

Project Title: Formation of a New GIS Coordinating Structure for West Virginia

Award Number: 06HQAG0107

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Collaborating Organization(s): USGS Geospatial Liaison for WV, KY, TN (Bruce Bauch); USGS NSDI Partnership Office (Diane Eldridge); West Virginia Office of State GIS Coordinator (Craig Neidig); WV Governor's Office of Technology (Kyle Schafer); WV Association of Geospatial Professionals; and WV GIS Strategic Planning Committee.

(1) Project Narrative: <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2006CAP/Category3/WV>

The State of West Virginia Fifty States project will organize a new statewide coordinating structure for advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in West Virginia. The vision of the new coordinating structure is to have a broader representation that includes the private sector, academia, and all levels of government. It will strive to include high-level champions who understand geospatial technologies and funding issues in the form of elected officials or executive decision makers in the coordination process. The new coordinating body will develop the strategic and business plans necessary to leverage resources and minimize redundancies in the integration and publishing of standardized geospatial data from multiple sources. Lastly, it will seek formal political recognition, either through executive level or legislative action, and identify a source of sustainable funding from state government.

(2) Key Accomplishments to Date:

The primary objective of organizing a new geospatial coordinating body, named the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals (WVAGP), has been successfully completed.

- Drafting of Proposed Bylaws: All interested members who attended the first organizational meeting in September 2006 were invited to participate in the committee to draft the proposed bylaws. Twenty-two individuals from federal, state, and local government, education and research, and the private sector volunteered to serve on the bylaws committee. Parliamentary procedures set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order* and other resources were utilized to create the association's bylaws, including the hiring of a professional registered parliamentarian. The full committee convened three times between October 2006 and February 2007 to draft the bylaws. During this time period, the committee diligently deliberated on drafting the governance rules, all the while ensuring that the proposed bylaws were democratic and that the members had the ultimate say in the new association. In February 2007, the bylaws committee distributed the proposed bylaws and committee report to the prospective members for their review.
- Consideration Adoption of Bylaws, Enrollment of Charter Members, and Election of Officers: The WV Association of Geospatial Professionals became a permanent organization on Thursday, March 15, 2007. At the charter meeting the bylaws were adopted, 53 members were enrolled as charter members, and the officers were elected (See Appendix A).

(2) Next Steps:

- New Coordinating Body – WV Association of Geospatial Professionals: Next steps involve branding and creating marketing material for the new association; setting up the financial accounts; forming standing committees; and creating the association's website. The association is also filing to be a nonprofit under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), and will hire a professional service to assist with processing the application.
- Formal Recognition of Association by State: The association has sent a letter to the General Counsel of the Governor's Office, requesting a legal opinion on how closely the nonprofit association can be affiliated with state government within the framework of state and federal laws.
- Strategic Plan: The next meeting of the members will be June 5, 2007, in Flatwoods, WV, to develop the framework for a comprehensive State GIS Plan.

(3) Attachments:

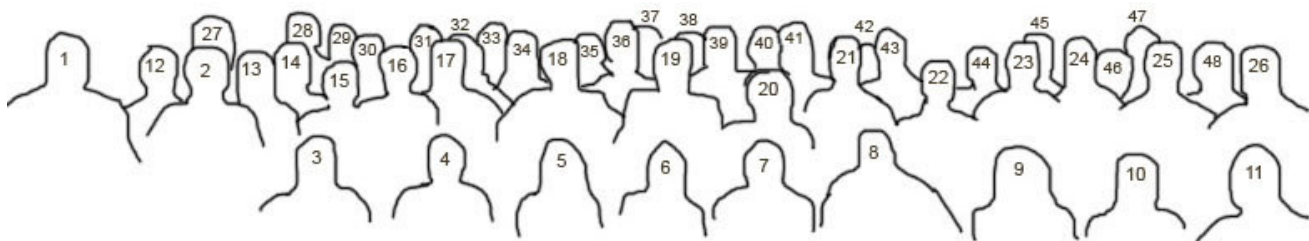
- Business Plan for New Geospatial Coordinating Body
- Bylaws Committee Report and Approved Bylaws
- Charter meeting minutes of WV Association of Geospatial Professionals

(4) Helpful Assistance from CAP Program:

- Financial Assistance: The new association would not have formed without the financial assistance from FGDC / USGS. The funding has been instrumental in paying for parliamentary and legal services necessary to form the new coordinating body.

Appendix A: Photos of WV Association of Geospatial Professionals

Charter Members



1. Hussein Elkhansa
2. J.D. Adkins
3. Chandra Inglis-Smith
4. Jennifer "Nicki" Barnett
5. Nancy Osborne
6. Andrea Griffith
7. Jennings Starcher
8. Everett Perry
9. April Savage
10. Connie Ervin
11. Pete Dailey
12. Theresa Litteral
13. Brandie Yalniz
14. Juan Guterrez
15. Michael Orr
16. Katherine Paybins
17. Shane Taylor
18. Marshall Burgess
19. Tony Siemental

20. Terri Funk
21. Mark Holmes
22. Chris Eurice
23. Matt Mullenax
24. Peter Villa
25. Kurt Donaldson
26. Shaik Mohiuddin
27. Craig Neidig
28. Eric Hopkins
29. Matthew Beckett
30. Sang Yoo
31. Tim Ransom
32. Andrew Steel
33. Jim Kompanek
34. Diane Eldridge
35. Rick Lawson
36. Scott McColloch
37. John Bocan
38. Frank LaFone
39. Robert Schaffer

40. Kevin Kuhn
41. Dave Sypolt
42. Rich Binns
43. Jeff Stephens
44. James Wolfe
45. Douglas Shahan
46. Mike Shank
47. Sam Lammie
48. Joe Bentley

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