

GDW Meeting Summary for August 4, 2021

2021 Houston Area GIS Day and Houston Regional GIS Expo Discussions: Due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in our region, the 2021 [Houston Regional GIS Expo](#) for professionals and the 2021 [Houston Area GIS Day](#) for students will both take place virtually this November as small parts of the statewide, all-virtual [TxGIS Day 2021](#). This is very similar to the approach used last year, but this year we are adding professional content from our region via the Houston Regional GIS Expo in addition to the student content via the Houston Area GIS Day. The TxGIS Day 2021 virtual event is taking place from November 15-17, 2021 and is three days of interactive workshops, demonstrations, and programs celebrating the advancement of geospatial technology. To provide content or volunteer for the Houston Area GIS Day, please visit the [volunteer signup](#) page and to provide content or sponsor the Houston Regional GIS Expo, please visit the event website linked above where specific signup pages will be up soon. 100% of all sponsorship funds provide student prizes/gift cards for the Houston Area GIS Day. More information on these events and how they fit into the larger TxGIS Day 2021 event will be announced at next month's GDW meeting.

2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share Update and Discussion: In May 2021, the GDW's Aerial Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was anonymously surveyed on the satisfaction level of prior aerials programs and how to better the 2022 and future programs. The results showed positive feedback with past programs and slight changes to future programs to allow for annual imagery capture as well as introducing a hybrid capture that includes traditional physical imagery as well as a streaming imagery service that is updated annually. With these survey results in mind, current vendor Surdex Corporation was contacted and agreed to have the current contract extended for one additional capture in 2022. Next week, H-GAC and Surdex will meet virtually to discuss the 2022 project and H-GAC will communicate the importance of annual capture going forward after the 2022 project. H-GAC also plans to gather the Aerial Technical Advisory Group (TAG) once again in late August to discuss the 2022 project and the new TNRIS statewide service from Hexagon. More information on this project as well as the opening of the cost-share signup will be announced at next month's GDW meeting.

Lighting Presentation – 2021 Esri User Conference Recap: Zena Pelletier with Esri gave an in-depth, detailed recap of the 2021 Esri User Conference that took place a few weeks ago in mid

-July. Zena's recap features lots of event highlights and links to view notes or re-watch some of the more popular recorded sessions from the UC. Zena's recap of the 2021 Esri User Conference in story map form is [available here](#) for review.

Guest Presentation – Deep Learning Derived 2020 Land Cover Data from H-GAC:

Thushara Ranatunga with H-GAC presented his team's new 2020 land cover data that was created using ArcGIS Pro's Deep Learning image classification capabilities. Thushara's presentation covers the data development process H-GAC uses for its land cover data, how the data is used for land change detection over time, and specific details on the new 2020 data and its availability. Thushara's entire presentation is [available here](#) for review.

Announcements/Other Items:

- TeachMeGIS and H-GAC have collaborated and released the second half of the 2021 GIS Training Schedule which covers nine different GIS training courses from July through December of 2021. The trainings cover a variety of topics like introductory and advanced ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Desktop, GIS web application development, Python scripting in GIS applications, and GISP certification test prep. All of these courses are only available virtually or at the TMGIS Training Center as the H-GAC Training Room is still closed to the public due to Covid-19 and all courses come at a 20% discounted rate for all current GDW and H-GAC members. Please visit the page below to take a look at the schedule or to sign up for a training.
 - <https://www.h-gac.com/geographic-data-workgroup/gis-training-at-hgac>
- There is a recent Geospatial & Analytics Manager job opening at HARC (Houston Advanced Research Center). See the link below for details or to apply.
 - <https://easyapply.co/a/38c23798-8cc1-4685-aeae-c0dfc1773b6f>
- Esri also has a regional GIS jobs board that is assessable via the link below.
 - <https://myago.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5c110a18938f4390b3cbbf7021c61aa4>
- Esri is hosting a Key Takeaways from the 2021 UC for State and Local Government webinar on Wednesday, August 18th at 12pm. Registration for this virtual event is required and can be seen below.

- <https://saro-slg-team-myago.hub.arcgis.com/events/key-takeaways-from-2021-uc-for-state--local-government>