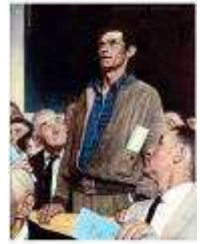




**PAMAGIC - Town Hall Meeting Minutes: 10-28-10**



Attendees:

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**Introduction: Glenn Mohler**

Purpose: A working session to plan how the Geospatial community works together to:

- Share resources
- Solve common problems
- Advance the industry in PA

Meeting Format:

- Short presentations to introduce discussion topic
- Open forum for brainstorming and discussion
- Participation by all
- Stay on subject



**History of the effort to make a GIS council. Develop new plan toward Geospatial Coordinating Council: Glenn McNichol:**

*The following are not direct quotes but paraphrased of discussion.*

Shillenn: What are the merits of a provisional council? The effort spent making it may take away from efforts needed to form a legislative council.

Gilbert: The legislative council will start *now* as opposed to waiting another year and may help set the stage (define) the legislative council (explanation to the elected officials).

Hutchins: Is there a new legislative champion who can replace the retiring Rep Fairchild?

Terrell: There are three options 1. Do nothing, 2. Make a provisional council or 3. Wait until the new administration is in place and lay the groundwork for a new legislative council effort. Curtis Thomas of Philadelphia may be the next champion.

Brown: if we are setting up a provisional council, it may take away from the prioritization or need for a new council in the eyes of the elected officials.

Hutchins: The EMS provisional council was formed *before* the legislative version. The only difference was there is no GIS state department already in place as there was for EMS.

Hamilton: The description of 'GIS' to the legislators is more difficult to explain than EMS.

Gilbert: We need better tools to educate legislators. We have only a few minutes of their attention.

Shillenn: Education is important but it should be only one part of the whole strategy to tackle Harrisburg.

Markel: We really need to be coordinated by this Tuesday (election) to be prepared to tell the new administration what we do and what we need.

Pal: Why haven't we been successful so far? We need to educate legislators at the local level. County Commissioners should be requesting new aeriels, etc. How strong will the council be without that mandate?

Eichelberger: Legislative staffers aren't bringing the message to their representatives. This is a huge gap.

Delano: State employees can not lobby and there is no simple path for state employees to promote GIS.

Jespersen: A few people said the last effort to bring the bill before the house brought groups together in a single collective voice. Perhaps the plan is to see who gets elected and appointed first before decisions are made?

Shillenn: Yes, but the window of opportunity will close soon.

Hutchins: We need to do a better job of stating 'what we do affects them'.

Terrell: Legislators don't connect the products with the background activity of GIS.

Markel: The "GIS Council" is now the "Geospatial Council". Don't be surprised if they don't understand when we are constantly changing the message. We have the framework of HB2300 in place; let's use it. Legislative or Executive order: maybe the executive way may be the best approach moving forward and be the stepping stone to the legislative format in the future.

Stroh: The state data center has been operating under the executive order model and been renewed each year but the difference is it is very non political. How many legislators understand what GIS supports? Instead of GIS technology education, we should focus on *policy*.

Stevens: We should look to other states to see how they have done education (NJ).

Simonetti: What would happen if GIS was taken away for just one week? The Right to Know discussions at the County Commissioner's meeting shows how we need to simplify the discussion. Talk about maps.

Gilbert: We are GIS technicians for the most part, perhaps we need to hire a professional marketing group to assist?

Pickford: The message of "it will save you money" was successful in the last effort to get legislative support.

Eichelberger: Make the connection of GIS with the economy and jobs.

Stroh: The message should be the policy of how to save money and jobs.

Hamilton: We need to tell the staffers just three talking points and we need to be consistent.

Jespersen: The past year's effort accomplished a role: so the end of the year report and transition paper should highlight these.

Pal: Use fear: Threat of terrorism for example. We don't have a full state map. How would we be able to coordinate in the future without this if there was another emergency?



Lecher: The transition paper is where we need to focus. Use Governor O'Malley's example from Maryland as an example and advocate. We should build the business case and not talk about technology. Esri for example doesn't show demos anymore when talking to CEOs, we show the big picture.

Shillenn: The steps should be (1) How do we get access? (CCAP, State Secretaries and private companies) (2) what is the message? (3) and how do we follow up?

Markel: Who can we talk to in the transition teams and have on-going discussions?

Stevens: Why isn't there more state representatives here? - They are all lame duck now.

Hutchins: The state departments don't have a mechanism to coordinate with each other.

## **Develop scope for PA State of GIS report Moderator - Mike Bialousz**

- Report Scope
- Key Indicators of successful GIS Implementation in PA
- Key Issues with successful GIS Implementation in PA
- Develop Report to Support:
  - ✓ GIS Council Formation
  - ✓ Transition document(s) for new Governor/Legislature
  - ✓ General educational purposes

Past reports as reference:

- Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.
  - ✓ Project Information – orthos, etc.
  - ✓ Results of Customer Survey



- ✓ <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/reports/2010ExternalReports/253639.pdf>
- Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council (Annual GIS report)
  - ✓ General report on state agencies & framework datasets
  - ✓ [http://www.mngislis.org/associations/6078/files/pdfs/mngislis\\_annualreport\\_2009.pdf](http://www.mngislis.org/associations/6078/files/pdfs/mngislis_annualreport_2009.pdf)
- Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium – Annual Report
  - ✓ Program reports - mostly conferences and training
  - ✓ <http://www.ct.gov/gis/cwp/view.asp?Q=415860&A=2858>
- CCAP Inventory of County GIS - about 2000 -Identify other GIS status reports in PA

#### Discussion Topics

- Report topics
- Key Indicators
- Influential Items for Governor, Legislature, etc
- Identify GIS Challenges?
- What else?

#### Potential Ideas

- Include all levels of government?
  - ✓ State
  - ✓ Local (County, municipal)
- Higher Education
- Private Sector
- Show ROI
- What else?

State of GIS report: need the frame of reference. How many industries, specialties, etc and bring them together. The key indicators of GIS at the state level.

### **Develop content of transition paper for new Governor Moderator - Eric Jespersen**

Determine ways to continue collaboration across the Commonwealth

Who is the audience? Should the report be optimistic?

State participation would be difficult.

Is the report developed voluntarily or on a paid basis each year?

Can the report be published as an on line map interface instead of just a printed document?

CCAP did a county survey to gather information (got 45 of 67 counties to reply).

MPOs and Regional Planning organizations should be included as well.

The end of the year report should be targeted at the new administration.

Perhaps we need a larger collection of data that can be used for a variety of purposes?

Return on Investment: an opportunity in CAP grants is available for such a study.

The data collected should be used to provide the framework for the State of the commonwealth.

The 2002 transition paper was simple.



The transition Paper:

- Basemap
- Digital infrastructure
- State data standards

Topic:

- Job creation
- Governance
- Aging Infrastructure
- Education

Show why the basemap needs maintained.

One clear thing to ask for is the council. Reasons: continue the digital infrastructure, save money and public safety.

Coordination:

Meetings to be advertised on listserv.

The state meetings can piggyback off the PA ONE call and others.

They should involve private sector end users.

There is video conference capabilities at CCAP.

We can use other regional meetings to host part of the statewide effort.

\*The PAGIS 2011 Conference will be at Granville Holiday Inn. May 24 – 25.