

Meeting of the Catskill GIS Users Group  
NYCDEP, Kingston, 10-05-05, 11-2p

Attending:

Jennifer Harvill, Delaware County Planning  
Spencer DeVaul, Delaware County Planning  
Magda Day, Delaware County SWCD  
Larry Wickham, CWC  
Andy Cymbal, NYCDEP  
Larry Kelly, CWC  
Roy Powers, NYCDEP  
Melissa Beristain, NYCDEP  
Susan Wilson, UCRPTSA  
Liz Mastrianni, CWC  
Jennifer Gregory, STE  
John Potter, NYCDEP  
Arlene Owen, Putnam County  
Helen Chase, NYSDOH  
Robert Cucinotta, NYCDEP  
Matthew Schwab, NYCDEP  
Chris Urich, NYCDEP  
David Lounsbury, NYCDEP  
Terry Spies, NYCDEP

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair Jennifer Harvill and a round of introductions.

As the main item on the agenda, the group participated in an online demonstration of Freeance software (TDC Group -- [www.freeance.com](http://www.freeance.com)), a development platform for ArcIMS. "Freeance allows in-house development of custom ArcIMS applications ... with the tools and flexibility needed to create and modify many different Web mapping sites."

Freeance provides a user-friendly toolset for building ArcIMS client applications, providing more functionality than is available by way of ArcIMS templates. The user interacts with sets of configuration menus relating to available map resources and database resources. It can be used to build user interfaces and SQL queries. The optional Freeance Direct module allows for direct mapping from a database to a Web map; no GIS layers are needed. It also facilitates batch geocoding on any database with street addresses.

Pricing starts at \$6,750 for the standard package, able to run on two servers (production, testing). The Freeance Direct module is \$4,750. Evaluation programs are available for 30, 60, and 90 days.

Arlene Owen spoke positively of her experience using Freeance for a parcel application in Putnam County.

Lunch: Bagel Sandwiches, Greek Salad, Chips, Cookies, Soda (\$7)

Liz Mastrianni indicated that CWC has signed a contract with Applied GIS for implementation of the six-county regional GIS (five NYC watershed counties and Otsego), expected to be up and running by the end of July 2006. It is expected to serve primarily as an economic development tool, one aimed at promoting tourism and marketing of the region.

Jennifer Harvill noted that ORPS has a grant program to improve property tax administration ([www.orps.state.ny.us](http://www.orps.state.ny.us)), with an emphasis upon assessment information. ESRI is willing to provide support for applications. Anyone interested must act quickly.

Matt Schwab indicated that Weiler mapping has been working on the issue of incorporating conservation easements into an existing tax parcel geodatabase. Such an easement requires two records for the same piece of land. Matt indicated that NYCDEP has some limited funding to cost share with watershed towns for moving from the coverage to geodatabase format.

Arlene Owen reported that Putnam has a parcel geodatabase and is updating it with ESRI software. The process is going well.

The group viewed a Delaware County pilot web site, the "Community Online Mapping Information Tool," an ArcIMS application created by Applied GIS (<http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/depts/pln/pln.htm>). Jennifer noted the site has received ~800,000 hits since June (~3,000 unique users). Feedback has been mostly positive.

The group also visited Ulster (<http://gis.co.ulster.ny.us/pviewer/>) and Broome County sites (<http://www.gobroomecounty.com/index2.php>), two other parcel viewer applications. A couple people spoke positively about Doug English's work (Broome County) in organizing the site and connecting to multiple databases, all while working with ArcIMS on a 3.x platform, with shapefiles.

Ideas for future meetings were shared. These included: use of GIS and GPS on stream restoration and stabilization projects; FOIL; data security; and Applied GIS for perspective on real property, tax mapping, and grant issues.

Next Meeting: TBD (possibly 11/9 or 10 at Catskill Watershed Corporation, Margaretville, regarding SARA grants and interactions with Applied GIS, ORPS, ESRI, etc.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Lounsbury