

National NEMO Network

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2004 Newsletter

The Network at a Crossroads

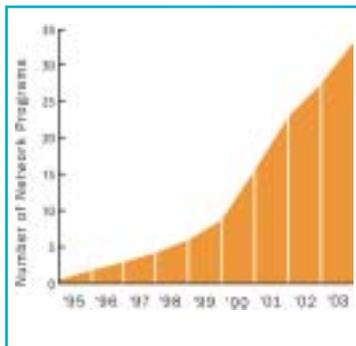
Just like that, we find ourselves at a crossroads in our collective life as the National NEMO Network. Change is on the way, and although the departure of John as Network Coordinator is a big part of that change, his crabwise scuttling across the hall to head up the Connecticut program is more of an effect than a cause.

At 33 programs, we have not nearly reached our peak, but we have reached the inflection point of the upward arcing NEMO curve. For the Hub, this means that the balance of network coordination shifts from starting new programs to providing services for existing ones—a job every bit as challenging, but involving a very different mind set. For you in the Network, life after the inflection point means that you probably have cut the Connecticut apron strings, and perhaps are searching your mind and/or our website for reasons to stay involved in this network thing.

The challenge for the next couple of years is for us all to find the time and energy to make the enormous promise of the NEMO Network come true. The Network is a unique entity and, to our prejudiced eyes, a wildly successful ven-

ture by anyone's standards. But the really big payoff, both for us and for our clientele of land use officials, is still ahead.

As individual programs, in many states we are over the hump. Our experience here in Connecticut is that a certain amount of inertia has to be overcome through dogged education, and then real impacts start to accrue. As more towns commit to natural resource-based planning and design, a bow wave develops and the rate of change increases. Many of you are starting to experience this gratifying phenomenon.



Growth of the National Network from 1995 through 2003.

As a Network, there are things we can do collectively to further accelerate the progress of our individual members. In fact, the next wave of NEMO innovation has already begun: regional programs, coordinated national research, new topical areas, cutting-edge technical tools and ground-breaking documentation of impacts are all in the works or

being considered.

Here at the Hub, we will focus on several things: (1) extracting from you, as painlessly as possible, the great things that you want to share; (2) promoting and facilitating the sharing of tools and ideas through the website, special training

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The Coordinator is Dead! Long Live the Coordinator

As most of you know, John Rozum has stepped down as National Network Coordinator to head up the Connecticut NEMO Program. From our perspective, it's really great news. After a lengthy period with no one at the helm, it was way past time for the Connecticut program to get its act together, and John is just the man for that. And, with the evolution of the Network to a new phase in its development (see lead article), it's not a bad time to make this change.

For the record: John did a fabulous job, and it is very likely that without John there would be no NEMO Network. The numbers tell part of the story—from 5 to 33 programs in his 4-year tenure. However, the true importance of John's contribution is that few could have delivered the unique combination of topical knowledge, teaching prowess, hard work, imagination and humor that cajoled all you folks into getting into NEMO.

Of course, here at the Hub we needn't get all sentimental about John's departure, because, like gum stuck to the bottom of your shoe, he's still around. And because of that, the interim period between Coordinators will be less painful, both for you and for us. Kara, as always, is steadily crossing things off the Network to-do list, and I will be helping with the national work until our next Coordinator, for whom we are actively searching, comes on board. About the only major impact is that we feel the need to postpone NEMO U-4 for several months, from this Fall to the Jan-Feb. period of 2005. We hope to make the wait worthwhile. In the meantime, call me anytime with your Network-related needs. -Chet ☀

Chet Z. Ansel

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Indiana, Planning With POWER

Around the Network

• Maine, North Carolina, Pennsylvania & Arizona

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• Hub Stays Funded

Program Spotlight

Planning With POWER

With the major east-west byways of the nation passing through the state, Indiana's motto of being the "Crossroads of America" is certainly apt. But within the last few decades, the Indianapolis crossroads are looking more like the crosshairs of suburban sprawl. In the decade from 1990 to 2000, Indiana's population grew by almost 10%, with the fastest growing counties bordering Indianapolis, with a nearly 25% increase in the 1990's and another estimated 4% growth in the period since the 2000 Census.

Standing in the breach of this growing suburban flood is Bob McCormick, coordinator of Planning with POWER. The POWER program, which stands for *Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources*, is a collaboration between two successful statewide educational and technical assistance efforts: the Purdue Extension Land Use Team, and the multi-



agency Indiana Conservation Partnership. The program has been working in Indiana since 2000, finding initial funding from an Indiana "section 319" nonpoint source grant, and additional support from the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Ongoing support is provided by the two lead agencies, the Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant College Program and the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

"We pretty much hit the ground running," says McCormick. "Working with the county extension agents and other team members in the Conservation Partnership, we were able to deliver presentations to over 40 counties within the first year."

And this exposure has paid dividends.

Focusing special effort on counties with immediate needs, the POWER program was able to use not only the adapted NEMO materials, but also the open space planning information gleaned from the *Smart Growth through Open Space Planning* training put on by the National Hub. "Most of the growth in Indiana has come at the expense of farmland, so open space planning, conservation subdivisions, and farmland protection is of interest to our communities," observes McCormick. Given that Indiana has some of the most productive croplands in the world, the need for a strategy to protect this resource is of critical importance.

The POWER team has used local advisory teams, presentations and topical workshops to catalyze local action (see map) and continues to work with communities on natural resource protection, comprehensive land use planning, and smart growth principles. Planning with POWER is working closely with the recently formed Indiana Land Resources Council, a group chaired by the Lieutenant Governor that is working with communities across the state. The Council has asked POWER to provide assistance and guidance to their first three pilot communities. This level of involvement with land use statewide, along with continuing requests from communities, have kept Bob busy. "This certainly is a growth business," muses McCormick, "and I only see the NEMO message growing in importance here." ☀

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1&2 ▶ Lake and Porter Counties

Lake and Porter County Plan Commissions are working with POWER on natural resource protection, septic issues, and a Smart Growth Initiative Project in collaboration with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. A series of workshops have been held addressing the regional growth issues and their impact on the Lake Michigan shoreline and surrounding farmland in these counties.

3 ▶ Tippecanoe County

POWER has presented programs and worked with the Tippecanoe Vision 2020 Land Use and Environmental Committees that are addressing future needs and priorities relating to growth and protection of natural resources in the county. POWER is also working with the joint Storm Water Management Committee consisting of officials from the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County and Purdue University in addressing storm water education, post construction storm water issues, and best management practices. In addition, Planning With POWER is working with the newly formed seven county Wabash Valley Resource Conservation & Development on growth and protection of natural resources.

4 ▶ Putnam County

POWER has been working closely with a Putnam County Farm Land Preservation group and more recently with the Indiana Land Use Consortium on a community workshop on land use and the environment in Putnam County. The county is discussing updating the comprehensive plan as well as other GIS initiatives.

5 ▶ Elkhart County

POWER has held several meetings to discuss natural resource protection and to help initiate a comprehensive land use plan update. POWER is also working with several watershed projects in Elkhart County to help them incorporate the results and findings into the land use planning goals for the future.

6 ▶ Howard County

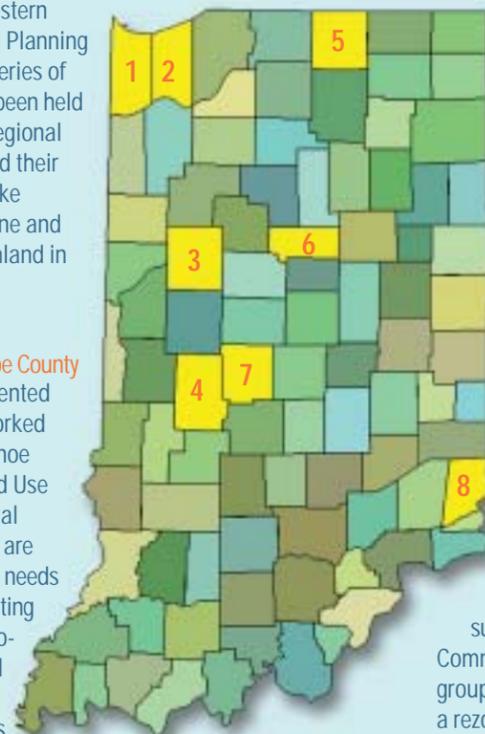
A series of presentations were delivered to county decision makers including a workshop targeted towards developers. The POWER Coordinator serves on the Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance Land Use Committee and is providing expertise on natural resource protection on an ongoing basis.

7 ▶ Hendricks County

Local leadership organized a POWER Advisory Committee that meets monthly and advises the Hendricks County Plan Commission on incorporating natural resource protection into the comprehensive planning process. Currently, this group is helping to update and revise the subdivision control ordinances. In addition, the POWER group is developing a conservation design subdivision ordinance for the Hendricks County Plan Commission. Work and discussion from the POWER group also led to a revised zoning ordinance requiring a rezone to allow an increase in density.

8 ▶ Dearborn County

POWER has been working with the City of Aurora and Dearborn County officials on long range planning. The POWER Project developed a Hillside Slippage Workshop for developers, builders, and other local officials in collaboration with the Indiana Land Resources Council and the local Soil and Water Conservation District. Currently POWER has been asked to make several presentations to the Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee on incorporating natural resource protection into the revised Dearborn County Comprehensive Land Use Plan.



Around the Network

Maine - The NEMO program downeast has a new coordinator. **LaMarr Cannon** brings with her a solid background that includes both technical and outreach experience. She was most recently employed at the Maine DEP, where according to our well-placed sources, she was considered a star employee. Prior to that, she earned a masters degree in environmental engineering from Oregon State University, where she worked as a Research Assistant on a project that focused on modeling stormwater and developing low impact development options. She also spent a couple of years doing outreach with a Soil & Water Conservation District in Oregon.

North Carolina - **Kate Ardizone** will take the helm of a newly funded effort in coastal North Carolina. Some may remember Kate from NEMO U2 in Charleston, where she attended as a representative from Michigan. Kate has worked as a Coastal Services Center fellow for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the past two years, where she spent a lot of time talking to local township and county officials about alternative stormwater practices. Kate published a manual for Michigan local officials entitled, *Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments*, that is now being used as the basis for similar efforts in other states. In North Carolina, Kate will be coordinating a collaborative effort between the Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension programs, working in broadening outreach

efforts to coastal municipalities.

Pennsylvania - Another new program under the aegis of the PA Sea Grant program will be staffed by **Dave Skellie** and **Sean Rafferty**. Dave, the former director of the Erie County Planning Department, will oversee the project, while Sean, a recent graduate of Penn State Erie, will be getting out to the towns and making presentations. The Pennsylvania Sea Grant effort received 3-years of support from the PA DEP.

Arizona - **Kristine Uhlman** is the new coordinator for the newly-formed Arizona NEMO Program based in the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension. Besides having one of the coolest NEMO logos (see pg 4), the Arizona NEMO Program is focusing on needs assessment of watershed stakeholders, development and implementation of workshops and other outreach media, and working on various mitigation projects. Kristine comes to this position following 28 years in hydrology, including employment with the US Geological Survey as well as several national and international consulting firms with projects in mine-site restoration, water resource management, environmental site clean-up, and expert witness testimony on topics of contaminant hydrogeology under Natural Resource Damages litigation. So, you now know where to send all your hydrology questions!

Connecticut - Oh yea, the Connecticut NEMO Program hired some guy

(see pg 1). ☀

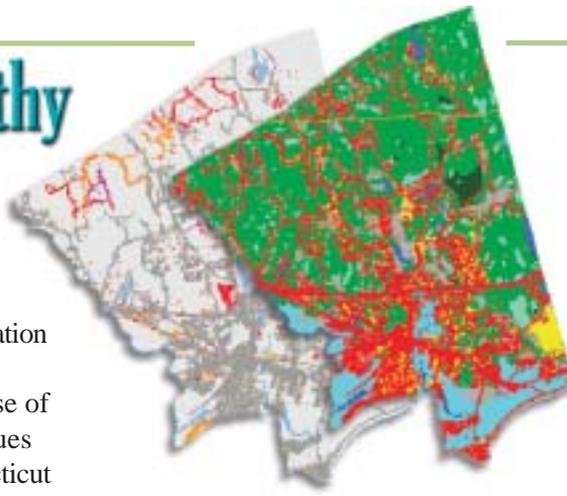


Squaw Peak, Phoenix, AZ.

New & Noteworthy

Tracking Connecticut's Changing Landscape

The UConn Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR), the parent organization for NEMO, has made use of cutting-edge remote sensing techniques to provide data about how the Connecticut landscape has changed since 1985, with a special emphasis on the growth of developed land. The natural forested land of the Northeast, almost completely converted to farmland only a hundred years ago, is now undergoing a transformation to an urban/suburban landscape. With these changes come a number of concerns about the environmental, social and economic impacts of development, some of which have become the subject of intense debate across the state. *Connecticut's Changing Landscape*, a project under development at UConn for the past two years, is an attempt to bring research-based information and education to these debates. Through a website and NEMO outreach programs, this information is being provided to Connecticut's local land use decision makers and other interested parties across the state. It is the goal of the Center to help create a sound foundation on which to build better land use plans, policies and practices that can accommodate growth



Example of a land change (left) and land cover (right) map. Highlighted is the town of Clinton, CT.

while protecting natural resources, community character, and other things that we hold dear about our communities.

To view the land cover data visit the projects section of the CLEAR website. clear.uconn.edu.

Hub Stays Funded

Your Network Hub will stay in business for several more years, thanks to the continued support of our federal agency partners. The University of Connecticut was awarded a four-year continuation for national facilitation of the NEMO Network from the USDA CSREES Water Quality Program. Another four-year commitment was made through a grant award from the EPA Office of Water's Nonpoint Control Branch. Thanks to both of these agencies for their continued support.

The Network at a Crossroads continued from pg 1 . . .

sessions, and, of course, NEMO U; (3) continuing to innovate here in the Connecticut program. We will focus on helping you make your program better, and giving you reasons to stay connected. We also invite you to take the lead on new ideas and initiatives. Seriously.

Which brings us to your part. ANTE UP! If your program is maturing and you are kicking behinds and taking names, this is the time to tithe something back into the system, to the benefit of your peers in the Network and to the long-term benefit of your program. Presentations, publications, evaluation mechanisms, models, tools, funding strategies, a better NPS mouse trap: we will try to make it as easy as possible for you, but there's no denying it will take a little extra effort. It will be worth it. Thank you to all those who have already been making this effort!

More than the sum of its parts. Hey, can any of you translate that into Latin? ☀

Arizona Gives Texas a Run For Their Money



Found in the spiritual mythology of the ancient Zuni, Hopi and Pueblo cultures, Avanyu is the Hopi name for the water serpent, "one who lives in the water below the earth, one who carries us through the water of change." The sacred Avanyu lives in streams and is feathered with a turquoise horn growing from the middle of its forehead. The horn moves, sending rain for crops. When the Avanyu creeps on the ground and snaps its tail, it causes thunder, and when its tongue strikes out of its mouth, it causes lightning. If you see the Avanyu it will bring luck and good health, and it means there is water nearby or that it will rain soon. The symbol of Avanyu signifies the prayer for and representation of water. According to tribal wisdom, those who poison the water must face Avanyu's fiery revenge.



The Arizona and Texas NEMO logos show the creativity within our Network.

What does the Hub think about the new AZ logo design? "It just looks really cool." Texas, however, isn't far behind in the "coolness factor" with their armadillo logo.

Other well designed member logos can be found in the "Member Resources" section of the National website (restricted to members only). Please contact Kara if your program logo isn't represented, you have a new logo to post or you need help creating one. The Network Hub: 860-345-4511. ☀

National NEMO Network

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The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published randomly by the National Network Hub. The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated projects that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, with funding from USDA, EPA and NOAA. The National NEMO Network is a program of the UConn Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR, based in UConn's CES).

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM
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