

West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Mapping the Mountain State

P.O. Box 3903

Charleston, WV 25339

Email: WVAGPmail@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.wvagp.org>

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OFFICERS' REPORTS
(July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009)

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 the WVAGP Board of Directors came up with eight goals that WVAGP needed to focus on for the 2008-2009 year. We were successful in getting at least six out of the eight goals accomplished for the year. GIS

Double GIS Professionals in WV: At last year's annual membership meeting we only had seven certified members. As of today, I am proud to say that we have met this goal by now having 19 GISP certified members in West Virginia.

Assist the GIS Coordinator with development of GIS Strategic Plan: WVAGP is committed to working with Tony Simental, the WV GIS Coordinator, on developing a GIS Strategic Plan that will be beneficial as the plan will cover short-term (18-36 months) and long term (next 5 to 10 years) for GIS throughout the entire state.

Offer at least two GIS training courses: This past year WVAGP was successful in fulfilling this goal. On April 16, 2009 WVAGP offered a GIS Management Workshop in Flatwoods, WV where 45 participants participated in this course that was led by Pete Crosswell. On June 10, 2009 there was a Tax Mapping Workshop offered in Glenville, WV where as of today we have over 85 participants signed up for this workshop.

Work with the Election Committee on the Board Elections: The Election Committee has worked hard over the past year in preparing for the upcoming Board of Directors elections. I want to thank Rob Shaffer and his committee for contacting potential candidates, putting together the ballot and candidate profiles.

Newsletters: WVAGP has started putting out quarterly newsletters to all members keeping everyone up to date on what is going on with geospatial activities throughout the entire state.

Work on developing a standardized GIS Accuracy Disclaimer: WVAGP has started work on, and will continue work next year, on coming up with a GIS Accuracy Disclaimer. This will involve input from the entire geospatial community.

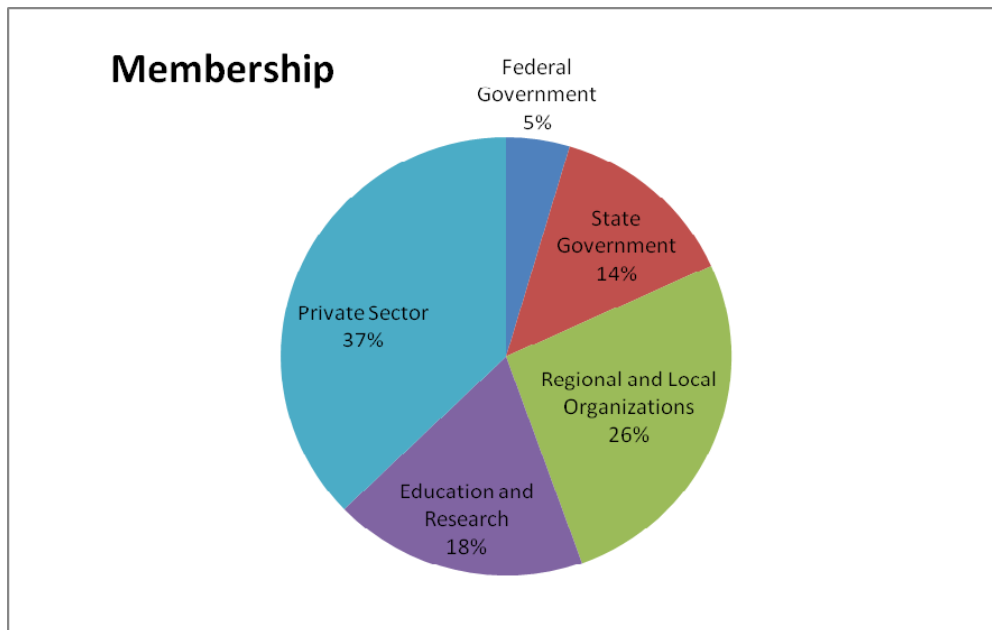
Lastly, I would like to thank the WVAGP officers, board members, committee chairs, members, and other volunteers who supported WVAGP this past year. Without their dedicated time, efforts, and financial support, this year's accomplishments would not have been possible.

Jennings Starcher
President, WVAGP

SECRETARY’S REPORT

As of June 1st there were a total of 110 members. The apportionment of the membership and board of directors reflects the broad-level representation of the association.

CONSTITUENCY GROUP	MEMBERSHIP (June 2009)	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Federal Government	5	1
State Government	15	4
Regional and Local Organizations	29	1
Education and Research	20	2
Private Sector	41	2
total	110	10



Kurt Donaldson
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is the audited financial report for the calendar year 2008 (January 1 – December 31, 2008). 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, 2008**

STARTING BALANCE

<i>Balance on hand January 1, 2008</i>	\$4,466.47
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EXPENSES

Hotel Rental, Room Equip	\$16,456.38
Socials	\$2,090.63
Admin	\$564.85
Awards	\$200.00
Speaker	\$687.60
Other Admin	\$435.09
Total Expenses	\$20,434.55

ALL INCOME

Membership	\$3,977.65
Conference	\$14,235.99
exNSpon	\$20,081.85
Grant	\$20,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,530.38
Total Income	\$59,825.87

SUMMATION

All Deposits	\$59,825.87
Bank-recorded expenses	-\$20,434.55
Bank Balance at the end of 2007	\$4,466.47
Net Balance for 2008	\$43,857.79

Katherine Paybins, Treasurer

Audited on April 24, 2009 and found correct

Tony Simental
Tami Koontz

Audit Committee

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Election Committee

During the last year the Election committee had a new chair, Rob Shaffer. The Election Committee has worked hard over the last year preparing for the 2009 WVAGP Board of Directors election by receiving ten qualified candidates for the six seats that are available. There is one candidate representing the Federal constituency, three candidates representing the State constituency, four candidates representing Regional/Local Government constituency and two candidates representing the Private Sector constituency. Ballots and Nomination Profiles were sent out to the membership on May 15, 2009. The committee has also worked hard in updating the Preferential Voting manual for the tellers to use in the upcoming election. Members of this committee included Vincent Post, Denyse Wycup and Kurt Donaldson.

Rob Shaffer,
Chairman

Communications Committee

During the last year the Communications Committee accomplished four tasks. They organized and conducted GIS Program Management Workshop in April; organized a successful tax map workshop scheduled for June 10, created workshop registration pages on website and set up email marketing service named ConstantContact.com for creating email messages and managing email lists. This service allows multiple persons to generate and distribute WVAGP emails. The committee has listed two tasks they have planned for the future. The committee would like to add free email service, newsletter, job links to WVAGP website and assist in acquiring a nonprofit mailing discount from the U.S. Postal Service.

Vincent Post III,
Chairman

Technical Issues Committee

Technical Committee subgroups work since the last meeting of the entire Association covers a broad spectrum. The most significant progress made in the opinion of the author of this report accomplishment of several tasks that mark the beginning of installation of a CORS network in West Virginia. In early February Department of Environmental Protection's GPS base stations administrator passed away unexpectedly. With two Trimble NetR5s already purchased but no one to manage their installation internally, partners in the collaborative effort stepped up in a big way. The first NetR5 was installed at Morgantown because of assistance by GPS Innovations and RTI. Pete Dailey also volunteered to file the necessary paperwork with NGA and as a result of everyone's collective efforts, Morgantown (WVMO) was accepted into the National CORS the week of May 18 - 22, 2009 [see <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/Status/>]. The Department of Transportation also successfully solicited bids to greatly expand the existing CORS network during the winter quarter of '09. They are moving forward with planning to installation of the infrastructure in cooperation with surveys in our State. The second of the NetR5s purchased in late '08 will be installed at WVDEP's Kanawha City headquarters before the end of June. Paperwork will be filed with the NGA and hopefully that station will become part of the National CORS before the end of the summer quarter of '09. Additional discussions are expected about optimizing RoI for deploying infrastructure by providing all possible services to both GIS and surveying professionals in the Mountain State.

After quite a long planning process, DoT and DEP jointly hosted a [Service Oriented Architecture \(SOA\)/ESRI Server Technologies](#) one day work shop April 29th at WVDEP's Kanawha City Headquarters. Quite a few of the State's owners of ArcGIS Server/SDE attended. In addition to the hosts, WVU's GIS Tech Center, RTI, Department of Health and Human Resources, Geologic and Economic Survey, Division of Natural Resources, the Charleston Sanitary Board and the Office of the State GIS Coordinator were all represented. The workshop provided participants insights into Server-based development of geospatial applications and a look into the potential of using geoservices and SOA to better engineer GIS Internet-based mapping applications. ESRI's JavaScript and Flex API-based applications development work was demonstrated and experiences shared by participants. The GIS Tech Center is compiling post-conference information about possible geoservices each participating entity believes they can host and what geoservices they would like to consume from partners in our State GIS effort. Members of the Technical Committee also attended GIS Steering Committee Meetings, participated in Strategic Planning discussions, and assisted the geospatial community in West Virginia and WVAGP in many other ways since the last Association meeting.

Larry Evans, Chair

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

In April 2009 the president appointed the Audit Committee to certify the correctness of the financial reports for the calendar year. Members included Tony Simental, Tami Koontzr, and Katherine Paybins

GIS-Surveying Committee

The GIS-Surveying Committee drafted a Map Disclaimer Policy and supportive resolution of this policy for the membership to consider and adopt at the annual meeting. It also drafted documents on NCEES Model Rules “Inclusion and Exclusion of Surveying Practice” and a tiered surveying licensure structure.

BYLAWS

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

Board of Directors



WVAGP Board (2008-2009) Members				
Last Name	First Name	Organization	Sector	Term Expires
Donaldson (Secretary)	Kurt	WV GIS Technical Center, WVU	Education & Research	2010
Elkhansa	Hussein	Division of Highways	State	2009
Evans (Vice-President)	Larry	Department of Environmental Protection	State	2009
Inglis-Smith (Secretary)	Chandra	Rahall Transportation Institute, MU	Education & Research	2010
Lawson	Rick	ESRI	Private Sector	2010
Litteral	Sean	Division of Highways	State	2009
Paybins (Treasurer)	Katherine	U.S. Geological Survey	Federal	2010
Shaffer	Robert	Wood County Assessors Office	County	2009
Simental (Ex officio)	Tony	WV GIS State Coordinator	State	
Starcher (President)	Jennings	Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	State	2010
Stephens	Jeff	JL Stephens and Associates	Private Sector	2009