Assessment Introduction: The following EGLR Winter Dinner meeting assessment was written at a request from questions received by Jim Peters (EGLR 2013 President) from Roberta (Bobbi) Lenczowski (2012 ASPRS President).

Here is Jim's response to Bobbi:

EGLR ASPRS 3-City Dinner Meeting Success Assessment

Brief Background: At the November 2012 EGLR Board Meeting, we initiated the coordination of our February 2013 Dinner Meeting. I asked Dr. Charles Toth to coordinate the location in Columbus, Dave Dean to coordinate the location in Ann Arbor, and Karen Carter to coordinate the location for Pittsburgh. I chaired the meeting committee.

In the use of GoToMeeting with Video, the attendees see live video of each location plus a large area of the screen with the presenters' slideshow and/or desktop. The following are your questions with answers:

How many members and guests participated in total and at each site? (How many regular and how many student members were there?)

Total: 55

Members: 31

Students: 11

Guests: 13

Break-down per City

Pittsburgh 17

9 members

1 student

5 Guests/spouses

1 non-member interested in joining

1 Guest Speaker

Columbus   22

12 members (includes Guest Speaker)

7 students

3 Guests/spouses

Ann Arbor   16

> 10 members
>
> 3 students (includes Guest Speaker)
>
> 3 guests/spouses

How effective was the "simulcast" of the meeting and were there any technical problems to overcome?

Our event started at 6pm on Friday February 22, 2013 with the first presentation set to begin by 6:50pm. From 5:30pm to 6:10pm we ran tests between all 3 cities with GoToMeeting. We did have some audio issues but I attributed those to normal setup. Except for a PA microphone issue in Pittsburgh (unrelated to GoToMeeting), we had audio/video setup in time to begin the meeting. I hosted the GoToMeeting.

For the first presentation (Jim Peters), our attendees in Columbus and Ann Arbor were able to hear and see video plus the slideshow presentation.

For the Bob Brinkman presentation, Pittsburgh had video, slide show and audio. Ann Arbor only had audio. I could not get video to Ann Arbor. The video was resolved by changing the window size on the laptop in Ann Arbor.

For the Darryl Ford Williams presentation, Columbus and Ann Arbor had video, audio, and DVD video. DVD video was lagged to fluid.

For Richard Dobson's UAV Ann Arbor presentation, both Columbus and Pittsburgh had audio/video and fluid video of UAV testing video.

To use this again, I would make sure each location has an external microphone connected to each laptop. And look into a $60 to $110 HD Webcam with stereo mics. If we have an HD Webcam with stereo mics, then the external mic would not be needed. I would also suggest the city meeting coordinators get to the location, 1.5 hours prior to start. Our 45 minutes early arrival did not leave much time to resolve issues.

I note you were in public places so what connectivity did you use?

In Pittsburgh we used Wifi at restaurant with 8Mbps down/6Mbps up. In Columbus we used Wifi and in Ann Arbor we used a Verizon Mifi device.

How did participation compare relative to past times when only one central site was used?

In 2012, EGLR held our 1st Winter Dinner Meeting at a single location. At that event, we had:

<div align="center">12 members, 5 students and 2 Guests/spouses</div>

In 2013 with 3 locations, we were 2 guests shy of tripling the event attendance from 2012. I predict that for 2014 we will use the 3-city concept. Multi city locations are great for our members. It does involve more logistics for the Board members involved with coordinating the event.

Conclusion:
I tried to implement this multi-city audio/video type event in 2011 when I was helping to coordinate membership social evenings. The idea then was to show audio/video between 3 events to introduce the Board Members and co-present the EGLR intro. This did not work because we could not coordinate simultaneous dates. We did hold membership events in Lansing and Pittsburgh that year with 10 and 25 attendees respectively.

Then in fall 2012 at the EGLR Technical Meeting at Ohio State University, we had the Center for Mapping at OSU use their Adobe Connect technology to record and web-broadcast live our morning and afternoon speakers. We had 2 to 3 people on the web sign-in and view the meeting. Then within a day, recorded links for morning and afternoon were added to the EGLR website in the form of a meeting summary.

For the 2013 February Dinner Meeting, we researched Adobe but that would not work without dedicated internet connections. Karen Carter found a national company that records and broadcasts meetings but its cost was somewhere around $1500 per location. Then five days prior to our event I discovered GoToMeeting now has video HD Face technology.

Dr. Charles Toth (current EGLR National Director) provided this feedback: "*The simulcast worked fine. I hooked up my laptop to a large TV screen, so this provided good quality image (sport bar screen). We used two small speakers, and they worked fine, though for a next time, I would try connecting to the sound system of the facility.*"

Our coordinator in Michigan, Dave Dean (current EGLR Regional Director), summed up the event with this statement: "*I enjoyed seeing the presentations from other locations and felt like I was part of a larger meeting.*"