

eMeeting NYS GIS Association Regional Committee Meeting: June 7, 2023

Attendees

Ross Baldwin, LIGIS
Ana Hiraldo Gomez, Westchester
Lisa Warneke, Central NYS/Syracuse
Karyn Tareen, WNYS GIS, President NYS GIS Assn
Sheri Norton, Ontario County/GIS SIG
Jason Baum, Capital Region/NYS ITS
Alan Leidner, NYC GISMO
Molly Jordan, Adirondacks Park GIS

Key Discussion Areas

9-1-1 Data
NYS GIS Assn GeoCon
Quebec Fires and Smoke
Buffalo Blizzard

Notes

Ross Baldwin: The Long Island GIS Association (LIGIS) held an in-person meeting at Brookhaven Town Hall for the first time since the inception of the COVID epidemic. It was well attended by about 75 people. Efforts continue to get representatives from Nassau County involved including reserving two seats on the LIGIS Steering Committee have been reserved for County representatives. A future meeting is expected to be held in the Fall.

Ana Hiraldo Gomez: The Westchester County GIS Users Group also recently held an in-person meeting with about 160 attendees. [2023 Westchester County GIS User Group Meeting \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) The meeting attracted attendance from Rockland County including Doug Schuetz, Daniel Munoz of Orange County, and Arlene Owen of Putnam County. Ana discussed the recent engagement with representatives of Con Edison who attended the user meeting in E-GIS polo shirts. They made a presentation about Con Edison's mapping efforts in Westchester which were significantly advanced from the last time of contact with them in 2008. Con Ed is also eager to use Westchester County's GIS data to support its own infrastructure mapping efforts. Alan mentioned similar willingness by Con Ed to engage with NYC on mapping its infrastructure in a common format. **(Ana also mentioned the City Drome? Project but I don't think I recorded the details correctly...so Ana please supplement.)** Ana also stated that the County is implementing ESRI's Smart Airports application.

Karyn Tareen: We discussed the NYU Buffalo Blizzard report and there were questions about how the study was initiated. These links will get you to the basic information: [NYU Report on December 2022 Buffalo Blizzard Recommends Infrastructure Improvements](#) [Buffalo's Blizzard Response Had Numerous Failures, Researchers Find - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#) (Alan's Note: Professor Rae Zimmerman of NYU was involved. Rae worked on the NYC UNUM project making major contributions. I can put you in touch, if desired.)

Also, Western NY GIS held a post COVID lunch and learn session sponsored by GeoCove.

Karyn, who also head the GeoCon Committee noted progress in plans for the September event in Albany. She said that Conference Registration would open up before the end of June. Work continues getting sponsors, vendors, and speakers. The keynote will be delivered by Professor Debra Laefer of NYU who headed the UNUM project and has been key to the initiation of the City's 3D Underground project.

Jason Baum: Reported that work is continuing on the NYS ITS GIS website, and ITS would be working in support of the Albany GeoCon including making a number of presentations. Jason also said that ITS would be in a position to present its NENA NG9-1-1 addressing work and its county implementations in a late Summer/early Fall timeframe. There could be a 9-1-1 session at the GeoCon. There was strong sentiment in favor of this, but also in favor of having an even earlier session – perhaps in mid-Summer.

Sheri Norton, Ontario County/GIS SIG: Reported that the recent GIS SIG members meeting was well attended by likely more than 150 members. Paul Rooney of ESRI gave a presentation. Sheri wondered whether we were aware of the 30X30 program and provided the following link: [30X30: A movement to protect a third of our planet's surface \(arcgis.com\)](#) 30X30 is a Presidential initiative that aims to protect and preserve 30 percent of the world's land and waters by 2030. There will be further discussion of this and how the NYS GIS Assn might participate. Ana said Westchester is already looking into participating in 30X30 by reviewing its land use and park areas.

Ana Hiraldo-Gomez: Also reported that 2019 funded FEMA LiDAR had been received. The LiDAR collection was done by EagleView/Pictometry. Other counties have also had data captured. Sheri Norton wondered when Ontario County might be flown.

Molly Jordan: Let us know that she had taken over POC duties from John Barge. Given the Canadian wildfires she said there were concerns about drought and fires in the Adirondacks.

Alan Leidner: Reported on RatApp the application smartphone based application designed to capture citizen science information about rat sightings in NYC. Alan said he had submitted about ten records and Ana has also submitted some records. Ana wanted to know how to access the data – and Alan said that the data, analytics, and maps would soon be made available in a readily accessible format. Follow this link to take a walk through the RatApp screens: <https://tinyurl.com/RatApp-NYC> . RatApp integrates smartphone capabilities including geolocation,

photos, structured questions, and spoken descriptions in almost any language which can be translated into English, digitized and analyzed through A.I. In time sensors will be added to the apps capabilities.

Additionally, Alan discussed progress by NYC in mapping its underground infrastructure and geology. The City has committed \$10M to this effort based in part on the NYU UNUM project and efforts with the Open Geospatial Consortium's MUDDI Standards Working Group.

Lisa Warneke: Serving as POC from Onondaga County/Syracuse, Lisa reported that Josh Delmonico, Director of the FGDC, had visited Syracuse and spoken at a Syracuse event in September, 2022. Josh has relatives living in the County. She announced that the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association was holding a conference in Syracuse on Friday,



September 15th in that event.

. She will seek engagement by NYS GIS Assn

Lisa also mentioned Governor Hochul's Announcement about available funding to enhance public safety and emergency communications systems. See: [Governor Hochul Announces \\$55 Million Available to Enhance Public Safety and Emergency Communications Systems | Governor Kathy Hochul \(ny.gov\)](#) The deadline for funding applications is June 26th.

There was some discussion about the wildfires in Canada. Everyone on the call was experiencing smoky conditions. The Syracuse region was seeing the highest AQI numbers. [National Maps | AirNow.gov](#)

We all wished each other happy Summers and expect to have a next meeting, in either early September or early October.

