

Wyoming Geospatial Organization (WyGEO)
1st Quarter Meeting Minutes
Hampton Inn and Suites, Buffalo, WY
March 3, 2016

Board Members Present (9):

Shawn Lanning – WyGEO President, University of Wyoming, WYGISC Research Scientist
Nicholas Graf – WyGEO Vice President, WYGISC
Paula Reece – WyGEO Treasurer, Natrona County, GIS Specialist
Joy Hill – WyGEO Secretary-Elect, Big Horn County, Land Planner/GIS Manager
Jeff Sun – WyGEO Director at Large, Casper College, GIS Instructor
Cathy Raney – WyGEO Past President, NE Region Director, Campbell County GIS Coordinator
Nyssa Whitford – WyGEO NW Region Director, Wyoming Game and Fish, GIS Analyst
Steve Vossler – WyGEO SE Region Director, SEO, GIS Specialist
Angie Rudolph – WyGEO SW Region Director, Greenwood Mapping, GIS Specialist

Attendees Present (24):

Diane Adams – BLM, GIS Specialist
Chris Arneson – Powder River Energy, GIS Developer
Brian Brokling – SCWA Environmental Consultants, GIS Specialist
Shaun Carr – Cloud Peak Energy, Geologist
Justin Chapelle – BLM, GIS/Remote Sensing Intern
Brian Clarkson – GDA Engineers, GIS Project Manager
Rick Calvert – Cloud Peak Energy, Project Engineering Technician
Greg Goodwin – BLM Casper Field Office, GIS Specialist
Richard Greenwood – Greenwood Mapping
Richard Immell – Sheridan County, GIS Coordinator
Lacey Johnsen – Powder River Energy, GIS Technician
Eric Kessner – Map All LLC, Owner/Geospatial Analyst
Sandy Leotta – Map Aid, GIS Technician
Steve Lowman – Vista West Engineering, GIS Coordinator
Travis Meyers – Meyers Tech
Jack Murray – Belle Fouche Pipeline, GIS Analyst
Cathy Rosenthal – WACD, Watershed Coordinator
Karl Osvald – BLM, Sr. Geologist
Debra Shirley – Farm Service Agency, GIS Specialist
Steve Shivers – USGS Liaison
Linette Sutphin – Big Horn Environmental Consultants, GIS Analyst/Senior Biologist
Bryan Swindell – SWCA Environmental Consultants, GIS Specialist
Jim Waller – Johnson County, Planner/GIS
Gary Welling – Uinta County, GIS Coordinator/Planning Department Head

I. Meeting Called to Order

Shawn Lanning, WyGEO President, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

II. Welcome and Introductions/Remarks

Shawn welcomed everyone to the WyGEO 1st Quarter Meeting of 2016. Shawn thanked Cathy Raney, WyGEO NE Region Director, for continuing her participation in the organization. Shawn also thanked SWCA and Map Aid for their sponsorship of this event and Greenwood Mapping for their continued support.

III. Treasurer's Report

Paula Reece, WyGEO Treasurer, presented budget details. The amount currently in the WyGEO bank account is \$25,699. Paula sent out 147 invoices for 2016 membership payment. There are currently 45 paid professional members.

IV. Old Business

1. Update on IRS/501(c) status

Paula is working on the paperwork to qualify the organization as a 501(c). Shawn explained to the group that we are trying to get WyGEO up to date on tax exempt status. Paula said we should file by April.

2. Plans for scholarship pending

Shawn said that scholarship program progress remains halted until the 501(c) issue is resolved. The ad hoc committee talked last fall about ways to move forward once 501(c) status is achieved.

V. New Business

1. Coffee Mugs

We have vacuum sealed coffee mugs from the last conference for sale. \$20 each.

2. Annual Conference

- The annual conference will tentatively be held at the LCCC Conference Center, Cheyenne, WY, from October 5-7. Steve Vossler, WyGEO SE Region Director, indicated that we have been quoted a good price for renting the rooms needed (3 break out rooms and a computer lab for ESRI). The GIS Instructor is helping to support the event for WyGEO, which may result in a waiver of the rent for the rooms. It could be that WyGEO will need to cover food costs only.
- Steve said Spring Hill Suites (Marriott) is offering rooms at \$93/night (state rates for everyone). He will be getting prices from other hotels as well. He also talked with Cheyenne Tourism about handling registration and possibly getting recommendations for social events. The Cheyenne Little Theatre Players may host a melodrama at the historic Atlas Theatre.
- Shawn entertained a motion to sign a contract with LCC. Sandy Leotta, professional member, made a motion to sign a contract. 2nd by Cathy Raney. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Shawn asked the group for ideas about what can be offered at the conference. Nyssa Whitford, WyGEO NW Region Director, suggested training opportunities/workshops. Several members discussed the Esri hands-on learning lab (Cathy, Shawn and Steve Vossler). Shawn will find out for sure if they Esri will be available. They have changed business models so there isn't a representative that covers the whole state and they are limited to events they can attend.

3. Wyoming Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Symposium (UAV/Drone)

- WYGISC, in association with the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming, will be hosting the Wyoming Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Symposium in Laramie, WY, from May 16-18, 2016. Registration will be opening in two weeks.
- Shawn said WyGEO was approached about being a sponsor for the event. The lower rate levels are Bronze (\$500 – no booth) and Silver (\$750 – includes table); cost is high due to the use of a new facility. Shawn opened the floor to discussion about this event and possible sponsorship. Paula asked who would man the table – only one complimentary registration comes with it. Nyssa said if we are going to spend the money, we need to really make sure we have an engaging booth and advertising for in the tote bags; she also feels that we could talk to the organization about giving up the demonstration slot in exchange for some other presentation opportunity since we do not have a UAV. Jeff Sun, WyGEO Director at Large, agreed. Cathy asked who would be attending the symposium that would be our target market. Shawn expects remote sensing folks, surveyors, engineers and university students/faculty. Joy Hill, WyGEO Secretary, asked if any current members planned to attend – one person said they hope to. Gary Welling, professional member, asked how soon they need to know if we are sponsoring. Shawn said he is not aware of a deadline as of yet. Nyssa asked if it is planned to be a one-time event or annual. Shawn said it is currently a one-time event. Shawn sought a motion to move ahead or not on the topic of UAV symposium sponsorship. Nyssa said she feels that we may be better represented by participating as a sponsor at the WYOPASS conference (Casper). Angela Rudolph, WyGEO SW Region Director, asked if it is the plan of WyGEO to increase sponsorship activities in the future to seek out new membership and what the long-term budget-related goals are. Cathy said that WYOPASS has reached out to us to discuss joint conference opportunities. Chris Arneson, professional member, added that half the people attending in Laramie aren't likely to be from Wyoming or even nearby (front range folks), therefore will probably not be interested in WyGEO. Cathy said for our first sponsorship experience, this seems a bit pricey. Joy Hill made a motion that we allow the board to make the final decision on sponsorship of the UAV event based upon gathering additional information in the coming weeks/months. 2nd by Steve Vossler. Travis Myers, professional member, added that UAVs are an up-and-coming trend in the industry. He said that members in the industry could lead to connections that would help promote membership. Steve Shivers, professional member, said that a recent event was heavily attended by UAV interest. Steve Vossler said that we could potentially look at this as a conference that will be attended by someone who will be doing networking. We will be looking for sponsors for our own fall conference – we may even be able to do our own UAV demo. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. Should WyGEO membership fees and perks be changed?

- Shawn invited general discussion about how membership fees and perks are currently handled by the organization. Joy asked how many attendees at today's event are unpaid members as it is difficult for anyone to know. Paula has not yet identified all paid/unpaid members in attendance. Several members discussed invoicing concerns (didn't receive an invoice, didn't receive a receipt). Paula sends out invoices in several batches. Shawn explained where the current membership rate came from (not different price brackets) and that associate (\$0) members were built in to encourage public participation at meetings. Shawn's personal feeling is that the existing structure is successful. Steve Lowman, professional member, is also a member of the Colorado group. He likes the low fee/two-tiered system. Steve Shivers asked

if we are thinking of changing it because we need more revenue or not. Nyssa mentioned that it is nice that our meetings are open to everyone. She feels that the professional fee is fine, but she would personally pay more.

- Nyssa mentioned offering a corporate membership for places with multiple individuals that could come with a single sponsorship of a quarterly meeting. Shawn asked if those members would have to be named. Nyssa said it could be open to discussion. Jeff Sun mentioned that this may have been mentioned at a previous meeting where it was decided not to offer a corporate membership. Jeff said we may have gotten hung up on how many names/slots would be allowed for corporate membership – particularly for voting privileges. Paula said she runs into issues with invoices with people who are not in a group any longer. Debra Shirley, professional member, asked what would be the advantage of having a corporate membership when the company could just pay for the individual memberships. Nyssa said we're trying to find ways to increase membership and get the word out to grow WyGEO. Paula asked business members in attendance for their opinions. Richard Greenwood, professional member, said he pays for his individual members and sponsors on his own. Sandy Leotta and Joy Hill mentioned considering the rates/structure of membership of other state organizations. Steve Lowman said he felt like we were good with the status quo.

5. Member comments/General Discussion

Shawn opened the floor to attendees to discuss topics of interest/general comments. Brian Clarkson, professional member, is curious about how new members learned about this organization and how the group gets the word out. He stumbled upon us by accident. Some heard by word of mouth. Greg Goodwin, professional member, is glad for the interactions with other GIS professionals. Jim Waller, professional member, hasn't been to many meetings. His involvement with WYGISC brings up WyGEO. WYOPASS brings up WyGEO regularly. Jack Murray, professional member, asked if it is possible for WYGISC to promote WyGEO. Shawn said he is uncertain of the potential for WYGISC to promote WyGEO. Steve Vossler mentioned the NREx and possible access to interested folks. Nyssa noted that web searches are a common way that WyGEO is found by professionals (optimizing search terms and website design). Sandy Leotta asked if we market to colleges. Nicholas Graf asked if counties were contacted. Joy Hill said she reached out to all counties (mix of planners and assessors). Angela asked if Nyssa attended conferences in Colorado and what types of things they were offering at their conferences. Shawn mentioned looking at the activities of some other state organizations. Brian Swindell, SWCA, mentioned the Montana group hiring an events planner/marketing person to help grow their organization initially. They partner with other organizations to offer larger events. Joy mentioned that the GIS Certification Institute does not have our organization listed. Shawn said he will reach out to see how we can be referenced from that organization.

VI. **15-Minute Break**

At 2:16pm, Shawn paused the meeting for a short break. Session resumed at 2:33pm.

VII. Member Presentations

1. Diane Adams of the BLM presented on mapping cheatgrass using image analysis.
2. Nyssa Whitford of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department presented on the analysis of sage grouse population density related to energy development.

VIII. Gold Sponsor Presentation

1. Brian Swindell of SWCA Environmental Consultants presented on Multi-Sensor Precipitation Data for Environmental Monitoring in Remote Areas of Eastern Montana and Wyoming

IX. Wrap Up / General Discussion

Shawn thanked all members and sponsors for attending. Dinner will be served at 5:30 at Clear Creek Brewery (by Up in Smoke BBQ) for anyone interested in attending.

X. Meeting Adjourned

Shawn adjourned the meeting at 3:53pm.