



NYS GIS association

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Subject: NYS GIS Association Meeting
Date: May 16, 2006
Location: Albany, New York
NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination

Meeting Purpose: Steering committee meeting to review several on-going initiatives, organization incorporation, and support for the 2006 NYS Geospatial Summit.

1. *Introductions:* The following individuals were in attendance:

- Sam Wear, Westchester County
- Bob Brower, IAGT
- Austin Fisher, fountains spatial, inc.
- Eileen Allen, SUNY Plattsburgh
- Linda Demers, NYS Public Service Commission
- Matt Davis, ESRI
- Paul Rooney, ESRI
- Jim Mower, SUNY Albany
- Larry Alber, NYS DEC
- Lindi Quackenbush, SUNY ESF & CNY ASPRS
- Clark Burdick, Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI)
- Verne LaClair, PAR Government
- Karen Henry, PAR Government/NYS DOT
- Bill Johnson, CSCIC
- Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning
- Rachel Arulraj, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Elisabeth DeGironimo, Mohawk Valley Water Authority
- Frank Winters, CSCIC
- Christa Hay, CT Male
- Michael Stooenke, ITT Space Systems Division
- Susan Nixon, Weiler Mapping/James W. Sewall

2. *ASPRS Update & Activities,* Dr. Lindi Quackenbush

Sam introduced Lindi noting that the mission of the NYS GIS Association is to work with other organizations. Sam met with ASPRS last June in Auburn working toward joint ASPRS/Association training programs. Lindi described the ASPRS local region group, a formal ASPRS chapter and a not-for-profit. Region is central NY, upstate, Vermont, and

7-8 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania. New York City is in the North Atlantic Region, which has been quiet for the last few years. ASPRS is about mapping sciences and their applications - very broad. The region is looking to expand its membership and support the exchange of ideas and information. She described an e-mail from Al Quinn, a 70-year member of ASPRS and his expression of how networking was important. Lindi is now the VP for the region and has responsibility for the student of the year award (\$200/\$300). Region activities are hard to separate between the region ASPRS and ESF because she is involved in both. Originally, ASPRS had been an NYS GIS Conference sponsor for many years. About five years ago, ASPRS began to support GIS education and offer a spring GIS symposium to balance the Fall NYS GIS conference with more focus on remote sensing. This year ASPRS joined with the Great Lakes data exchange and had about 170 registrants and about 20 vendors. ASPRS has two national conferences. ASPRS has supported a small technical meeting in fall (Oct/November) in the last few years and a mid-winter meeting has not been held in recent years. ASPRS provides scholarship money in the names of Bill Johnson and Paul Hopkins to subsidize student costs at ASPRS dinners, etc.

ASPRS members Ed Freeborn and Ron Fredericks have been working with ASPRS on the Surveying Model Law. Regional communication is by a newsletter published four times a year with usually no summer activity. Region web page hosted by ESF with Jeff Barth at NYS DOT serving as the web master. ASPRS is fundamentally about communication and setting up networks. Non-members are encouraged at meetings. Regional membership is \$120/ year for full membership. Students remain Associate Members for three years following their student status. ASPRS attempts to rotate academic, government, and private sectors within the Region president and VP. Chapter 2006 conference was in Rochester. There is discussion within the membership of expanding integration between GIS and remote sensing. Workshops before this Spring are remote sensing conference very helpful. Bob Brower noted it was important to coordinate conference timing for associations such as ASPRS and the NYS GIS Association. Important that we do not maintain individual focus and work jointly together. If don't directly coordinate should at least coordinate timing. Linda Demers noted that there are so many conferences it is hard to schedule them. It may be timely to bring groups together. Closing comments by several meeting attendees agreed that it would be useful to coordinate conferences and similar meetings with the two organizations.

3. *Private Sector Advisory Group of the Coordinating Body*, Austin Fisher

The existence of this group, as associated with the NYS Coordinating Body, has had an ebb and flow with its identity. Austin noted that it has been challenging to figure out a mission and how to communicate with such a broad group. Will try a conference call approach on Jun 2, 2006 at 11:00 with an open discussion to clarify issues to bring to the coordinating body. Recruitment/outreach for new members is not much. Challenge not in membership but its breadth of membership and how to derive issues to agree upon. List of members on Clearinghouse web site. Sam further noted the general acceptance of the group's identity crisis and noted that the reason to participate would be for many different reasons. This group is business and industry centric and should be available to promote the development and growth of the GIS industry and business within the state. This is somewhat of a departure of the Advisory's Group ongoing

issue/need to better integrate itself with the Coordinating Body. Austin and Sam both noted the GIS Business Development paper which was authored by Bob Brower and currently available on the Association's website available. The paper was generated from a GIS business development workshop sponsored by the Association at last year's NYS GIS Conference in Rochester. Bob asked about retention and experiences of current companies? Austin also observes that as a GIS communicator we need to look and overlap and consolidate/coordinate the number of conferences, goals, workgroups, etc. Closing comments by several meeting attendees agreed that it would be useful to coordinate conferences and similar meetings with the two organizations.

4. *NYS GIS Association Student Chapter/Forum*, General Discussion

Sam initiated the discussion on this topic suggesting that a Student Chapter should be an extension of the Association with the intent of getting more college students involved in statewide GIS activities. Earlier this year, Sam met with students from SUNY-Albany to discuss the idea of creating a "Student Chapter" of the Association. Dr. Jim Mower @ SUNY-Albany agreed to help facilitate discussion on the issue. In attendance at this meeting included Dr. Lindi Quackenbush, SUNY ESF and Eileen Allen, SUNY-Plattsburgh. Bob Brower described the program at Cayuga Community College. Students leaving with a 2-year degree earn about \$30,000-40,000. The average age is 26 and the classes are mixed ages. They call their club the GISers (guy-zers) and a broad age range participates. Their constitution could serve as a platform for the NYS GIS Student association. While the students are interested in networking and conferencing, they are overwhelmed with finals. They want the SUNY Albany contacts and saw the value of an association with other students, including career communication. The group meets every two weeks and has requirements. Could we get a subgroup of people from campuses? Would a chapter work? Without a core group this won't happen.

Jim Mower asked who the core group in the Student Chapter would be? Bob says there is a subset of students that take the classes to learn the technology without interest in a degree. Jim notes that with the SUNY Albany masters program or certificate, that they see the students for such a short time it is hard to get a core to get the history of the next group. Rachel Arulraj suggested that the Association's web site could be used for campus contacts. The private companies would look at the site for interns. She hires 1 or 2 interns per summer and that the Association could match interns with opportunities. Bob says IAGT has more applicants than it can take. Lindi would like a conduit for all students so they can see what is happening in other programs. Students on campuses without programs could get contacts. Jim says the students suggested something like a "Php" forum (which is stable if you keep up with patches) as a way to interact. This replaces bulletin boards, can have web links, easy to post articles. Need knowledge to set up and keep up with patches; usually Unix-based. May not need to support e-mail. Disk space to store this could be large and conflict with copyright (?) and on NYS GIS Association website. Rachel notes that the listserve can be used for communication and suggested a static web site with white papers.

Austin calmly observed that there is very little continuity/communication among students/ and participation at conferences. This must happen through the universities. At NYS GIS conferences and IAGT workshops, colleges do not have broad and/or visible participation or contribution. Eileen has been surprised at the lack of academic involvement in recent NYS GIS conferences. Linda Demers finds that students do not know about mapping technologist exams, conferences, knowledge, and jobs. Lindi cautions that students don't want a student section at conferences, they want to be in with the professionals. Sam wants to offer a conduit with the website. Initial content is an issue though would probably take care of itself once initiated. Two-year programs could use the site for to look/review four-year programs. Bob offers IAGT help. Sam notes that Ann Deakin would like to help out and there is interest at Binghamton. Jim says there is conference overload but that there are student opportunities at AAG or NYS GIS. Lindi has a list of about 80 contacts that she has from a GIS conference and the NYS GIS web site where she gleaned all the edu web addresses. She will send that along to Eileen. Representatives from the four-year college programs would work together to establish and monitor/manage a link on the Association's website – to be named the "Student Forum" which would advance 2-year and 4-year student programs and activities throughout the state.

5. *Web Page Update*, Sam Wear

In Girk's absence, Sam gave a quick overview of the web site history. Site is currently being hosted by IAGT. Girk talked about the number of hits on the site. This is at 12,000. However, this reflects a cumulative total over the past year. Rachel mentioned that the site needs to be enhanced to add a "draw" appeal. Verne LaClair suggested adding a section on the site for regional training opportunities. Girk requests that all suggestions for web site enhancements sent to him.

6. *Association Incorporation Update*, Sam Wear

The Association's Certificate of Incorporation was finalized on April 3, 2006. Six original directors volunteered about 18 months ago (Jeff Volpe, Liz Arabadjis, Christa Hay, Chris O'Connor, Jeff Tweksbury, and Sam Wear). Of this original six, some have changed jobs while others need to resign from this position. The Board of Directors are set to meet July 6th in Albany to work on finalizing By-Laws for governance which will be submitted to the membership for approval. Several comments on a need for by-laws to be established. Rachel will send Sam a copy of the GITA By-laws. Sam will look into the Nebraska GIS LIS By-laws. Jeff Volpe will send Sam a copy of the GIS/SIG By-laws.

Financial – There is a need for someone to maintain the books. We will need to establish a treasurer position as well as other positions when final incorporation occurs. In the interim, Christa Hay from CT Male has been providing accounting and banking support to the Association. There is an existing bank account open with Charter One Bank in Cohoes. The treasurer's reported shows an existing account balance of \$59.60. Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets would be turned over to another tax exempt organization.

7. *NYS Coordinating Body Legislative Update*, Bill Johnson and Sue Nixon

Bill Johnson reported that there are two major pieces of legislation currently under review of interest to the NYS geospatial community: The proposed "Survey Licensing" and the first responder building inventory bill (A11499, S7998). Sam noted that there is a need to comment on legislation but that the Coordinating Body and/or CSCIC cannot really do this. Bill says that the Coordinating Body does not operate with a legislative mandate. It was created with a state technical policy (like an Executive Order) created the Coordinating Body in 1996 and it serves at the discretion of CSCIC. The NYS GIS Association is an independent forum for communication about legislative issues. CSCIC has input to the governor's office to improve bills but there is not currently a mechanism to forward separate opinions from the Coordinating Body. Mike Stoogenke notes that the NYS GIS Association has to be careful how it treads so that it does not lobby.

Sue Nixon reports that the existing surveying bill is interpreted as not allowing GIS by non-surveyors. The NYS Association of Professional Land Surveyors (NYSAPLS) legislative committee is reviewing and modifying the bill but has no plans to push it this year. However, they will work aggressively next year. They will attempt to meet with NYS Education committee. NYSAPLS representatives would be happy to meet with the NYS GIS Association if there were effort and focus by the group. Sue noted that the bill won't be re-introduced for another year. Rachel asked if we have some voice on NYSAPLS and urges us to start soon. Sam replied that we should have a conversation with NYSAPLS and NYS ED. Bill told us that there has been no communication between CSCIC and NYS Ed and that the bill has been referred to State E. It was re-introduced this year and referred to the Education Committee. As Bob noted, a year ago it was not likely that we could have had a unanimous voice from NY GIS because of the range of voices. A function of the Association could be a platform for dialog and this is not likely to happen with any other group. We should get the language we want drafted and then push. Sue says that NYSAPLS welcomes comments, is looking for support, and wants dialog. Rachel suggested we meet NYS Ed and NYSAPLS separately.

Bob pointed out that since we haven't adopted By-Laws we have no mechanism to speak as a group. Sam says we just received the incorporation. State Ed probably doesn't understand our side or is unaware of it. However, Austin says he is not seeing an open forum and discussion on this issue. Bob reinforces this, saying NYSAPLS represents themselves; it is a complex issue. If NYSAPLS has discussion with us, it should be the same people as are talking with NYS Ed. Lindi expressed that ASPRS is vocal also with their concern; for example where does photogrammetry fit with this. Bob reported that in the summer, IAGT has trained teachers from Washington State that have been sponsored by the Washington State surveyors association because they feel it benefits the surveyors to have increased awareness in schools by these classes. He also indicated that it doesn't matter if the group has an opinion but it is important to host the dialog. He wondered if we should invite the sponsors, State Ed (who interprets and enforces the legislation once it is law) and asked who reviews the legislation. Bill says this bill is at the Education Committee and before meeting with them we need to be organized. Would a white paper on the issues be helpful?

8. ***2006 GIS Summit Update/Sponsorship***, Bill Johnson and Sam Wear

NYS GIS Association is co-sponsoring the NYS Geospatial Summit with the Coordination Program scheduled for next month in North Creek. Bill described the program of invited speakers. Sponsors are underwriting the event so there will be no trolling for key chains. 111 have registered to date. Sam hopes this will generate operating dollars for the Association and will enable the group to host other things. Have to work on ways to showcase the sponsors. Matt Davis, ESRI, asked for more information about what to support. Bill pointed out that the Summit is a different conference format because it is all plenary and has a different target of GIS professionals – a higher level of GIS users. Rachel is looking forward to the Summit to see what others are doing in the spatial community. She wants to be a part of it from the vendor, GIS user, and professional perspectives. For more information on the Summit visit www.nysgis.org/summit.

9. **2006 Upstate APA Fall Conference, Sept. 13-16**, Bob Brower

Bob noted that there will be an Upstate APA conference in Auburn in the fall. The APA has a similar region to ASPRS and this chapter is 1 of 46 nationwide and includes more than 100 Canadian members. There is no cost to the Association for co-sponsoring the conference. As members of APA, a portion of the dues comes to us. The fall conference is September 13-16 and he notes that APA is hoping for 300-350 people to attend. There is a link to the APA conference from our web site and conference sponsors are seeing internet traffic from it. <http://www.nyupstateplanning.org/Auburn2006.htm>. Jeff Volpe has a GIS course approved for continuing ed credits for planners which will be given at the conference. Obtaining approval for continuing ed credits for planners is a less rigorous process opposed to obtaining the same approval for engineers.

10. **Galileo Award**, John Borst, CSCIC

The Coordinating Program Education Workgroup developed this award for K-12 (college level awards are also being considered at this time). At the January 2006 Association meeting in Colonie, members voted to take on the Galileo Award as part of the Association's mission. Awards, donations, etc. would be easier to both obtain and administer through the Association as opposed to the Coordination Program. All the paperwork is in place (an application was distributed). Marketing will start in Fall and submissions will be in the Spring with the intent of making awards at the 2007 Geospatial Summit (June?). Rachel suggested that vendors could sponsor a teacher to the Summit. Sam noted that it has been hard to get student (college) submissions in the fall (our original plan) therefore we need to roll out the program in the fall with the intent of making awards in the spring. A Galileo Award section (page/tab) will be incorporated onto the Association site. Bob observed that the numbers in K-12 using GIS is not large (GIT) and wondered about doing this through the CORSE (IAGT teacher ed program) and about advertising. Bill suggested a link from the Clearinghouse. Both John Borst and Eileen Allen will be coordinating this effort. The Galileo Award flier must be corrected with regard to the award date. It is hoped that aggressive announcements and recruitment for this program will coincide with the fall state GIS conference in Lake Placid.

11. **Vendor Presentation**, Gary Smith, Green Mountain Geographics

Gary Smith, from Green Mountain Geographics demonstrated *SketchUp*, which was recently acquired by Google. Green Mountain Geographics is the only reseller of *SketchUp* in the county; which Gary started in 1999. Can get *SketchUp* for free; can design playgrounds, furniture, etc. For a free version with no technical support and not for commercial use, go to google.com. A full version will cost \$495 and will be available soon. Gary gave meeting attendees a *SketchUp* demo with Google Earth. (Highlighting the ESRI building in Danvers as an example) You cannot edit Google rendition and terrain; Google will handle textures in the future; can't add attributes yet. Google has created a model warehouse; it's only been in operation two weeks and already thousands are available. For more information visit either <http://www.gis-help.com/> or <http://earth.google.com/earth4.html>.

11. **Miscellaneous/On-going**, Sam Wear

- Christa Hay has done much of the incorporation work (ex. bank and PO Box); she is working as the Treasurer.
- An Association member is needed to serve as a liaison and report on Association activities at the quarterly meetings of the NYS Coordinating Body in Albany.
- Website Banner: It was agreed that Geospatial Summit sponsors will have their corporate logos placed on the Association's web site for limited time (probably through the end of the year). Will charge nominal fee for logos on web site. Christa is working on proposed banner advertising charges.
- Links to GISCI.
- Bob Brower and Jeff Volpe are serving as NYS GIS Association liaisons to the NYS GIS Conference steering committee.
- Passed around Chris O'Conner's ideas for NYS GIS Association logos.
- Verne LaClair from Par Government announced the May 26 Rome/Utica GIS Users Group meeting. The State Archives and Bill Johnson are scheduled to speak.