



WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF STATE GIS COORDINATOR
1124 Smith St., Suite LM-10
Charleston, WV 25301

JOE MANCHIN III
GOVERNOR

KATHERINE KAPO
COORDINATOR

August 7, 2008

West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals
P.O. Box 3903
Charleston, WV 25339

Dear Fellow Members of WVAGP:

It is my pleasure to notify the membership of WVAGP of the progress that has been made in recent weeks regarding West Virginia's State GIS Program. On July 28th, the West Virginia GIS Policy Council met and moved to re-activate and formalize the State Steering Committee, and also to formally recognize the non-profit West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals as fulfilling the formal User Group role in state coordination. WVAGP will be represented on the State Steering Committee to provide input and recommendations on behalf of the GIS professional community, and both the WVAGP President and the WV GIS Coordinator will now have non-voting seats on the GIS Policy Council. The new design of the State Steering Committee focuses on formalizing a collaborative and complimentary relationship between the state and the GIS user community. Both the State Steering Committee and Policy Council are expanding their membership to broaden stakeholder representation, particularly for local government. Executive Order 4-93 will be revised and updated to reflect this new status in the near future. So before I go on, I wish to extend congratulations to WVAGP.

The recommendations that led to these new developments were based on a careful evaluation by the Office of WV GIS Coordinator that ultimately sought to best integrate, optimize, and articulate *your* recommendations, that is, those of West Virginia's GIS community. Informal interviews with various stakeholders, as well as the Strategic Planning survey that was administered by the WV Office of GIS Coordinator at the WV GIS Conference earlier this summer, provided the guidance and the case for how to proceed. Before a State Strategic Plan can be successfully developed and implemented, there was a need recognized by many that GIS coordination between state government and the GIS user community be further formalized and advanced in a direction that optimizes our various strengths, minimizes weaknesses, and creates an environment of collaborative leadership, enhanced communication, and a shared future.

Details are provided in the accompanying presentation slides, a draft of which I presented to and discussed with the WVAGP Board in early July. The presentation includes survey results, as well as the recent developments and steps in the near future relating to GIS Coordination and Strategic Planning. We are also in the process of developing a website for the WV Office of GIS Coordinator to facilitate future communications and activities of this office, so stay tuned for more information. Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm thus far, and I look forward to the future.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kapo
WV GIS Coordinator