

# WRTT Conference Call

September 17, 2007

Monday 1:30 PM (MST)

Call: (877) 931-2837: Passcode: 128 093

## National: MCRTT: ARTT

- National Technology Transfer Website (Still under development but available to view: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>).
- Applied Science Cooperative Agreement Solicitations will be available by the end of the month!
- Pete Rutledge has officially retired as head of the Denver OSM program support division. Billie Clark has assumed the position for the next 120 days.
- Lou Hamm will assume responsibility for the Technology Management Division during Billie Clark's absence.
- Richard Holbrook will be the Field Operations Branch Manager for the Albuquerque and Farmington Area Offices (which used to be the Albuquerque Field Office), and Brenda Steele will be the Southwest Branch Manager through the first week of October.
- The official handout for national Geospatial conference has been distributed. The announcement is also available at [www.tips.osmre.gov](http://www.tips.osmre.gov)
- OSMRE participated in the annual "Taste of Colorado" celebration over Labor Day weekend.

## WRTT

- Richard Holbrook/OSM posed the following question: How can the states/tribes/OSM share GIS layers from one office to another? Mr. Holbrook received some input from various states on how this might be accomplished.
- WRTT Annual Meeting – The group decided that April 7<sup>th</sup> may be too close to the Geospatial conference. Duane will move the conference to a later date (either the third or last week in April). The format will still be the same. M-W with an optional TH field trip.
- WRTT Annual Meeting: Still waiting on a conference title. Ideas are appreciated! I made the assumption that we'll most likely be using a geospatial title as this conference is being held so close to the national Geospatial conference. Some folks may like to present the same topic at both conferences. Suggestions for a topic should be sent to: [dmatt@osmre.gov](mailto:dmatt@osmre.gov) as soon as possible so that this can be discussed on the next call.
- WRTT Annual Meeting: No suggestions received at the time of the meeting as far as format goes. It looks like an informal workshop format was to everyone's liking for at least ½-1 day of the conference.

- WRTT Website Area – Continue discussion on how the team would like to exchange information and utilize the Tech Transfer website. Any new ideas?

### **Conferences/Workshops/Forums**

- August 28-29: Western Region Leadership Meeting: Denver, CO
- September 5-7: Coal Mining and Aquatic Environment Symposium: Abingdon, VA
- September 9-13: National Association of State Land Reclamationists: Asheville, NC
- October 7-10: 29th Annual NAAML National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Conference: Bloomington, Indiana
- October 28-31: Geological Society of America (GSA) conference: Denver, CO
- November 13-15: Benchmarking Workshop on surface and groundwater database development and use: New Orleans, LA
- November 26-30: Autodesk University Conference: Las Vegas, NV
- March 24-28: OSM 2008 Geospatial Conference: Atlanta, GA

### **WRTT Member Reports/Information**

Alaska: Russ Kirkham.

No report. Absent.

Colorado: Sandy Brown.

The state of Colorado is currently getting a permit imaging system upgrade. Colorado has hired two new people (coal related business) and plan to hire one more (geotechnical/engineering).

Montana: Angela McDannel.

The state of Montana has hired a new technical coordinator (Eric Urban). His duties will span everything from enforcement to wildlife. The state of Montana continues to train people on the Blue Marble program. Angela finished up her hydrogeoanalyst class in Canada and is excited to show everyone how it works.

New Mexico: David Clark/James Smith.

The state of New Mexico will receive a permit application for a company to mine coal in Carrizozo, NM. Dave is trying to put together a vegetative and soils database. He plans to work with Sandy in CO on this. James (from the AML program) stated that the state of NM will be receiving a national AML reclamation

award. James did ask how applications like arcview and Autodesk could be used in the AML field.

**North Dakota: Guy Welch/Kraig Nelson.**

The state of North Dakota hired a new soil scientist who will start in November. They are in the process of reviewing 6 final bond release applications. A Fish and Wildlife owned permit is currently being reclaimed. North Dakota is using Arcview 9.2 on many of their projects. Kraig (AML) stated that many of his projects involved pothole subsidence. He was also working on IFB's. He also requested information from the group on how to get updated ArcPad scripting. Aerial imagery has been acquired from recent flyovers of ND (infrared).

**Utah: Chris Rohr.**

The state of Utah announced that Amber's position is still to be filled.

**Wyoming: Marcelo Calle.**

The State of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality is currently interviewing for a GIS Coordinator. This position will assist the department in developing an enterprise GIS that will support internal mapping applications as well eventually be used to distribute spatial data to customers. ArcPad forms are being developed to be used for inspection.

**Program Support Division/Field Operations: Rick Holbrook/Jerry White.**

Rick reported that Phase I and II bond release applications have been received for the Kayenta mine. Aerial photography has been requested for the McKinley and Navajo mines. OSM is advertising for a groundwater hydrologist.

**Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms.**

Alan reported that the newest proposed AML interim rules should be coming out by FY 08. Their office has been busy finishing up end of the year reports.

**Denver Field Division: Howard Strand.**

Howard reported that negotiations between OSM and the TransAlta Corporation on how to reclaim the Centralia mine are ongoing.

**Denver Program Support Division: Heather Erickson.**

Heather reported that PSD continues to work on tribal primacy rules. They are also dealing with how to dispose of CCB's. Their department is currently hiring a new branch division leader and a hydrologist (the hydrologist is the same position that was mentioned by Rick Holbrook).

**TIPS: Lou Hamm/Bob Welsh**

Bob noted that all the new mobile computing hardware/software needs people requested on their recent needs survey will be distributed soon. A new version of image compression software is out that will compress images into ECQ compression format. Bob also noted that Tonya Blackburn would be putting on a mobile computing workshop at the upcoming AML conference. The Hopi, Navajo and Crow tribes have been invited to participate on our monthly WRTT calls.

## **Technical Assistance & Training**

### **TIPS Training Program Information**

- Don't forget about TIPS on-line courses: Blasting Log and Evaluation, Galena Slope Stability Analysis, and many ESRI GIS courses. See the TIPS Training website for additional information at [www.tips.osmre.gov/training/index.asp](http://www.tips.osmre.gov/training/index.asp).
- Wyoming GIS and AutoCAD focused class, targeted for March 2008.
- Navajo Nation GPS and ArcGIS on the job training (OJT) targeted for October 2007.
- RTK unit was recently used in the state of NM. It has just been delivered to the state of ND. Next in line for the RTK unit is the Navajo Nation.
- Needs? Wants?

### **Hardware & Software**

- TIPS software distributions. All should have (or will receive) the following:
  - Rockworks
  - Patched version of SEDCAD 4.
  - A patch for the Galena program is available to download on the TIPS website ([www.tips.osmre.gov](http://www.tips.osmre.gov)).
  - Adobe Reader 8.1

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**