

West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Mapping the Mountain State



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OFFICERS' REPORTS
(March 15, 2007 through June 9, 2008)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WVAGP Mission and History

Mission: On March 15, 2007, the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals (WVAGP) was organized after adopting bylaws and electing the board of directors. The association was organized to promote and support geospatial professionals in the effective use and sharing of geospatial information and related resources throughout the state of West Virginia. It provides a forum for the geospatial community to communicate the value of geospatial information to citizens and decision-makers.

History: WVAGP is a new organization that resulted from a grassroots effort to promote the effective use of geospatial technologies in the Mountain State. In November 2005, when no other statewide GIS coordinating bodies were active, over 90 GIS professional convened at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, WV, to discuss the future directions for GIS coordination. During this meeting a committee was appointed to review the existing GIS organizational structure and strategic plan for the State. This committee completed a business plan which recommended that a new organization named the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals be formed. In March 2007, the association became a permanent organization upon the adoption of bylaws and filing of the articles of incorporation with the state of West Virginia.

Governance: In August 2008, WVAGP was designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (public charity) by the Internal Revenue Service. As a nonprofit association, WVAGP neither has sovereign powers nor is it affiliated with any governmental unit or political subdivision of West Virginia. Instead, WVAGP serves only as an advisory group to the geospatial community as well as a vehicle for education, training, and information exchange.

WVAGP is an all-volunteer organization whose broad-level membership includes representatives of the federal government, state government, regional/local organizations, academia and research, and private sector. Importantly, its diverse representation provides a forum for broad-level coordination of geospatial issues. Representatives of the constituency groups are elected to an 11-member board of directors which manages the affairs of the association but is subordinate to the association's membership. The board composition includes the WV GIS Coordinator and Chief Technology Officer as non-voting, ex-officio members. To avoid any conflict of interest and to maintain high ethical standards, each elected board member is required to sign a Conflict of Interest policy. To run meetings efficiently and fairly, the membership adopted *Robert's Rules of Order Revised* as its parliamentary authority.

Income and Expenses: WVAGP is self-supporting and does not receive any funds from the State. Since March 2007, WVAGP has received revenue from annual membership dues, federal and state grants, and "in kind" and paid sponsorships for the 2008 WV GIS Conference. This year the board of directors decided that a portion of these funds shall be used to pay for students' expenses to attend the WV GIS Conference. Budgeted expenses in the future may include student scholarships, travel grants, speaker fees, website maintenance, user group sponsorships, and other expenditures which support WVAGP's mission.

Membership Benefits: The WVAGP leadership realizes that in addition to being good stewards of the association's funds, it must continually advocate to the geospatial community the benefits of joining the organization. Membership benefits include networking, information exchange, professional certification, continued education and training, and event discounts. The members' dues also support scholarships and other sponsored activities which promote geospatial technologies in the West Virginia.

Challenges: Like any organization, WVAGP faces challenges. These challenges include identifying effective communicative venues for a broad and diverse membership and for whose members reside throughout the region; funding and staffing for administrative management services to sustain the association (e.g., web site maintenance, conference management, mail drop); attracting dedicated board members, officers, committee chairs, and others to volunteer their time and support for the organization's mission; and presenting a clear and unified voice on GIS issues and goals.

Accomplishments

This past year WVAGP accomplished administrative tasks necessary for starting a new organization, increased awareness for modernizing the strategic plan for GIS, assisted in the re-emergence of a stronger GIS Governance, and hosted the largest West Virginia GIS conference program to date.

Start-up Tasks: Organizational startup tasks included attaining non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. A primary benefit of being tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) is the ability of WVAGP to accept tax-deductible donations. Additional benefits include, but are not limited to, exemption from federal and/or state corporate income taxes, possible exemption from state sales tax, ability to apply for grants and other public or private allocations available only to IRS-recognized, 501(c)(3) organizations, discounts on US Postal bulk-mail rates and other services, and the public legitimacy of IRS recognition. In addition to WVAGP receiving nonprofit status, the membership voted on a WVAGP logo and slogan called "Mapping the Mountain State." It established a listserv, website (<http://www.wvagnp.org>), and a permanent mailing address in Charleston, WV. It set up merchant and PayPal accounts and paid an annual subscription for an online survey tool (SurveyMonkey.com). Funds were also expended to pay for the accounting software, QuickBooks for Nonprofit 2007.

Increased awareness of GIS governance and modernizing GIS strategic plan: Throughout the year the WVAGP leadership and members sought to increase the awareness and goals of the new organization and the need to modernize the State Strategic Plan for GIS. This included meetings with the new WV GIS Coordinator, Chief Technology Officer, Governor's Office, and WV State Legislature's Joint Committee on Technology.

Last fall the GIS Policy Council was activated and it appears that the State GIS Steering Committee will be re-activated in the near future. WVAGP supports these GIS coordinating elements and the emergence of stronger GIS governance in the State. Above all, WVAGP recognizes that the continual cooperation and support of all GIS stakeholders is essential for promoting and sharing geographic information and mapping technologies in the State. A famous quote from Henry Ford states: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." In some ways, this represents a new beginning for GIS stakeholder to come together and to further advance the effective use of geospatial technologies in the State.

WVAGP supports the modernization of the State GIS Plan and formal recognition by executive order and legislation of all GIS coordination bodies, including the GIS Policy Council, State GIS Steering

Committee, and WVAGP. WVAGP recognizes that the WV GIS Coordinator and Chief Technology Officer serve as key focal points for GIS coordination and thus WVAGP desires to complement these and other GIS coordinating elements in the advancement of the State's Spatial Data Infrastructure. WVAGP recognizes that high-level support from the cabinet level and the WV Legislature is integral to a successful state GIS program, and thus endorses the annual reporting of state GIS activities to the high-level executives and appropriate WV legislative body.

Since its charter meeting in March 2007, the membership assembled for three regular meetings with a primary focus on programmatic goals that should be incorporated into the new strategic plan. In June 2007, the membership approved several resolutions in support of the "Imagery for the Nation" initiative and the publishing of State Plane Coordinates in both meters and feet. During the June meeting it also recognized the need for the densification of the continuously operating reference stations (CORS) for GPS users in West Virginia. At the September 2007 meeting the WVAGP had presentations and discussions on a statewide orthophoto/elevation program in which WVAGP adopted the following target specifications for future collection efforts: leaf-off imagery (natural color and CIR) at 2-foot or better resolution, and 5-foot or better elevation contours. February's meeting included presentations on GIS governance, strategic planning, and transportation. There was also a break-out session of the constituency groups which provided recommendations for improving statewide GIS coordination. Since all members cannot attend the meetings, the minutes and presentations are posted on the WVAGP website.

WV GIS Conference: The largest program to date, the 8th Biennial 2008 WV GIS Conference includes an agency roll call, paper, poster, and seminar presentations, plenary session, keynote, strategic planning workshop, and social events. By hosting the conference, WVAGP hopes to enhance the GIS educational and training opportunities available to the geospatial community. The biennial conference provides an excellent opportunity for GIS users of all levels and backgrounds to convene and learn about emerging technologies, the activities and efforts of others, and of course, establish new contacts and institute collaborations. The conference also provides an opportunity to recognize members of the geospatial community who have earned their GIS Professional (GISP) certification or who have received other professional achievements.

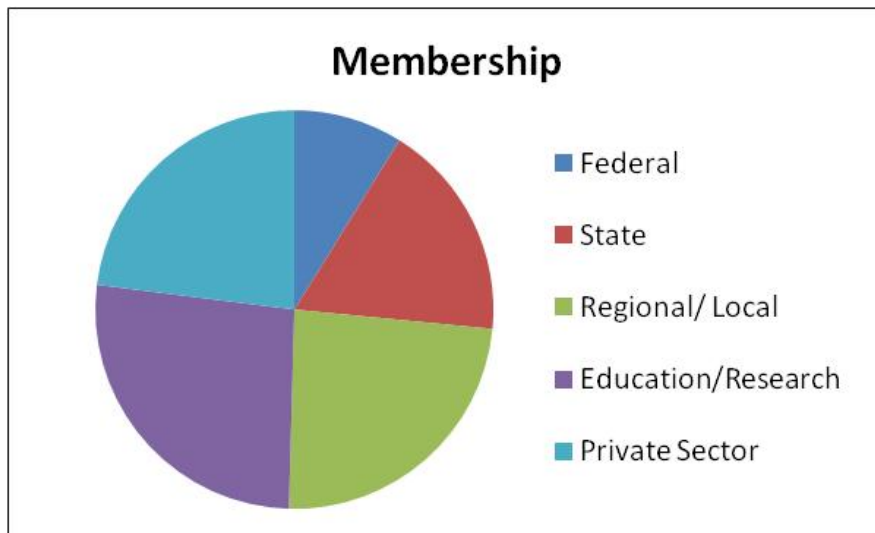
Lastly, I would like to thank the WVAGP officers, board members, committee chairs, members, and other volunteers who supported WVAGP this past year. Without their dedicated time, efforts, and financial support, this year's accomplishments would not have been possible.

Kurt Donaldson
President, WVAGP

SECRETARY’S REPORT

At the end of the calendar year there were a total of 113 members. The apportionment of the membership and board of directors reflects the broad-level representation of the association.

| CONSTITUENCY GROUP | MEMBERSHIP (December 2007) | BOARD OF DIRECTORS |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Federal Government | 10 | 1 |
| State Government | 20 | 4 |
| Regional and Local Organizations | 27 | 2 |
| Education and Research | 30 | 2 |
| Private Sector | 26 | 2 |
| total | 113 | 11 |



Chandra Inglis-Smith
Secretary

TREASURER’S REPORT

Below is the audited financial report for the calendar year 2007 (January 1 – December 31, 2007). The Audit Committee found the report to be correct.

Katherine Paybins
Treasurer

| Audited Report of the Treasurer of the West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals for the year ending December 31, 2007 | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Balance on hand January 1, 2007</i> | \$0.00 |
| Receipts | |
| Members' Dues | \$4,692.91 |
| Paypal signup | <u>\$0.38</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>\$4,693.29</u> |
| Total (Opening value plus total receipts) | <u>\$4,693.29</u> |
| Disbursements | |
| Banking expenses | \$81.99 |
| Paypal expenses | \$92.91 |
| meeting expenses | <u>\$51.92</u> |
| Total Disbursements | <u>\$226.82</u> |
| <i>Balance on hand December 31, 2007</i> | <u>\$4,466.47</u> |

Katherine Paybins, Treasurer

Audited on February 15, 2008, and found correct

Jennings Starcher /signed/

Tony Simental /signed/

Audit committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS (March 7, 2007 through June 9, 2008)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Election Committee

During the last year the Election Committee presided over the elections of the logo and slogan that is in place for the association. The committee has prepared an election procedural manual that is currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors. This manual includes the Election Rules from the association bylaws, ballot design, explanation of preferential voting and timeline of events leading up to the election of Board members. It is the committee's goal to have this manual approved at the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2008. Once approved, this manual will go into effect for the next election in 2009. Members of the committee include Shaik Mohiuddin, Matt Mullenax, and Rob Shaffer.

Jennings Starcher, Chair

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee was responsible for guiding the selection process for the WVAGP's logo and slogan. In addition, perhaps the most significant achievement of the Communications Committee this year was the development of WVAGP's website and forums. Many other minor accomplishments were reached by the Communications Committee, such as the development of presentation templates for the association, as well as a press release for the 2008 WV GIS Conference.

Matthew Mullenax, Chair

Conference Committee

The Conference Committee planned and implemented the 2008 WV GIS Conference in Charleston, WV, June 9-12. This included event scheduling and reservations, program agendas, papers presentations and poster abstracts, seminars/workshops, registration and fee collection, news announcements and other communications, agency roll call, conference website, exhibit and sponsors, keynote speaker, conference management, etc. The committee would like to thank all the sponsors, exhibitors, and 'in-kind' contributors for their support. Without this support the conference would not have been possible. Looking forward, the committee is soliciting locations and volunteers to host the next WV GIS Conference. Members have submitted nominations for Huntington and Shepherdstown as the next conference location. Other nominations should be submitted to the committee for consideration.

Rick Lawson, Chair

Frank LaFone

Technical Issues Committee

The Technical Issues Committee worked on topics in support of modernizing the State Strategic Plan for GIS. Programmatic goals presented and discussed included the sharing of Web map services, GPS Infrastructure (CORS densification), geospatial data standards, and statewide orthphoto program. During the February 2008 membership meeting the different constituency groups had a break-out session to discuss ways to improve GIS coordination in the State. The committee met with the new WV GIS Coordinator in preliminary planning session in May 2008 to discuss forward steps on the strategic plan. During the meeting it was agreed to adopt the Fifty States Initiative Strategic Planning Process Guide and for the WV GIS Coordinator and GIS Policy Council to take lead other GIS stakeholders in modernizing the State GIS Plan.

Larry Evans, Chair

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee completed a report which listed members' affiliations with other organizations. The committee also modified the roll call survey form.

Sean Litteral, Chair

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

In January 2008 the president appointed the Audit Committee to certify the correctness of the financial reports for the calendar year. Members included Tony Simental, Jennings Starcher, and Katherine Paybins

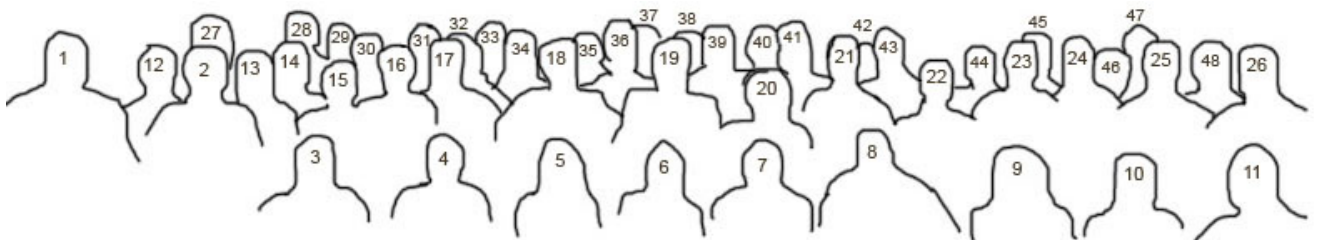
Presidential Committee – Land Records

A presidential select committee has been appointed to make recommendations to the president on how GIS practitioners may interact with other professions and associations to modernize and improve the efficiency of land records recording and mapping in West Virginia. The members of this committee will appoint the chair and work with external organizations to derive recommendations.

BYLAWS

WVAGP bylaws can be viewed or downloaded from the association's website:
<http://www.wvagp.org/Governance.asp>.

Charter Members (March 15, 2007)



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hussein Elkhansa | 17. Shane Taylor | 34. Diane Eldridge |
| 2. J.D. Adkins | 18. Marshall Burgess | 35. Rick Lawson |
| 3. Chandra Inglis-Smith | 19. Tony Siemental | 36. Scott McColloch |
| 4. Jennifer "Nicki" Barnett | 20. Terri Funk | 37. John Bocan |
| 5. Nancy Osborne | 21. Mark Holmes | 38. Frank LaFone |
| 6. Andrea Griffith | 22. Chris Eurice | 39. Robert Schaffer |
| 7. Jennings Starcher | 23. Matt Mullenax | 40. Kevin Kuhn |
| 8. Everett Perry | 24. Peter Villa | 41. Dave Sypolt |
| 9. April Savage | 25. Kurt Donaldson | 42. Rich Binns |
| 10. Connie Ervin | 26. Shaik Mohiuddin | 43. Jeff Stephens |
| 11. Pete Dailey | 27. Craig Neidig | 44. James Wolfe |
| 12. Theresa Litteral | 28. Eric Hopkins | 45. Douglas Shahan |
| 13. Brandie Yalniz | 29. Matthew Beckett | 46. Mike Shank |
| 14. Juan Guitierrez | 30. Sang Yoo | 47. Sam Lammie |
| 15. Michael Orr | 31. Tim Ransom | 48. Joe Bentley |
| 16. Katherine Paybins | 32. Andrew Steel | |
| | 33. Jim Kompanek | |

Board of Directors



| WVAGP Board 2007-2008 | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Organization | Sector | Email |
| Donaldson (President) | Kurt | WV GIS Technical Center, WVU | Education & Research | kdonalds@wvu.edu |
| Elkhansa (Vice President) | Hussein | Division of Highways | State | helkhansa@dot.state.wv.us |
| Evans | Larry | Department of Environmental Protection | State | levans@wvdep.org |
| Inglis-Smith (Secretary) | Chandra | Rahall Transportation Institute, MU | Education & Research | inglis.smith@gmail.com |
| Lawson | Rick | ESRI | Commercial | rlawson@esri.com |
| Litteral | Sean | Division of Highways | State | Slitteral@dot.state.wv.us |
| Mullenax | Matthew | Berkeley County Planning Department | County | mmullenax@berkeleycountycomm.org |
| Neidig (Ex officio) | Craig | Office of GIS Coordinator | State | cneidig@gis.state.wv.us |
| Paybins (Treasurer) | Katherine | U.S. Geological Survey | Federal | kpaybins@usgs.gov |
| Shaffer | Robert | Wood County Assessors Officer | County | robshaffer@woodcountywv.com |
| Starcher | Jennings | Health Care Authority | State | jstarcher@hcawv.org |
| Stephens | Jeff | JL Stephens and Associates | Commercial | jls@jlstephens.com |

Current Standing Committees



Communications Committee

To report and recommend on matters and methods of communication with the membership and the public.



Conference Committee

To report and recommend on plans for the annual conference.



Outreach Committee

To report and recommend on methods for exchanging information and for promoting an awareness of geospatial technologies.



Technical Issues Committee

To report and recommend on issues relevant to strategic planning, data development, standards, and shared services.



Election Committee

To report and recommend on nomination and election procedures.