

GDW Meeting Summary for November 2, 2022

HGAC/GDW Staff Update: Tanya Nguyen, the director of data services with H-GAC, informed the GDW of Brooks Andrews' departure from Houston-Galveston Area Council. Brooks will no longer chair the GDW but will continue to be an active workgroup member. During this transition, Larry Nierth with the City of Houston, a senior GDW member, will assist in hosting the GDW meeting. Tanya took a moment to congratulate Brooks on his new endeavor and assured GDW members that these changes will not impact her commitment to the GDW missions. For all future correspondences regarding the 2022 Aerial Imagery, Data Axle, or Star*Map maintenance Tanya will now be the point of contact at tanya.nguyen@h-gac.com or her assistant, Kieu-Vi, can be available at kieu-vi.vu@h-gac.com.

2022 Houston Area GIS Day Final Update: Brooks Andrews with CSRS, Inc updated the GDW on the Houston Area GIS Day taking place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at the University of Houston – Clear Lake (UHCL) with student content taking place in the morning from 9 am-12 pm and professional content taking place in the afternoon from 1 pm-4 pm.

With about two weeks left until the event, Brooks informed the GDW that there are currently 5 out of 6 presentation spots filled with our keynote speaker being the US Census Bureau. As of today, there will be 10 sponsors for this event from AllTerra Central, the City of Houston, Harris Central Appraisal District, Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., ESRI, Surdex Corporation, NearMap, G4Geomatic Resources, Texas Community Watershed Partners, and DEC, with room for additional. A map gallery hall will be shared between students and professionals with a contest for professionals in the afternoon from 1 pm to 4 pm. Post-event, URISA Texas will be hosting “Mappy Hour,” By the end of this week, Brooks will solidify maps and speakers to have H-GAC disperse marketing materials to GDW.

If you would like to register to become a sponsor/exhibitor, or display a map, please see the links below:

- [Become a Sponsor or Exhibitor](#)
- [Display a Map in the Map Gallery](#)

Lastly, if you'd like to attend the professional content in the afternoon, free registration is required via the [2022 Houston Area GIS Day Eventbrite page](#). For more information, please visit <http://www.houstonareagisday.org> or contact the planning committee at houstonareagisdayorg@gmail.com.

Lightning Presentation – OcuMap and Mobile Mapping Software Services from Reality

IMT: Ala Hamdan and Bradly Burgess with Reality IMT discussed their imaging & mapping technologies for street level mapping, and its use for asset inventory. With the proper street asset management program, you can preserve the asset life, extend safety & performance, and maximize your investments. Based on their experiences, a successful workflow comprises of 5 steps: locate the assets, assess the asset condition, quantify maintenance and cost, develop a work plan, and baseline for future efforts. Ala briefly summarized the street level data collection using LiDAR for polyline features, 360 GPS camera to locate point features, and GPS camera for PCI assessment. It's important to see the difference between an Aerial map versus a street level image and Aerial LiDAR versus street level LiDAR at 5cm density to view higher street features and accuracy. With the Reality IMT software tool, their Ai has the capability to automatically detect and point GPS coordinates for traffic signals, street signs, manholes, curb inlets, and fire hydrants to help identify where these assets are. Reality IMT has over 70 years of combined experience in Geospatial Mapping with background in Engineering Technology, Mapping, GIS and analysis. Their extensive list of technology includes spherical GPS cameras and LiDAR, UAV (drone mapping), GIS collectors and GPS, and OcuMap.

To discuss more about kickstarting your assets inventory program or have questions regarding their services, you can learn more by visiting www.realityimt.com

Announcements/Other Items:

- The 2022 Esri Gulf Coast User Conference is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, November 9th and 10th in Houston, TX at the Houston Marriott Westchase. More details will be available soon from Esri via the event website below:
 - <https://www.esri.com/en-us/about/events/gulf-coast-uc/save-date?date=2019-11-07>

- The City of Seabrook is hosting its GIS Day event on Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 9 am to 4 pm. More details and registration are available via the event website below:
 - <https://seabrook-gis-day-seabrooktx.hub.arcgis.com/>
- There are open GIS/Geospatial positions from across the H-GAC region with information and applications for these positions available on Esri's Regional GIS Jobs Dashboard which is accessible via the link below. Employers include the City of Houston, the City of Missouri City, the City of La Porte, Greater Harris 911, and Energy Transfer.
 - <https://myago.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5c110a18938f4390b3cbbf7021c61aa4>
- The [Houston Urban Area Security Initiative \(UASI\)](#) is looking for help setting up ArcGIS Hub and Hub Premium websites for local webmasters not familiar with GIS technology. If you are familiar with ArcGIS Hub and willing to help train non-GIS users, please send an email to nicole.ceranek@mctx.org to help.
- December 7, 2022, GDW meeting will continue to be hosted virtually by H-GAC through Microsoft Teams. Starting in 2023, the GDW meetings will be hosted in a hybrid setting with both virtual and in-person attendance options at the H-GAC office at 3555 Timmons Ln, Houston, TX 77027.

Future of the Geographic Data Workgroup: Following the departure of the GIS Manager at H-GAC who chairs the GDW, there are no meeting frequencies planned for 2023 and H-GAC is weighing options for the future of the workgroup via survey that was emailed to all GDW members. Tanya stated that our Geographic Data Workgroup has 119 members, but the survey response could have been much higher. Larry shared the survey results, highlighting the value and the desired continuation of the GDW meetings from our members. The justification for continuation ranged from collaborative cost-sharing option within the GDW with H-GAC being the umbrella, networking opportunities for geospatial experts, current events, newly implemented technologies, project collaborations, local area subject matter expertise, communication with ESRI representatives for software updates, and getting value from guests and presentations. In addition, the survey showed that GDW members preferred a hybrid meeting for face-to-face interaction.

Larry informed that the survey opens the focus of today's discussion regarding the GDW leadership. With the amount of time and effort into coordinating and organizing, GDW will need to adopt a model of taking more ownership. The frequency will depend on the level of commitment from the leadership team. The next step is to set up leadership for various members to take ownership of the meeting agenda, lining up vendors/speakers and special presentations. As of today, our GDW meets every month except January for the New Year holiday and July for the ESRI Conference. Tanya proposed two questions to ask all GDW members:

1. With the extensive amount of time required to run the GDW meetings, should the meeting frequency decrease to bi-monthly or quarterly starting in 2023?
2. Would you like to volunteer and be a part of the GDW leadership team in hosting the meetings?

With these questions, the future of GDW will be left to the group to appoint a chairmanship or president positions. Larry reiterated the importance of responding to the survey to reconvene at the next meeting in December. If you have not responded to the survey, please click on the following link below:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/05d7fa77599548de9b4499ba82320d3f?open=menu>