

# NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program Institution Building and Coordination Project

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**Final Report** – October 2006

Organization: **PaMAGIC** (Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium)  
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## **Collaborating Organizations**

County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP)  
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[www.pacounties.org](http://www.pacounties.org)

Office of Administration, Bureau of Geospatial Technologies  
Jim Knudson  
(717) 705-9844  
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Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey  
Jay Parrish  
(717) 702-2053  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)

## **Project Narrative**

PaMAGIC lead an effort during 2004 and 2005 to update the Pennsylvania Geospatial Data Sharing Standards (PGDSS) to Version 2.0. The PGDSS started at Version 1.0 as a result of efforts during 2003 and very early 2004 by many volunteers. However, final compilation of Version 1.0 was not fully completed, and thus was not made available for comment. It is understood that such a standard will always have to undergo comment, enhancement, and revision, and this project is the start of that process for PGDSS. The project has completed the following steps:

- Compilation and completion of Version 1.0 (completed with in-kind efforts of CCAP)
- Distribution of Version 1.0 to interested stakeholders for review and comment during Fall 2004. This included many GIS-related organizations in the state. Organizations include:
  - County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
  - Geospatial Technologies Council (GTC) – state agency GIS managers and users

- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB)
  - Pennsylvania State Licensed Surveyors (PSLS)
- GIS Town Meetings were held throughout the state during November 2004 to gather additional comments on PGDSS. These meetings also included work sessions on the development of a Geospatial Strategic Plan for the Commonwealth. Work on PGDSS at each meeting included:
  - Presentation of Version 1.0 of PGDSS
  - Open discussion of PGDSS
  - Breakout groups to review each layer and provide comments
  - Discussion of proposed comments and enhancements
  - Documentation of proposed comments, edits, and enhancements
- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for each PGDSS data layer were recruited to collect and review comments, evaluate other standards (GOS, etc.), propose and document revisions and enhancements. These SMEs worked from December 2004 through April 2005.
- Draft versions (Version 1.5) of each data layer were produced for review in March 2005. A second review and comment period was opened for discussion on the draft versions.
- A second round of GIS Town Meetings was held in March and early April 2005. These meetings followed a similar format as the first round, and were used to collect comments on the draft versions.
- The SMEs compiled all comments and finalized most Version 2.0 sections for each layer for review in April, 2005.
- The layer sections, as well as Introduction and Reference sections, were edited in early May 2005 and compiled into the full PGDSS Version 2.0.
- Distribution and presentation of Version 2.0 was scheduled to take place at the PA GIS Conference in May 2005. The PaMAGIC Board elected to distribute a draft version of the standards for further review by the GIS community in conjunction with the conference. This version was also reviewed by a group of county GIS coordinators.
- Comments from the conference and county coordinators were collected and compiled in the summer of 2005. The final PGDSS Version 2.0 was released in August 2005.

## **Next Steps**

Collaboration on PGDSS is continuing as an effort of PAMAGIC and the state Geospatial Technologies Office (formerly Bureau of Geospatial Technologies), with contributions from the PAMAP Program, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. PaMAGIC is currently working on refinement of the standards in order to produce version 3.0 of PGDSS in 2007.

The PGDSS version 3.0 effort is also expected to include contributions from the newly-formed County GIS Professionals Organization and the National Emergency Numbering Association (NENA).

The development of the standards has continued to provide much discussion about data sharing among levels of government. Many GIS professionals are talking about the need for intergovernmental sharing agreements to govern the use of shared data. These discussions are leading to increased interest in strategic planning and the Common Vision initiative of PaMAGIC, which was begun in late 2004 and continues into 2006.

### **Feedback on CAP**

The CAP grant has provided much-needed resources to enable PaMAGIC to hold more regional meetings and attract a great deal more interest in the project. There have been a few negative reactions to the contents and purposes of the data sharing standards, as might be expected, but the overall willingness of PaMAGIC to tackle the issue, and the effort that has been provided, have been universally praised.

Regarding the CAP program, there was a lot of enthusiasm coming out of the Denver kickoff meeting in September, but that faded as information from the meeting, or that was requested at the meeting, failed to materialize. There was much talk about presentations and other resources being made available, but they apparently did not.