GIS Committee Meeting Minutes Meeting of February 6, 2009

Members in Attendance

Steve Beatty, Kankakee County Supervisor of Assessments
Kelly McLaren, Kankakee County Board
Jim Piekarczyk, Kankakee County Engineer
Pete Schiel, City of Kankakee
Mike Van Mill, Economic Alliance of Kankakee County
George Washington, Kankakee County Board

Others in Attendance

Roger Diercks, Kankakee County GIS Manager
Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Dept.
Josh Kalov, GIS Technician
Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Dept.
Zack Newton, City of Kankakee
Maureen Sandusky, Kankakee County Sheriff's Office

Meeting commenced at 9:02am

Mr. Piekarczyk made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2008 meeting, seconded by Mr. Beatty. Motion carried.

Mr. Diercks reported one new subscription to the website and two renewals for a total of \$750. There had been several data requests for free data, one of which was from an engineering firm doing work for the Village of Bourbonnais, and the other from the US Army Corps of Engineers for watershed mapping.

Mr. Diercks advised that the recording fee increase took effect on February 2. The recording fee is now \$12, with \$11 going to GIS and \$1 staying with the Recorder's Office.

Ms. Redwitz and Messrs. Greenstreet and Lammey discussed the crash mapping project. Mr. Piekarczyk provided background on the necessity for the project. Mr. Diercks said

that GIS' involvement would be technical in nature. He said that he was looking at using Google Earth as a solution.

Mr. Diercks presented a data sharing agreement he had received from Will County. He had hoped to exchange data under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, but Will County would like to use its standard agreement that it uses with other units of government. He said that most of the agreement was acceptable in his opinion, but that he was uncomfortable with a section that could make Kankakee County financially liable to Will County. He would like to have that section removed from the agreement. The Committee agreed and asked Mr. Diercks to approach Will County about removing any language involving financial liability from the agreement.

Mr. Van Mill asked about the possibility of exchanging data with Grundy County. Mr. Diercks said he would touch base with the IT Director there to see if it would be feasible.

A discussion was had about long term goals and planning. Mr. Diercks presented excerpts from the original implementation plan, but said that he felt the landscape had changed drastically since then. He said that he felt that the best way that the agencies could be served would be through the development of GIS applications. He said that he was looking for ideas from those at the table for application ideas.

Ms. Redwitz asked Mr. Diercks whether anyone had asked him about using GIS for asset management. Mr. Diercks replied that he had not been asked. Mr. Van Mill asked Mr. Diercks if he could think of any agencies that could be looked at as a model. Mr. Diercks said that situations varied widely from agency to agency, so he couldn't think of any off the top of his head. He said that he would give some thought to the question.

Mr. Washington recommended sitting down with each agency to get their ideas.

Mr. Van Mill said that he felt discussions regarding the amount of data to be released outside of the participating entities would be beneficial. Mr. Diercks said that he felt that it was becoming expected that counties would provide at least basic mapping and query capabilities to the general public, and that perhaps linking something to the Treasurer's website would be something to try. Mr. Van Mill said that he thought something along those lines would be beneficial.

Mr. Piekarczyk said that many of the participants who had been involved with GIS from the beginning had feelings about holding the data closely due to the significant sacrifices many agencies had made to fund GIS, but that he also understood that things had changed dramatically and that policies may need to be reexamined.

Mr. McLaren said that he felt that the feeling all along had been that policies would be reexamined and that policies and prices would be adjusted as necessary in light of technological advances.

Mr. Beatty discussed some of the issues the public encounters when trying to locate documents related to property in his office and the Recorder's Office, and that more data being made available might make the process easier.

Mr. Diercks said that he would look into moving the GIS Committee meetings to the conference room on the second floor because the current room was becoming inadequate for the meeting attendance.

Mr. Diercks showed the new "birds eye" photography available in Microsoft Virtual Earth. He said that the imagery couldn't be printed, nor could it be used to develop the county's own applications, but that it was food for thought in looking at the sort of data available to the public.

Mr. Van Mill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McLaren. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46am.