

## **GDW Meeting Summary for December 1, 2021**

**2022 Data Axle Business and Residential Data Cost-Share Kickoff:** Kam Draper with Data Axle updated the GDW on the new 2022 Data Axle business and residential datasets which will be released in Spring 2022. In 2022, there will be approximately 1.5 million business records across four categories and 6+ million residential records for the 13 county H-GAC region. Brooks Andrews with H-GAC let the GDW know the annual cost-share program for this data will start up shortly with the registration page reopening in a few business days, likely sometime next week. The goal is to gather enough interested participants to split the cost of the \$51,450 contract amount and receive the datasets processed by H-GAC in April or May 2022. For more information on this project, visit the [H-GAC project homepage](#) or email [DSGIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DSGIS@h-gac.com). There will be more on this project at the next GDW meeting in February 2022.

**2021 Houston Area GIS Day Recap:** The Houston Area GIS Day event for high school students took place virtually on Tuesday, November 16 as a small part of the statewide, all-virtual TxGIS Day. The event hosted several virtual presentations and seminars throughout the day including a morning keynote session that garnered around 80 total attendees. The event also hosted geographic themed virtual games for students to compete in and an essay contest with three winners receiving Visa gift cards as their awards. For a full report on the contest outcomes as well as the list of volunteers that helped host this event, please visit the [event website](#) or contact [HoustonAreaGISDayOrg@gmail.com](mailto:HoustonAreaGISDayOrg@gmail.com) with questions. The event planning committee will start meeting in May 2022 to prepare for the 2022 event next November.

**2021 Houston Regional GIS Expo Recap:** The Houston Regional GIS Expo event for GIS professionals took place virtually on Monday, November 15 as a small part of the statewide, all-virtual TxGIS Day. The event hosted nine presentations throughout the day all with a minimum of 30 total attendees with some garnering 60+ total attendees. The event also hosted a joint virtual map gallery through the TxGIS Day and raised enough sponsor funds through the 2021 event sponsors (Surdex Corporation, Blackline Engineering, and AllTerra Central) to fund student prizes/gift cards for the Houston Area GIS Day contests described above. The 2022 event will also take place once again next November, coinciding with the Houston Area GIS Day. For more information or questions, please contact [DSGIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DSGIS@h-gac.com).

**2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share Update:** The 2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share project is making the transition from registration to full participation and acquisition in December. In November, H-GAC emailed coverage maps, price quotes, letters on intent, and a pricing sheet to all 38 registrants. These four documents along with the emailed instructions will help registrants determine the coverage and price they wish to participate at in 2022. The letters of intent solidify your participation in the 2022 project are due back to H-GAC by the end of the business day on Wednesday, December 15. If your quote seems too high, you can contact H-GAC who can unlock your coverage selection to allow you to move to a lower pricing tier that fits your budget or in special cases H-GAC can work with you on a price that better aligns with your budget. You can also add more tiles to you coverage so long as you stay within your current pricing tier; just email them to [DSGIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DSGIS@h-gac.com) along with your signed and completed letter of intent document. Lastly, all 2022 participants will receive both 6 Inch RGB and 6 Inch CIR in both physical and electronic formats this year with the CIR product not adding additional any cost to your price quote. H-GAC will be reaching out to all registrants in the next two weeks to return the letters of intent back to H-GAC so acquisition can begin closer to the new year. After acquisition is complete, H-GAC will discuss the idea of skipping the user QA/QC phase with the Aerial TAC group closer the next GDW meeting in February 2022. For more information or questions, please visit the [project website](#) or contact [DSGIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DSGIS@h-gac.com).

**Guest Presentation – EarthCache: An On-Demand Data Platform to Acquire Temporally Current Geospatial Data:** Jody Andruszkiewicz with SkyWatch presented an overview of their EarthCache product which is an on-demand satellite imagery acquisition platform that allows users to select current, future, or archived satellite imagery at different resolutions and color band combinations. Jody demonstrated the platform to the GDW members in attendance and fielded questions on pricing and availability. More information on the EarthCache platform can be found in Jody’s [presentation](#) or by contacting Jody to find out how SkyWatch can provide your organization with geospatial data and imagery solutions that fits your needs.

**Announcements/Other Items:**

- H-GAC reminded the GDW that there will not be a meeting in January 2022 due the proximity of the New Year’s holiday. The next meeting will be on February 2, 2022 held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

- H-GAC discussed the possibility of hosting future GDW meetings in a hybrid setting, meaning hosting in person-meetings with limited capacity and seating at the H-GAC offices while also allowing the option for virtual attendance and participation as well. This meeting format could take place at some point in 2022 if virus levels remain low and consistent across the H-GAC region.
- There are currently four open GIS positions from across the H-GAC region from employers such as Harris County, CenterPoint Energy, and more. Information and applications for these positions can be found on Esri's regional GIS jobs board that is assessible via the link below.
  - <https://myago.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5c110a18938f4390b3cbbf7021c61aa4>
- Nick Popovich announced he is leaving his current role for a new position at Esri. Nick has served the GDW and many of its members for years and will be greatly missed. Good luck in the future Nick!
- Esri is hosting a virtual ArcGIS Pro seminar on Tuesday, December 7 at noon with David Watkins presenting. More information is available here: <https://saro-slg-team-myago.hub.arcgis.com/events/esri-connect---arc-gis-pro>