



Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium

June 30, 2009

Dear Fellow Pennsylvanians:

PaMAGIC's primary mission has been to serve as a *vehicle for information sharing* and the advancement of GIS in the Commonwealth. PaMAGIC is the longest standing open user based GIS organization in the state with consistent paid membership of 100 – 150 GIS enthusiasts since 1996. Over the past year, several PaMAGIC board members took an active advisory role in the formation of the **Geospatial Coordination, Strategic Plan For Pennsylvania** that was completed in May, 2009.

After careful consideration, the PaMAGIC board has voted unanimously in favor of supporting the formation of a GIS Council as described in the Strategic Plan, without exception. The need for a council is clear. Pennsylvania has a vested interest in formalizing the collective decision making process for GIS integration, education, and overall direction in light of this ever changing technology.

The benefits of having a council made up of government, academia, and private organizations far outweigh the potential costs or effort to form it. A decision making body composed of technical experts, business analysts, and visionary leaders from across the state will lead to an embracement of GIS throughout our society. Most importantly, the council will move Pennsylvania into an era of transparency, where a clear path for technological integration can be made that will benefit all the citizens of the Commonwealth.

PaMAGIC encourages all other GIS based organizations, counties, planning organizations, private firms, and individuals to also endorse the formation of the GIS Council. PaMAGIC will facilitate a meeting of all endorsers for the purpose of organizing the next step – educating senior executives and legislators.

On behalf of the 2009 PaMAGIC Board Members:

- Laura Simonetti – Mifflin County GIS
- Eric Jespersen – Rettew Associates
- Melissa Hinton (Treasurer) – County Commissioner's Association of PA
- Kathryn Reed – Allegheny County GIS
- Glenn Mohler – Lancaster County GIS
- Thomas Mueller, Ph.D., GISP (Vice President) – California University of PA
- Paul DeBarry, GISP – NTM Engineering, Inc.
- David Gilbert, GISP (Secretary) – GeoDecisions

Please accept this endorsement of the formation of the GIS Council for Pennsylvania.

PaMAGIC is facilitating the collection of endorsements for the council, please feel free to copy me with your endorsement and contact information for the purposes of coordinating a meeting of endorsers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn T. McNichol".

Glenn T. McNichol – Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission GIS
gmcnichol@dvrpc.org
2009 PaMAGIC President

A copy of the strategic plan can be found at www.pamagic.org