

## **GDW Meeting Summary for June 1, 2022**

**2022 Houston Area GIS Day Planning Update:** Brooks Andrews with H-GAC and Nicole Ceranek with Montgomery County, TX updated the GDW on the planning progress for the Houston Area GIS Day taking place in November. The first planning meeting for the 2022 event was held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> with the biggest item discussed at the meeting was the need to locate and book a venue for the event. In 2022, the professional's event (formerly the Houston Regional GIS Expo) and the student's event will be held on the same day at the same venue, but with staggered starting times so the venue needs to be rather large. There are a few leads on a venue, but nothing has been booked as of yet and the planning committee will keep working on this item. The next planning meeting is set for Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am CST where the planning committee will continue to establish roles and responsibilities for planning the 2022 event. If you would like to be involved, there is a [volunteer registration form](#) that will add you onto a contact list for the planning meetings to get involved with the planning of the 2022 Houston Area GIS Day. For more information, please visit <http://www.houstonareagisday.org/> or contact [houstonareagisdayorg@gmail.com](mailto:houstonareagisdayorg@gmail.com) with any venue ideas.

**2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share Update:** Brooks Andrews with H-GAC discussed the status of the 2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery project and the next steps in cost-share program. Currently, the 2022 aerials are being finalized by the project vendor, Surdex Corporation, as well as uploaded into the vendor's own QAQC system called SurCheck. SurCheck is about three weeks past due to launch to the QAQC volunteers due to the size and processing of the data this year but will be up and available very soon. Once accessible, H-GAC will contact those involved with the QAQC phase and will kick off this work immediately. Unlike years past, the QAQC will not cover the entirety of the H-GAC region and will not be mandatory to complete. Given the delay with SurCheck, H-GAC will allow about 2-3 weeks total for the QAQC to take place and will end regardless of overall progress after that time so that the vendor can incorporate any valid edit calls made during the QAQC into the final data and then send the final deliverables to H-GAC. If all goes well, H-GAC is anticipating an early-mid July timeframe for final deliverables to be sent to cost-share members. Final invoices for all 2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share participants are being finalized next week and will be sent out from H-GAC shortly

thereafter. Please contact [DSGIS@h-gac.com](mailto:DSGIS@h-gac.com) or visit the [project homepage](#) if you have any questions on the 2022 H-GAC Aerial Imagery Cost-Share.

**Lightning Presentation – 32nd Annual SCAUG Conference Recap:** Zena Pelletier and Ana Rodriguez with Esri gave a quick recap of the 32nd Annual SCAUG (South Central Arc User Group) Conference held in Fort Worth, TX in early May. It was the first SCAUG conference held in person since 2019 and was able to draw close to 200 attendees and 20 exhibitors with several presentations and workshops over three days. To see the entire recap of the conference, you can check out Esri’s detailed [SCAUG Conference storymap](#).

**Guest Presentation – Using Machine Learning to Optimize GIS Data: Fracta Water**

**Distribution:** Max Hyberger with Fracta, Inc. presented a detailed overview of his data and machine learning company and their services including predicting public water main breaks using artificial intelligence and water infrastructure GIS data. Max discussed the algorithms and process through machine learning and artificial intelligence that Fracta, Inc. uses to successfully pinpoint, analyze, and predict future system fails in public water infrastructure giving clients a head start in modifying and repairing pipes before failure occurs. Max also demoed the online mapping system Fracta, Inc. has established that displays a client’s rating for each pipe segment in the entire water infrastructure system after running the data through the company’s failure predicting algorithms. More information on the tools and services available from Fracta, Inc. for public water systems can be found on the [company’s website](#) or by viewing Max’s [entire presentation here](#).

**Announcements/Other Items:**

- There are four H-GAC/TMGIS GIS training courses scheduled for the month of June all scheduled from the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Check the [2022 GIS Training at H-GAC website](#) for more information on the trainings and how to get the 15% discount for GDW members. The second half training schedule for H-GAC/TMGIS GIS trainings from July to December will be posted on the same page in July.
- There are currently eight open GIS/Geospatial positions from across the H-GAC region from employers such as Greater Harris County 911, Esri, RCP, The City of

Houston, The City of Missouri City, The Woodlands Township, CenterPoint Energy, and Energy Transfer. Information and applications for these positions can be found on Esri's regional GIS jobs board that is assessible via the link below.

- <https://myago.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5c110a18938f4390b3cbbf7021c61aa4>
- URISA Texas has a new scholarship program which is intended to aid students with tuition and other expenses associated with postsecondary GIS studies. The deadline to apply for the URISA Texas 2022-2023 Scholarship is June 15, 2022 at midnight. All application details and the application itself can be found via the link below.
  - [www.urisatexas.org/Scholarship](http://www.urisatexas.org/Scholarship)
- There **will not** be a GDW meeting held for the month of July due to the proximity of the Fourth of July holiday. The next GDW meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams and possibly in person as a hybrid meeting at 3555 Timmons on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 9:30am CST and will feature Esri as the guest presenter. The possibility of a hybrid meeting will depend on the local Covid-19 levels and availability of hybrid meeting equipment at that time.