Utilizing Efficient GIS Practices at The Small County Government Level

Keith Dailey; BSF, MSF
Cowley County, KS GIS Coordinator
Outline for Today

- Introduction
  - Cowley County, MIS/GIS Department, Myself
- Responsibilities
  - Daily, Frequent, Long-term, supplementary
- Future of MIS/GIS Department
- Conclusion
  - Benefits of GIS in our situations
  - What I’ve Learned
Introduction
Cowley County, KS

- Population: 36,311 as of 2010
- Rubbermaid, GE
- Walnut Valley Festival & National Flat Picking Contest
- Gateway to the Flinthills
- Stone-arch Bridges
- Dexter Candy Factory – Oh Henry
- Helium Identified in large quantities - 1903
Introduction
MIS/GIS Department

• 3-person integrated IT and GIS Department
• Serves all agencies of Cowley County and many affiliates.
  - 28 departments
    - ~900 end-users within these departments
  - Differing software needs
    - ArcReader, ArcMAP, GP Tools, WebMap, etc

• Expanding Needs from public
  - Webmap demand for Parcel data
Introduction

Myself

- Stephen F. Austin State University
  - BS in Forest Wildlife Management
  - MS in Forestry
    - Validation of Methodology for Quantifying Competition on Planted Oaks (*Quercus* spp.) on Sites Abundant with Chinese Tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) in Southeast Texas
      - Emphasis on GIS and GIS Programming to determine competition Radius Zones
- Been with Cowley County for 2 years
Responsibilities

Daily Job Activities

• Maintaining file structure and uniformity
  - Network drives
  - SDE
  - GIS Server

• Facilitate proper parcel editing in Appraiser’s Department
  - shapefiles
Responsibilities

Frequent

- Assigning 911 Addresses
  - Update MSAG database
  - Updating 911 CAD Software
    - Addresses and Street Centerlines
- Maintaining web maps
  - 10.0 Web ADF
- Provide Data
  - Other agencies
  - Public
Responsibilities
Long-term Projects

• County Mapbook Updates
  - Hardcopy for Emergency Responders
  - Dispatch Response Plan Page Notation

• Develop Flexviewer
  - Webpages
  - Emergency Management

• Voting Demographics
  - 2 & 4 yr cycles
  - Demographics for campaigning
Responsibilities
Supplementary Software

• Software
  - Electronic Field Study (EFS) Pictometry
  - Spillman 911 CAD
  - AT&T MSAG Database
  - GoogleEarth
  - Receipt Tracker Access DB

• Benefits
  - Efficient and Timely Support
Future of MIS/GIS Department

- Move entire County to 10.1
- Cross-training between MIS and GIS
  - 24-hour support for emergency agencies
- Integrate Cartographer's role into the MIS/GIS Department
  - Parcel Fabric Editing
- Mobile mapping for field Appraisers
- All Layers NENA Certified
Conclusion

Benefits

• Branding and Brand Recognition
  - Community is starting to understand GIS
  - Servers & Webmapping

• Ultimately – EFFICIENCY!
  - Model Builder – Map Gallery (E-20-8)
    - Allowed for automation of daily tasks
    - Perform repetitive tasks
  - Topology
    - Allows for one person to mitigate changes across multiple layers
Conclusion
What I’ve Learned

• Do NOT be afraid to plan for change in technology.
  - Growth
  - Efficiency
  - Job-security
  - Change will ultimately lead to a better working environment and better job relevancy.

• The cost of *planning* is cheaper than the cost of correcting.
Conclusion
What I’ve Learned

• Model builder
  - automate frequent task-oriented processes.

• Webinars and Seminars
  - If you stop learning, you’re soon not valuable

• Proper communication is key
  - Interdepartmental
  - municipality
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Questions?