

Wyoming Geospatial Organization – WyGEO
Cheyenne Conference Meeting 8.8.12

This is a summary of the meeting held on Wednesday August 8, 2012.

I. Welcome

Cathy Raney, the WyGEO President, began the 3rd quarter meeting by welcoming those in attendance to the meeting and conference. She briefly went over the agenda for the conference highlighting the workshops and presentations that would be available the next day. She also announced that there were 14 seats still available for the historic trolley tour of downtown Cheyenne. Cathy then announced a program change to the conference; that an additional presentation would be given by Nicholas Graf on “DDCT - Sage Grouse”. Cathy thanked the sponsors of the conference. She announced each of the sponsors. Cathy also announced that there would be raffles throughout the conference with many gifts donated by the sponsors. She concluded the welcome to participants with information on videos that would be shown during the Friday closing meeting and that the elections for 5 Board of Director positions would be held during lunch on Thursday.

II. Treasurer’s Report

Brett Governanti, the WyGEO Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s report. The last deposit was made on 7-20-12 from sponsorship payments. The last check had been written on 5-15-12 for expenses from the Gillette meeting. At that time there was \$6,099.91 in the WyGEO account. Brett stated that the balance in the account would change from conference expenditures. He stated that he would have a revised report available after the conference.

III. “What is WyGEO”

Shawn Lanning, the WyGEO Vice President, gave a presentation on what WyGEO is and what we have been doing. He went over the timeline of WyGEO; how WyGEO officially became a group in September of 2010; at that time there was no GIO for Wyoming. The geospatial community founded WyGEO. Shawn also discussed the membership types available: professional members pay dues and are eligible to vote and hold office while associate members do not pay dues and therefore are not eligible to vote or hold office.

IV. WyGEO History and Future

Cathy reviewed the history of WyGEO and how it was formed. The meeting where WyGEO officially became a group was in September of 2010. It was in that meeting that expectations were discussed for WyGEO. Cathy stated that establishing a web page was one of the first actions acted upon. WyGEO has held meetings in each of the 4 regions and has had a teleconference meeting as well.

Cathy then asked those in attendance where WyGEO should go from here, what would people like to see. Cathy stated that there were many networking options available at the conference. Brian Coleman stated that the next meeting would be held in the Southwest

Region. Cathy stated that the next meeting location could possibly be in Rock Springs or Green River. Shawn stated that the next meeting location be tabled until Thursday at lunch or until Friday morning when more people would be in attendance. Garrace suggested recruiting for WyGEO at the colleges during their club days to increase a knowledge base for WyGEO. Brian asked if only 3 colleges had a GIS program. Shannon Albeke suggested examining the demographics of the group to see the numbers of members in each discipline. He then suggested checking if certain members needed more training. Shannon then asked the group how much of an expert did a person need to be to be efficient. He then stated that students want to learn about GIS but don't have enough time for all the training with their other courses and need more training. Paul Caffrey suggested having a GISP certification program. Brett Governanti stated that he was going through the certification process and that training opportunities are good. Brian stated that the WyGEO website could be used to point to other websites with information on the certification process. Shannon suggested having a list of GISP professionals. Paul stated that having a membership with GISP certifications could facilitate the GISP process. Cathy asked the group what they thought of offering scholarships to students. Brian stated that GISCO offers sponsorships. Paul stated that members could offer contributions for scholarships. Shawn stated that scholarships would be a good reflection on WyGEO, the student and the geo-community. Jeff Hamerlinck stated that supporting students was a good idea. He stated that representatives should be gathered from all the colleges to see what was best for students and how to act on that information. Nicholas Graf stated that GIS is constantly evolving and that educating GIS people would be beneficial. Jeff H. stated that WYOPASS has a certification development person on the board who can answer questions and suggested WyGEO have something similar. Paul suggested that WyGEO create a network with the other organizations and their certifications. Jake Mundt stated that AppGeo's Needs Analysis suggested creating a searchable portfolio for networking. Cathy asked the group if they would be willing to fill out a survey about what you work with and if you would be willing to answer questions on that topic. Steve Lowman stated that Google Groups is not being utilized to its full potential. Jake stated that it is good but not good enough. Paul stated that we don't have the resources to monitor various sites. Shawn stated that a survey could be created and then query that information to get a direct contact list. Cathy stated that she and Steve are GISCO list members and would like to see the WyGEO list serve be more like that of GISCO. Brian stated that there are roughly 1500 users on the GISCO list serve and most are from outside of Colorado. Brian then suggested coordination between GISCO and WyGEO. Paul stated that we should explore the groups from other states and possibly work together. Brett suggested having user profiles. Jeff H. then asked about advocacy to State Representatives. Cathy stated that WyGEO has started to reach out to the legislators in each region and invite them to the meetings. Cathy then stated that August may not be a good month for the conference. Paul stated that summer is not a good time and that a conference in spring or fall would conflict with other conferences. He then stated that inviting legislators to increase awareness about GIS in the state should be an ongoing discussion but that lobbying is not who we are. Steve stated that you don't go to the legislators when they are in session because they don't have time for presentations. Brian suggested we ask Governor Geringer for connections in the state. He then continued by stating that Jake

had done an excellent job advocating GIS in the state. Jeff H. stated that an organization should be prepared to advocate or lobby. He suggested inviting County Commissioners and City Council Members to the meetings. Shawn stated that at the Lander meeting discussion there was no direct reason to go to the legislature. Paul stated that we should define what we stand for and develop our membership. Kathy Treanor stated that the Assessors have a legislation committee to review bills that are being introduced and they have a member available during the legislative session. She recommended reviewing the LSO website. Jeff H. stated that WYOPASS has a member assigned to watch the legislature. Kathy recommended that we continue to invite legislators to the meetings. Brian suggested that we ask Governor Geringer to be another voice for WyGEO that he may be open to helping.

V. Meeting adjourned.