NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Ryan Cooper / Derek Nelson / Peter Bonsall)   5 min.
   Meeting Participants:

   1. (presenter) Matt Rowbotham, GIS Specialist , North Country Trail Association, Traverse City, MI
   2. (moderator) Peter Bonsall, NPS, National Trails System, WASO, Washington, DC
   3. (note taker) Derek Nelson, NPS, GIS Specialist, National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, NM
   4. (note taker) Ryan Cooper, NPS, Geographer, Lewis and Clark NHT, Omaha, NE
   5. Aaron Siefert, Arizona Trail Association, GIS Director, Flagstaff, AZ
   6. BriAnna Weldon, NPS, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, San Francisco, CA
   7. Chelsea Bodamer, Partnership for the National Trails System, Outreach & Youth Programs Coordinator, Flagstaff, AZ
   8. Don Briggs, NPS, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage NST, Harpers Ferry, WV
   9. Don Owen, Partnership for the National Trails System, Washington, DC
   10. Gary Werner, Partnership for the National Trails System, Executive Director, Madison, WI
   11. Jim Kuiper, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL
   12. Julie Molzahn, USFS Region 1 (Northern) Natural Resource Specialist, Nez Perce NHT/Arizona NST, Plains, MT
   13. Kerry Shakarjian, NPS, GIS Specialist, Intermountain Region, Lakewood, CO
   14. Mary Greenwood, USFS Region 2 (Rocky Mountain), Recreation Planner, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Kemmerer, WY
   15. Matt Robinson, NPS, GIS Specialist ,Appalachian NST, Harpers Ferry, WV
   16. Reese Hirth, NPS, Geographer, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, NE
   17. Rick Crawford, USFS, GIS Analyst, Southwestern Region
   18. Roland Duhaime, Environmental Contractor with Data Center at University of Rhode Island, Washington-Rochambeaux Revolutionary Route NHT, Kingston, RI
   19. Sarah Rivera, NPS, National Trails Intermountain Region, Salt Lake City, UT
   20. Stafford Hazelett, Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), Portland, OR

2. **Announcements & Information from Audience**   5 min.
   a. We proudly announce Peter Bonsall as the new NTS GIS Network co-lead!
   b. National Outdoor Recreation Conference, May 1-4, 2017. Scottsdale, Arizona
   c. American Trails International Trails Symposium, May 7-10, 2017. Dayton, Ohio

3. **Discussion Topic**   45 min.
   Open Discussion
   Facilitator – Matthew Rowbotham, North Country Trail Association
   Developing a web forum for National Trails System GIS

   Topics for discussion may include: included content, strategies for implementation, web hosting, and a discussion of examples. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged!

   Notes:
   Peter checked if folks were able to receive and see calendar invites for all of the scheduled NTS GIS Network calls
       -Some did, some didn't
       -Derek will work on figuring out a system so that all can have calendar invites

   When the discussion started about the different ways to share or host data/forum for NTS GIS Matt first brought up what he thought was the easiest 2 options:
       -Google Drive
       -Facebook
   Traditional forums, websites have died down in a post-social media world.
   USFS not able to use either Google Drive or full Facebook functionality at the moment; cannot use Dropbox or many others too.
   DOI uses Google currently but there are real issues with sharing outside to non-DOI Google accounts (though there are no problems sharing information in to DOI).

   The idea was proposed that the NTS GIS Network could create a Google account outside of DOI; mentioned this would probably alleviate the sharing issues with files and even calendars.

   USFS uses individual gmail accounts for each fire to share info and communicate with the public. This may help solve issues with sharing calendars.

There was mention of software or platform called Simple Machines, details:
    -access to free online communities
    -works with existing websites
    -embed-ability into other sites questionable
    -ability to operate different threads (important if goal is to expand beyond GIS)

Gary and Chelsea of PNTS mention that many other groups beyond GIS want this same thing and they are "willing and wanting to be the locus for trail stuff". PNTS already has a website, pays fees, etc. Might be a low-cost solution.

Julie Molzahn and Gary Werner mention and agree there are existing agreements in place between the agencies and PNTS and it really makes a lot of sense.

Ryan and others mention that we should be keeping an open mind and not limiting these thoughts and attempts to GIS and that there are applications for a variety of other topics and aspects when it comes to trails.

Conversation came up about the need for password protection or account-based access.
    -security and technical issues brought up
        -with a completely open thread the need for 24-hour monitoring is required to weed out robo-post and inappropriate content. Chelsea envisions people needing an account to login, not open to general public. Group does not seem to think this should be completely open to the public. However, Derek reminds group that the original idea for this stems from wanting to be more inclusive and share information with more people.

Gary mentions that there is lots of info on the website that is publicly available but there are also internal documents as well.

This led to discussion about the possibility of having both public and private (password protected) content.
    -Ryan ask about the administration of web content; who can publish, share to site?
    -Could there be a handful of admin, possibly NTS GIS leads along with PNTS?
        -NTS GIS thinking of only 1-2 uploads a month currently; things like agenda, notes, and presentations
    -Kerry S suggest access for NTS GIS leads could work; experience in other areas; she also asked about the SharePoint; would this replace the SharePoint, would both exist?
        -NTS GIS leads talked about current accessibility issues and that rarely are folks using anyhow

Document sharing is the #1 priority and communication is #2.
Chelsea B really carrying conversation from here and all of the thoughts and ideas she has and how she thinks it could work. Matt Rowbotham offers help to PNTS if needed.

Gary W suggest that 1-2 NTS GIS leads work with Chelsea (PNTS) to discuss site architecture.

There were some questions and comments about the use of social media while on and off duty
    -PNTS site deemed easier and more official
    -Facebook and other outlets can get real sketchy based off different organizational and agency activities

Call closing and plans made to revisit progress in 2 months' time with a NTS GIS Network call possibly led by PNTS and Chelsea along with collaboration committee.

4. **Future Meeting Dates & Topics**   5 min.
    a. **Apr 18, 2017** – Overview and demo of PAD-US system and applications – Lisa Johnson, PAD-US Coordinator, Boise State University
    b. **May 16, 2017** – TBD
    c. **June 20, 2017** – TBD

We always welcome suggestions for additional topics for discussion or presentations. Please contact Ryan Cooper, Peter Bonsall, and/or Derek Nelson with your suggestions!

NTS GIS Network Email List: ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov
NTS GIS Network SharePoint: https://portal.doi.net/nps/DNT/NTS%20GIS%20Network/default.aspx

NTS GIS Network Mission:
We established the NTS GIS Network as a way to connect the diverse array of National Trails System staff and partners who use GIS systems and products in their work. One of our goals is to facilitate the sharing of information and tools that help us do our jobs more efficiently and innovatively. Because the national trails system is managed as a collaboration of agencies and partner organizations, the NTS GIS Network is open to anyone.