

BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network GIS Group

Informal minutes: January 26, 2007

Attendees:

Mieke Buller (BCCDC, GIS)
Anders Erickson (UNBC student)
Brendan Mathers (VIHA, GIS)
Ian Parfitt (Selkirk College Geospatial Research Centre, GIS instructor/researcher)
Christine Ronning (Interior Health, GIS)
Eleanor Setton (UVIC PhD student)
Megan Winters (UBC, PhD student)

Past Events:

Christine Ronning and Ian Parfitt attended a webcast hosted by GeoConnections on Dec 7th/06 about upcoming opportunities. See previous group notes for more details.

- Of interest is the public health mapper application – go to GeoConnections to sign up for an account to access a demo, based on data from Ontario (?)
- Funding opportunities exist for regional atlases and capacity building, but past experience suggests a very competitive field and some expectations that data developed for an atlas would have to be distributed, raising concerns about confidentiality

Upcoming Events:

Feb 1st and 2nd, 2007: Building Health Research Capacity in BC: Utilization, Integration and Access to Health Data

- Conference hosted by BC Network for Aging Research and BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network
- More info available at: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/> look at the Forthcoming Workshop Opportunity – there is an option to participate via webcast if you are able
- Ian Parfitt and Eleanor Setton will be attending in person and will report back to the group, particularly with respect to the BC Governments' AHIP project and how it relates to Health Authorities

Events to Plan:

Based on feedback re: topics of interest, two webinars are in the works:

- Methods for displaying confidential data
- Accessing health data and spatial data in BC

Eleanor Setton and Christine Ronning will start working on getting something organized for the first topic, most likely a PowerPoint presentation that can be emailed out, then our guest speaker can talk to the slides over conference call. We will also check out the logistics of having a webinar vs a conference call.

Communications:

There was general agreement that an enhanced web location on the BCEOHRN website would be useful for the group, allowing posting/downloading of articles and so on, providing descriptions of the projects on which we are working, and an archive of meeting notes, links to sites of interest.

There was also brief discussion on how to create better links between students at Universities and Health Authorities with a view to increasing internships.

Eleanor Setton to follow up with Pat Atherton to explore potential for web site and communications initiatives.

General Updates:

- Anders is continuing to work on relating NPRI data to First Nations communities, focusing in BC
- Meghan is beginning her work on determinants of cycling in the GVRD
- Mieke and Sunny are working on West Nile virus surveillance, developing a web map site showing reportable disease cases (yearly data)
- Ian and collaborators/students working on web development supporting GIS data for resource management in the Columbia Basin, including 3D visualization and flyovers before and after dam building
- Christine working on analysis of drive times for ambulances, also distance analysis to allocate 5000 new beds, looking at geographic disparities with respect to 1st available placement and preferred placement
- Brendan working on web mapping of health indices based on data from BC Stats, Vital Stats, LHA level data, census, and mapping community resources (have used a community survey to help with identifying community resources). Not yet publicly available, but will let us know when it is ready to go.
- Eleanor is trying to find last bit of funding for the VIHA/CRD air pollution vulnerability mapping project. The project will undertake dispersion modeling of air quality with a focus on marine emissions from the cruise ship terminal, field monitoring, and mapping of respiratory cases in the impact area.

THANKS TO ALL!!!

NEXT CALL:February 23rd, 10:00am to 11:30am