



February 28, 2013

Dear PaMAGIC Members and Friends,

In a world where we too seldom look much beyond the immediate it is always worthwhile to take a deep breath and look around, so let's do that in relation to a coordinated and growing GIS Community in PA.

**Technology** is certainly the high point right now. The choices and flexibility in data collection, access, display, and processing are still growing. Rent software for a minute in the Cloud if that's all you need, fly your own drone for quick remote sensing on assets, or collaborate with a thousand other folks in a crowd-sourced pseudo-analysis. Data collection costs have dropped, but we have no plans for major data lifts.

The set of **users** is certainly growing, but we haven't really figured out how that becomes a Community, or a set of Communities. The data producers that once were the largest group are not dominant anymore. Tens of millions of annual hits at PASDA show both the popularity of the data and sheer number of interests that take advantage. Universities have a good set of course work in GIS and we have a good young cadre coming up. What we need is for some energetic folks from that age class to lead the way in Twitter and LinkedIn!

In many ways the past few years have been very frustrating, but it is too pessimistic to say that we have struggled for 15 years to have official **coordination** so now I just say we are about 15 years into a 20 year project! The surveyors are checking back in to the fray, state and county agencies are still struggling to do more with less (and succeeding), coordination among governments is static at best, and state base mapping either stalled or is dead. People work together as much as they can and share more than not, but we seem to have given up on looking any farther ahead than a single budget cycle. For those reasons PaMAGIC remains steadfast in seeking an official Geo-Council where advance planning and shared data development can occur; last year House Bill 1701 got farther than any in the past so we'll try again this session. Go see the notes at <http://www.pamagic.org/initiatives> under "Geospatial Coordinating Coalition" and add your ideas.

The PA GIS Conference remains a good place to meet and exchange **ideas**. CCAP is hosting once again and the venue is changed to the Penn Stater in State College; preliminary agendas are posted at [www.pagisconference.org](http://www.pagisconference.org) and this will be the 21<sup>st</sup> edition. Come join us at the Annual InfoSwap on Tuesday night for the best session of the conference!

The PaMAGIC Board remains **purposeful** and active in ways small and large. Perhaps the best development of the last few years has been the creation of that Coalition promoting coordinated action. Member organizations in addition to MAGIC (forgive the alphabet soup) are: PA-MAPPS, PA County GIS Professionals, PMAA, PA-SSHE GIS, PSLs, APA-PA, PA One Call and PA Bar. We have a solid presence at the Northwest PA GIS Conference and on the PA GIS Conference Planning Committee, and at regional and national Users Conferences. We meet in June each year for our Annual Planning retreat and welcome your ideas.

Membership is fairly static between 100-150 people year after year, but we connect to about 10 times that many through our Coalition partners. The **technology, users, coordination and ideas** are sometimes self-sustaining but every time we connect **on purpose** we advance more quickly. We need your ideas, insights, and energy! For those with just a bit more interest consider election to the PaMAGIC Board; nominate yourself or a friend by contacting Tom Denton at [tdenton@adphila.org](mailto:tdenton@adphila.org).

Eric Jespersen, Acting President

PaMAGIC Mission: *"To provide leadership, coordination and guidance to enhance the development, use and access to spatial information and related services."*



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