Lightning Fast, Informative & Fun!

- 5 minute talks
- Quick dose of knowledge
- Lightning Karaoke
- Questions/Answers after the session
Lightning Lunch Agenda

- Introduction
- Perspectives on Public Sector Data Sharing
  - Michael Olkin, Town of Amherst, MA
- Social Media and GIS
  - Sam Berg, Esri
- I’m Building a GIS Boat. Will It Float?
  - Adam Kurowski, Town of Arlington, MA
- GIS at Any Scale
  - Jane Garb, Baystate Health
Lightning Lunch Agenda

- Lightning Karaoke
  - 1 brave volunteer

- National Hydrologic Dataset Stewardship in Massachusetts
  - Brian Brodeur, MA DEP

- Enabling Geospatial Data Access via Education: A MAGIC Approach
  - Michael Howser, Uconn MAGIC

- Using the “Early, Often, and Just the Right Amount” Approach to Integrating GIS into the Liberal Arts Curriculum
  - Janine Glastar, Bucknell University
What’s Lightning Karaoke?

- 1 hearty volunteer, ready for the unknown
- 1 presentation of relatively random slides
  - 20 slides x 15 seconds = 5 minutes of fun
Buckle Up, it’s Lightning Time!
Perspectives on Public Sector Data Sharing

Michael Olkin
GIS Administrator
Town of Amherst, MA
olkinm@amherstma.gov
www.amherstma.gov/maps
Who’s Data is Public Data?

In Massachusetts, it’s everyone’s data.

- Public Employees/Officials are merely the custodians
- Public Data is publicly funded
Who Wants Public Data?

Almost everyone at one time or another

- Professionals
- Volunteers
- Students
- Corporations
What’s required when it’s requested?

- Depends upon the state
- MA Public Records Law has few exclusions
  - *“Every record made or received by a government entity is presumed to be a public record, unless it is subject to an exemption.”*

*Quotes from presentation “Overview of the Public Records Law as it Pertains to GIS Data,” Neil MacGaffey, Assistant Director, MassGIS, 2006 - www.mass.gov/mgis/GISandPubRecordsLaw.pdf*
What’s required when it’s requested?

- Depends upon the state
- MA Public Records Law has few exclusions
  - “Every record made or received by a government entity is presumed to be a public record, unless it is subject to an exemption.”
  - “The custodian has the burden of claiming an exemption and showing why it applies.”

We Need to Cough Up the Data

- Time is money
- Does cost recovery make up for lost staff time?
Modes of Data Sharing

Manual

- Place your order & we’ll fill it

- Fees based upon
  - Staff Time (rate of lowest paid staff member capable of filling the order)
  - Materials
Modes of Data Sharing

Automated

- Download hosted files
- Extract via a web service
- Process via an API
Data Sharing Experimentation in Amherst

Data Request Form (2005-2011)

- Request Emailed to staff
- Staff contact requestor with cost estimate
- Order manually filled
- Cost based upon time/materials
Data Sharing Experimentation in Amherst

Free Download of Hosted Files
(2008-Present in various formats)

- By tile via map apps
- via ArcGIS.com

ArcGIS.com Map + Application Template
Data Sharing Experimentation in Amherst

Free Data Extraction (2010-Present)

ArcGIS API for JavaScript “Clip & Ship” code sample
Data Sharing Experimentation in Amherst

One Stop (free) Shopping: it’s all on one page

Adapted from the ArcGIS.com “Local Government Maps and Apps Gallery” code sample.
Results & Lessons

- Data Request forms are usually confusing
- Freely available data = less loss of staff time
- One format is not always enough
  - We like geodatabases, but always have shapefiles as an option
- Simplicity is key
  - “Gallery” portal implementation immediately reduced data request form submissions / calls
Perspectives on Public Sector Data Sharing

Michael Olkin
GIS Administrator
Town of Amherst, MA
olkinm@amherstma.gov
www.amherstma.gov/maps