



PAMAGIC: Board Meeting Minutes 01.31.2014

Attendees:

Mike Bialousz, Nicole Ernst, Peirce Eichelberger, Glenn Mohler, Laura Simonetti, Eric Jespersen, Dave Gilbert, Tom Denton, Mary K. Seville

Strategic Plan

1. Identify / Assemble the void statewide layers that are not currently available - "Official data"
2. Contribute more to AGOL for map info that is not already being served by others. (PA titles, land records, flood)
3. Increase membership pointed to youth
4. Membership benefits - 2 training courses per year
5. Continue communication with Blog and newsletters, social media include state reps in meetings

Active members to be asked to contribute to the organization on committees (etc). The membership list should describe the activities they contribute. Members will have ability to post the status of their contributions. The current web site support of a blog: GIS Pros may be able to contribute. The way the site is set up now it is available to Counties and groups. A discussion forum would need to be set up this year. CCAP may require a fee for web site in the future.

There is a need to identify a coordinating person for each task and set a time line to accomplish it. Eric will look at current membership list and see where there may be people who can contribute.

For the training sessions – we need to ping our membership to see what they are interested in being trained on. Outreach to universities and colleges in PA may be the start.

Initiatives

Many of the initiative are tied together. This will be a focus of the President's letter

Water

Mike and Eric are making a 3 year plan for the approach. Eric met with Joint committee and asked them to let PAMAGIC know if money is available to help perform an inventory of what data is available for stream surface water mapping. The GeoDesign summit at Esri may provide some insight for PA State contribution on water issues.

Land / Survey

Mary K and Peirce are putting together a 2 – 3 year plan for opportunities. This may include a workshop and/or flood insurance certification needs etc.

Map Portal

The AGOL site is active and can incorporate data as it becomes available. Eric will include the opportunity for people to contribute data in the President's letter.

Youth Engagement

Tom will contact universities and see if students can contribute to the mapping portal. Theme - who is teaching what and what courses are available

Council

The current Biggert-Waters law has shown there is a need for statewide data to determine the impact to citizens. This was used as an example to increase the need for a council to identify these issues. Glenn and Eric are discussing with PAMAPPS today.

PAGIS

CIO questions to be sent again this year to determine if they can be addressed during the conference.

Coordination – Federal and Interstate

1. The Commonwealth can play a critical role coordinating between the Federal government and our local government partners (counties and municipalities). In recent years budgets for coordination have decreased. Are there any plans to increase staff budgets for geospatial coordination with federal programs and interface with adjoining states?
2. How is the OA/OIT responding to reduced federal resources, and what are the implications for the geospatial components of Commonwealth Agencies?
3. NASCIO is a good example of an organization that promotes technology sharing and benchmarking among states for IT in general. Is the Commonwealth engaged with any organizations more specific to GIS for the same type of information sharing?

Coordination – State and Local

1. Given that local governments create authoritative data that are useful in State Agency decision-making (parcels, land use, addresses, local road names and locations, and zoning), what steps do you recommend to simplify data exchange for both sides of the transaction? Please comment on the following facets of the data exchange function:
 - a. technology-based solutions that allow access to current files rather than periodic download and storage to Commonwealth servers
 - b. sharing of security protocols and practices
 - c. shared application development costs
 - d. unified state/county agreements that cover all agencies' access to county data; simplified licensing/liability release/right-to-know protection
2. Does the Commonwealth have a GIS implementation plan guiding state agency activities in a coordinated manner concerning:
 - a. Application development
 - b. Imagery acquisition
 - c. New data acquisition
 - d. Evolution of geographic data standards like addresses
 - e. Sharing among state participants, including the legislature, and
 - f. Working with local government partners?
3. What ideas do you have as to how the state agencies, staff and officials can work better with their local government counterparts? What percentage of its time does the Geospatial Technologies Operations Office (GTOO) staff allocate to coordination outside the state agencies?
4. Good ideas or information from the local government have no clear path into agency GIS planning functions. How can the GIS Community facilitate more outward orientation among agencies, and mechanisms for State Agencies to seek local knowledge, data, and partners?

5. Now that the PAMAP Program is essentially unfunded, has there been interest among agencies for new imagery collection? Given the public and private utilization of state imagery, cost reductions in data acquisition, and some pent-up demand would you consider examining publicly funded imagery acquisition again?
6. What role, if any, do State Agencies have in providing data for use by the Legislature in redistricting?

Technology and Implications

1. Have you seen risk to data and network security from geospatial applications?
2. Have there been any benefits to PA Geospatial Data Sharing Standards (PGDSS), and if so what new data elements could benefit from standards?
3. How would you characterize the differences between state-supported base mapping and the commercial sources of data (Google, Bing) in terms of usefulness, frequency, and quality?
4. What role do you see for crowd-sourcing and big data analysis in state government GIS?
5. Have you investigated ArcGIS Online and cloud-based solutions for data storage and access? If so, do you find them appropriate for state government operations?

Sessions

Eric / Mike and Peirce have sessions scheduled. Tom will be presenting on his own if accepted.

InfoSwap

Rob Schwartz might have volunteered to manage the InfoSwap contributors. Peirce also. GeoDecisions is planning to contribute the bronze level. Eric will manage the food and organization with Penn Stater.

Elections

Nikki, Laura and Tom's terms are expiring. Nikki will not accept a new nomination. Laura probably will not accept a new nomination. Nikki and Laura will stay active with committees.

Excellence Award

Nominations to be sent to Dave. Eric will request nominations in the President's letter. Criteria to be listed in the letter.

President's Letter Discussion

Topics to include

Want new membership (students get first year free with their ID)

What we achieved last year - increased to 116 members this year, projects initiated last year: AGOL maps, Water etc.

Goals for 2014: Meet-Ups, InfoSwap, promote the council, blog, PAGIS

There is a need for information exchange – would seek content for bi-monthly (or quarterly) editions for the newsletter. (One way to do this is to have re-occurring articles on content like 'water' or other projects we are doing. The newsletter should be connected to the blog to encourage content).

Next meeting February 14th @ 2pm