



PAMAGIC: Board Meeting Minutes 02.14.2014

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

Initiatives:

Water - 3 year calendar for a project: Data Roundup – (inventory) outline below>

Questions were sent to the policy staff at the administration concerning the State Water Plan. Questions asking what it make to have it a priority and to seek funding. No response yet on this. Also Dave Gorman (DEP Biologist) is interested in having better quality water data and is willing to identify DEP projects that could be positively affected (headwaters examples). MS4 is another area where DEP can be involved in getting better data - for modeling.

Land / Survey - *see info below.

Map Portal - County data will be sent to Dave for placement on AGOL. A mentoring map - where have you been active?

Council - No new news for the council. The reps are at the end of their meeting for allocation of budgets. Continue to contact your reps.

PAGIS -

InfoSwap - Send checks to Tom

Elections - Nikki, Laura and Tom's terms are expiring

Excellence Award - Nominations to be sent to Dave.

Tom Nominates – Noemi Mendez

Eric Nominates Tom. (accepted)

Laura nominates Eric. (accepted)

Eric will request nominations in the President's letter. Criteria to be listed in the letter. Especially seeking representatives from western PA

President's Letter Discussion

Topics to include:

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

2. What we achieved last year - increased to 116 members this year, projects initiated last year: AGOL maps, Water etc.
3. 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).

Letter from Chris Markel:

Hello PaMAGIC Board,

I wish to comment on one of the items discussed during the January 15 Strategic Planning Session and noted in the minutes of the session posted on the PaMAGIC Web site. My comments center on the discussion of survey-collected data, the role of surveyors in GIS, and authoritative data.

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Chris Markel, GISP

Response:

This question bring the point that a Council is needed for these very type of topics that require resolution. As PAMAGIC, we need to develop a current list of topics that the council should consider. The specific response to this issue (Professional Use and Accuracy Use) should be discussed with the Land Surveyors.

Land Surveyors want to work with County Pros. It is time to get together and discuss the issues. From the GIS side – many active professional don’t understand the land surveyors requirements and visa-versa. The need to have the council formed should be paramount before and potential issues stall it from passing.

Action: There is a need for a series of meeting with surveyors to identify the issues and see where there are commonalities. A letter of response to Chris and a letter of invitation to the surveyors ----- Dave will develop a draft letter of response and outline the potential activities that can occur prior to the PAGIS conference.

Next meeting **February 28th @ 2pm**

Water Data Roundup (Catalog)

Goal – Collect samples of every *database* that relates to water (occurrence, quality and quantity) as well as information about the frequency of update, areal extent of collection, history of the data’s existence, data owner, purpose(s) for original collection and/or legal basis for collection, data dissemination or protection protocols, spatial accuracy of locational data, analysis and modeling supported by the database This includes information about naturally occurring surface water, stormwater, wastewater, and groundwater.

Example datasets include: intake permits, discharge permits, daily monitoring records, stream gauges, flow meters, drilling records, biological assays, BMP inspection reports, construction permits, local and regional road culvert inspection reports, river conservation plans, restoration sites, wetland surveys from E&S or development plans

Process –

Visioning Spring 2014 to develop pilot project protocols and initial database design

Pilot Project Summer 2014 in one HUC 10 area in single Water Plan Region to refine data assimilation and reporting needs. Desired pilot HUC characteristics include:

- Is in multiple Counties
- Contains MS4 community(ies)
- Contains WWTP(s)
- Contains some industrial users
- Contain potential water quality threats
- Active environmental stewards
- Contains university(ies)

Regional Roundup Fall 2014 in one HUC 10 area in each of the 5 remaining Water Plan Regions to capture regional variability in data existence, use, and ownership

Data Analysis and Integration Winter 2014/2015

Data Reporting and Regulatory Streamlining Recommendations Spring 2015

Probable Data Sources

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Water Supply Authorities

Federal Agencies – EPA, USGS, FEMA, US ACOE, FERC?

State Agencies – DEP, DCNR, PFBC, PGC, PennDOT, PUC

Regional Entities – River Basin Commissions, Regional Authorities, Industrial Development

County Agencies – Planning Commissions, DPW

Local Jurisdictions – Public Water Supply

Private Entities – Public Power Generators, Public Water Supply Utilities, Universities

Non-profit Groups – Watershed groups, CBF

Possible Support Partners

Center for Rural PA

Joint Conservation Committee

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)

PA Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)

Wilkes University

CUAHSI

Seneca Resources

PAGIS 2014 Panel Discussion—Needed GIS/Survey Cooperation, New Opportunities to Work Together

Peirce Eichelberger

Peter Borbas

Eric Jespersen

Michael Kreiger

This 75' panel discussion will include both surveyors and GIS staff. The focus of the panel will be on new opportunities for the GIS and survey communities to work together for the benefit of both professions. The panelists will share their perspectives on some of the following:

Control and Why It Is So Important

- Horizontal and Vertical control, understanding the geoid and the ellipsoid
- Long term coordinate usage and datum shifts—NAD27/83 and the next
- Imagery's role in control and what we need to know about it?
- New developments/new plats

The Revolution That Is GPS

- Surveying versus finding things
- GIS staff using GPS
- Coordinates from the public
- Real-time as-builts, real time geo-location activities

Better Legal Descriptions Needed Now and Why?

- Why surveyors are needed for better legal descriptions
- Role of GIS
- GIS/Surveyors vis-à-vis the larger title community

As-builts

- Infrastructure requirements
- Buildings and improvements
- Need for Z

Objectives for this panel session will be to give GIS staff a broader perspective about surveying and surveyors. For surveyors this session should provide a bigger context for their role vis-à-vis GIS lifecycle issues.

From: Jespersen

The PAGIS Conference Committee has approved a joint PaMAGIC/PSLS session entitled **Needed GIS/Survey Cooperation, New Opportunities to Work Together** at the conference; Peirce and I are involved and we may form the issue as a debate but have not really gotten that far.

That surveyors are trained to collect data and understand measurement errors is important, and the GIS Community has oftentimes ignored that aspect of data development in favor of some cost savings. It is worth noting that the PAMAP imagery and LiDAR products were controlled and quality checked by survey data. It is also worth noting that GIS is not necessarily about mapping quality (survey accuracy) but rather the database quality and completeness, and that surveyors have rarely shown an appreciation for that aspect of GIS and only focused on measurement/mapping. This approach has been received by GIS professionals as a clear indication that surveyors do not understand GIS. Indeed, the approach that the PSLS is using in its approach to a GeoAdvisory Council is an extension of that flaw - only surveyors know how to measure and that is all that is important.

I attended a presentation of "Is it Surveying" that made it obvious that a key reason surveyors in PA are not called upon more regularly is that the professional registration law for surveyors primarily emphasizes boundary surveying; many other states (but not a majority) require survey licensure to produce tax maps, photogrammetry, geodetic control, and in a few cases GIS databases. Our registration law is weak where GIS is concerned and the debate was ignored about twenty years ago and will be difficult to re-ignite now.

I love the approach that highlights authoritative data, and in my mind that involves a high-quality base map where the accuracy and completeness of attributes is equally important. Perhaps this gap in tolerance and understanding is why we have never come to resolution on data stewardship or which data is 'official'.

The current efforts by PSLS to build acceptance within the GIS Community for their expertise and involvement is fine. It is also very late in the game, and it seems to me that when one wishes to sell a service to others then the seller needs to make the intellectual case, and without insulting the buyer.

Eric Jespersen
717-475-7869

From: "Gilbert, David" <dgilbert@geodecisions.com>

Fellow Board Members, I don't disagree with Chris in that the differences between GIS Data and Survey data are becoming fewer or that authoritative data needs to be paramount as a topic for the council.

However I do not believe we conveyed the bottom line issue with the surveyors in that they are - as of late requiring a vote on the council and thereby potentially disrupting the potential for the current legislation to pass.

Yes the Use standards (not accuracy) should be addressed because their data is a reflection of their license and the misuse of that data could put them at risk. I may not be stating this clearly but it is a need to address in the GIS community. I believe it is not too far from the topic brought up at one of our meetings that GIS data continues to have few tools for the consumption of metadata when gaining access to spatial data on the web.

For our response to Chris - we should convey our desire to meet with surveyors at the GIS conference or at town hall meetings to further discuss the issues but we should also include in our response that the rouge nature of the surveyors when it came to the coalition was and continues to be disruptive to the passing of the bill.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014 at 3:13 PM, Chris Markel <chrismarkel@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello PaMAGIC Board,

I wish to comment on one of the items discussed during the January 15 Strategic Planning Session and noted in the minutes of the session posted on the PaMAGIC Web site. My comments center on the discussion of survey-collected data, the role of surveyors in GIS, and authoritative data.

I base my thoughts on the presentations that Surveyors have conducted of late on the role of Surveying in GIS data development. These presentations have been most welcome and thought-provoking. I attended the presentation given by Jeffrey Horneman, PLS, at the Northwest PA GIS Conference in October 2013, and my conversation with Mr. Horneman after his talk. It is my understanding that this talk has been given by other licensed Surveyors at other venues.

It seems that the Strategic Plan notes focus on the difference in data accuracy between Surveyor-collected data (survey-accuracy data) and, shall we say, non-Surveyor collected data (planning accuracy data). While there can certainly be differences in accuracy, this was not the focus of the PLS presentation, and it probably shouldn't be a PaMAGIC focus.

The focus of the PLS talk was on the authoritative nature of data. Mr. Horneman talked about the rigorous professional and licensing standards that Surveyors must adhere to, and that by nature of this process the data and other materials they produce are authoritative. Much like the work of Professional Engineers the work of Professional Surveyors is held to a high and long-lasting standard. The work is not held to a particular accuracy standard, but rather to a professional use standard.

I think that PaMAGIC discussion of authoritative data must include the input of the surveying community, and I think PSLS is ready to join that conversation. Michael Krieger of HRG has just been installed as the new President of PSLS, and I know from personal conversations that this is a topic important to him.

PaMAGIC should probably not be focusing on accuracy differences of data and consequently the differences between "GIS data" and "survey data". This is not constructive at a time when 1) those distinctions are blurring quickly, and 2) the nature of authoritative data needs to be paramount in the minds of a future Geospatial Council.