

## **GDW Meeting Summary for August 2, 2023**

**2024 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share and Lidar Update:** Thushara Ranatunga with H-GAC discussed the status of the 2024 H-GAC LiDAR and Aerial Imagery and the next steps in cost-share program. For 2024 Lidar, H-GAC is collecting letters of intent till August 4<sup>th</sup>. H-GAC will be applying for USGS 3DEP BAA Funding Application. Currently, H -GAC is at the beginning phase of the 2024 Aerial Imagery planning renewal cycle. Last imagery collection was in 2022, 6in-RGB and color infrared for the 13 County area with 38 participants.. This year's vender has not been decided at this point as H-GAC is in the first phase and is surveying interest from the cost-share partners. Should anyone have questions, please contact [DAR\\_GIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DAR_GIS@h-gac.com) or visit the [project homepage](#).

**Guest Presentation – GIS State Legislative Updates and other news from TNRIS with Gayla Mullins from TNRIS:** Gayla was joined by Lauren Kirk, Joey Thomas, and Ellen St. Romain to unveil the renaming of the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS). They announced that the group's new name is the Texas Geographic Information Office (TxGIO), following the successful passage of SB 712 and HB 2489. In addition to this announcement, Gayla and her team discussed recent GIS-related bills that have been approved at the state level. They also highlighted the availability of imagery content for Urban areas in 2022, Statewide imagery for 2020-2021, and the completion of Statewide Winter 2022/23 imagery acquisition. Notably, they shared that the Houston Galveston Pilot Area and the Bathymetric initiative project have commenced, with data delivery estimated for early 2024. Furthermore, it was revealed that registration for the 2023 Texas GIS Forum is now open. Updates about the forum can be found at <https://tnris.org/texas-gis-forum/2023/>. Lastly, the next Texas GIS Community Meeting is scheduled for October 27th, 2023.

**Guest Presentation – Lidar then vs. Lidar now: Advancements in data collection and expanded use cases with Angie Pelkie from Fugro:** Angie Pelkie delivered a presentation highlighting the convergence of improved lidar efficiencies and advancements in AI/machine learning. These developments have resulted in reduced processing durations and enhanced precision during the creation of conventional lidar products. Angie illustrated Fugro's utilization of automation and AI in various applications, such as ground surface models, classified point clouds, and hydro-enforced breaklines. Notably, Fugro is actively pursuing automation to streamline processes, allowing them to concentrate on producing more intricate products.

**Guest Presentation – 2022 Esri User Conference Highlights and Recap:** Joseph Bowles from Esri provided an extensive review and summary of the 2023 Esri User Conference, which took place at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA from Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 14th. During his presentation, Joseph delved into various statistics such as the total number of attendees both in person and virtually, the quantity of sessions conducted, and the latest updates to multiple Esri products. For further insights and key points from the 2023 Esri User Conference, including details about the availability of recorded sessions online, Joseph's complete presentation can be accessed on the [GDW website](#) or visit <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/announcements/2023-esri-user-conference-highlights/> for more information.

**Announcements/Other Items:**

- 2023 Houston Area GIS Day Planning Kickoff: Nicole Ceranek with Montgomery County, TX spoke about the Houston Area GIS Day taking place this November 16<sup>th</sup> at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The planning committee is working to get the call out for sponsors and exhibitors, speakers, map gallery submissions, and general attendees for the professional content very soon. Nicole plans to hold the next general planning meetings for the event on Thursday, August 24th, at 11am CST. If you would like to be involved, there is a [volunteer registration form](#) that will add you onto a contact list for the planning meetings to get involved with the planning of the 2023 Houston Area GIS Day For more information, please visit <http://www.houstonareagisday.org/>.
- The next GDW meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, October 4th, 2023 at 9:30am CST and will feature Claire DeVaughan with USGS and Lillian Yeargins with 1Spatial as the guest presenters.