



***How to Put your GIS Data to Work***  
***R. John Dawes, Administrator***

# Agenda

- What is the Chesapeake Commons and how did we get started?
- What is our data philosophy?
- How is this applicable to me?
- How do organizations use our tool...examples?
- Questions, dialogue and wrap up.



# What is Chesapeake Commons?

- Web based **collaborative** Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management tool available to all organizations working to restore the Chesapeake Bay
- **Free/Low Cost** Data Management and GIS consultation service designed to help organizations get the most out of their data, and make their information tell a story
- Centralized **growing knowledge** base of data, maps, and articles contributed by government, non profits, funders, and citizen organizers.
- Data can be hosted privately or publically.
- [www.chesapeakecommons.org](http://www.chesapeakecommons.org)

# What Can This Help Me Do?

With Chesapeake Commons, you can:

- Collect data and images using our smart phone app;
- Store, share and revise your organization's data sets;
- Create informative maps and charts with your data and/or publicly accessible data contributed by others;
- Work collaboratively on data sets in public or private groups;
- Embed maps on your website that that automatically update; and
- Convert your data into a format that works for you.
- Geocode thousands of records in minutes.

**\*Never will be a replacement for ArcGIS but instead allows for effective sharing, discussion, and community practice around data and analysis**

# Give Me Some Examples...Geo Code

- With a bit of training you can [batch geo code](#).
- Once the data set is in, you can map it, convert it, chart it, or edit it.
- When a data set is Geo Coded, the system will write the Lat/Long in decimal degrees and add it as separate column in the data set.
- If you need analytical horse power you can download your geo-referenced data set as an Excel, Shape, or Google Earth file for use in a system of your choice.
- Editing the location of a pin is as easy as dragging and dropping, Lat/Longs are automatically computed.





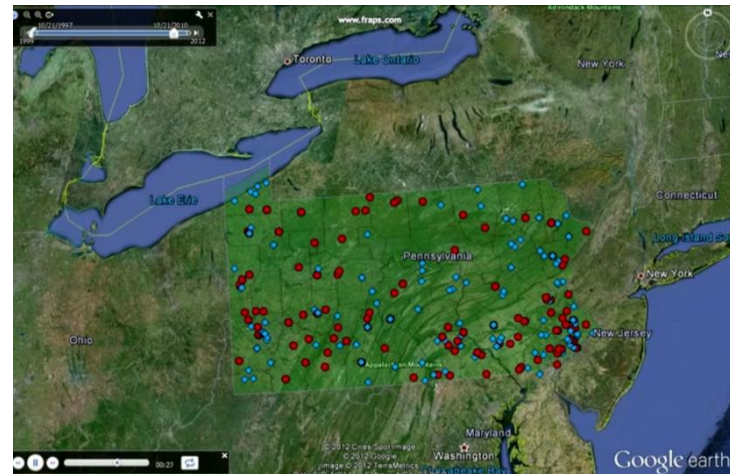
# Give Me Some Examples...Edit and Maintain Data

- You maintain full control of your data when it is up on Chesapeake Commons.
- Users can edit geography/attributes, or even add/delete a record.
- On the record level we support text, date, numbers, enumeration, and images.
- Enumerations and dates are selected via a dropdown or widget which forces normalization and saves time



# Give Me Some Examples...Publish Out!

- All visualizations (Maps and Charts) can be created and then embedded into websites.
- As data is added or changed, charts and maps in MDE's website will also reflect the edits.
- All data sets are tied to maps and charts allowing users to see the information that is driving a given visualization. This transparency ensures data confidence and trust among all users
- Effective and informative communication vs. static content



# What If I Need Help?

- We work with you at every step from developing a concept, building a customized workflow, and aiding you in every step of implementation.
- Active users have direct access to staff and interns for consultation.
- We can also help you with questions you have in ArcGIS, Tableau, Excel, Google Earth, and general Web Development.
- We do not:
  1. Get you started and disappear
  2. Impose hidden fees
- The Commons will continue to grow and progress as our R&D budget becomes more robust. If you are an active user and have a modification, it will be considered.



# True Transparency

- Users have full access to the most up to date source data (**click and download**). Ensuring they can recreate any figure and conduct their own analysis
- Not enough when data is simply posted on a website. It needs to be organized and downloadable into a format that is ready for analysis and work up.
- Data must be placed in context
- File type must be in a format that is usable by a majority of the general population.
- Data is dynamic not static, users are interested in seeing change over time.

# Questions/Dialogue

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