

West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Mapping the Mountain State

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2009-10 WVAGP Board of Directors



2009-10 WVAGP Board Members				
Last Name	First Name	Organization	Sector	Term Expires
Donaldson (Secretary)	Kurt	WV GIS Technical Center, WVU	Education & Research	2010
Inglis-Smith (Secretary)	Chandra	Rahall Transportation Institute, MU	Education & Research	2010
Meadows	Eric	Thrasher Engineering	Private Sector	2010
Paybins (Treasurer)	Katherine	U.S. Geological Survey	Federal	2010
Starcher (President)	Jennings	Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	State	2010
Wu	Yueming	WV Dept. of Transportation	State	2010
Evans	Larry	Department of Environmental Protection	State	2011
Fagan (Vice-President)	Todd	Jefferson County E-911	County	2011
Neidig	Craig	U.S. Geological Survey	Federal	2011
Selfridge	Jennifer	Stone Energy Corporation	Private Sector	2011
Shaffer	Robert	Wood County Assessor's Office	County	2011

OFFICERS' REPORTS
(July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010)

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 2010 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 had four major accomplishments that are listed below.

GISPs in WV: Every year we continue to increase the number of WVAGP members who attain GISP certification. As of this date we have 22 GISP certified members in West Virginia.

Communication: Last year WVAGP introduced quarterly newsletters. This year we introduced Facebook as a way to communicate with members about what is going on with WVAGP. There are plans to explore further communication possibilities (Twitter).

Assist the GIS Coordinator with development of GIS Strategic Plan: WVAGP has been participating with Tony Simental, WV GIS Coordinator, on the WV GIS Strategic Plan. Once completed this plan highlights what is needed to make GIS viable and a success in West Virginia for the next five years. WVAGP has participated by attending Strategic Plan Committee Meetings and being an active member on the GIS Policy Council Meetings.

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. There were three new Board Members elected to the Board this year.

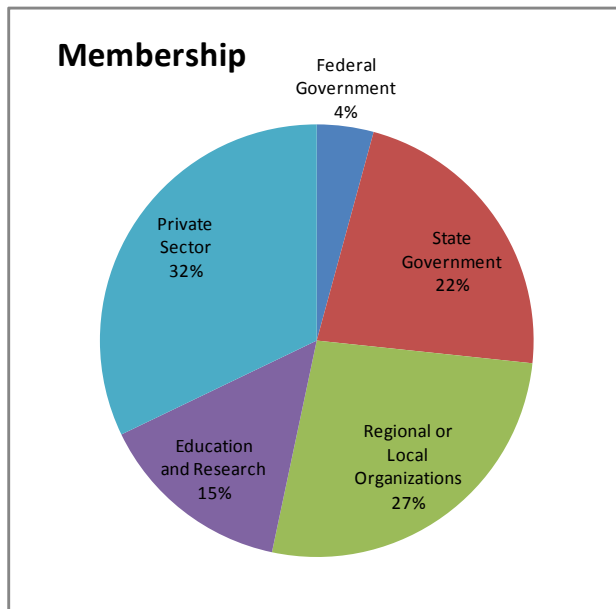
Lastly, I would like to thank the WVAGP officers, board members, committee chairs, members, and other volunteers who supported WVAGP this past year. Without their dedicated time, efforts, and financial support, this year's accomplishments would not have been possible.

Jennings Starcher
President, WVAGP

SECRETARY’S REPORT

As of June 1st there were a total of 165 members. The apportionment of the membership and board of directors reflects the broad-level representation of the association.

CONSTITUENCY GROUP	MEMBERSHIP (June 2010)	BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members)
Federal Government	7	2
State Government	37	3
Regional and Local Organizations	44	2
Education and Research	24	2
Private Sector	53	2
total	165	11



Kurt Donaldson
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is the audited financial report for the calendar year 2009 (January 1 – December 31, 2009). 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, 2009**

STARTING BALANCE

<i>Balance on hand January 1, 2009</i>	\$43,857.79
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EXPENSES

PayPal	-\$167.05
GIS Management Seminar	-\$2,065.79
Assessor GIS training	-\$140.49
WVAGP meetings	-\$183.50
Office expenses, not related to seminars	-\$186.89
Communication	-\$594.00
Miscellaneous	-\$90.00
Total Expenses	-\$3,427.72

ALL INCOME

Membership	\$1,420.00
GIS management seminar	\$3,290.00
Assessor GIS seminar	\$2,650.00
Total Income	\$7,360.00

SUMMATION

Deposits	\$7,360.00
Expenses	-\$3,427.72
Net Balance for WVAGP accounts for 2009	\$47,790.07
Bank Balance for 2008	\$43,857.79
Bank Balance at end of 2009	\$47,790.07

Audited in May 2010 and found correct.

Tony Simental
Tami Koontz

Audit Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Election Committee

The Election Committee had a special election on November 13th, 2009 to replace one board member who resigned. There were three candidates vying for the seat to fill the unexpired term until July 1st, 2010. Eric Meadows won the seat. The Election Committee has worked hard preparing for the 2010 WVAGP Board of Directors election. We have ten qualified candidates for the six seats that are available. There is one candidate representing the Federal constituency, two candidates representing the State constituency, two candidates representing Regional/Local Government constituency, two candidates representing the Education & Research constituency, and three candidates representing the Private Sector constituency. Ballots and Nominee Profiles were sent out to the membership on May 17th, 2010. Election of the new Board of Directors members will be at the annual membership meeting June 8th, 2010. The new members' term will begin on July 1st 2010 and will expire July 1st 2012. Members of the election committee included Chairman Robb Shaffer, Vincent Post, and Kurt Donaldson.

Rob Shaffer, Chair

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee implemented a number of online services to improve communications among its membership. New services implemented include the ConstantContact email marketing service, Facebook, and Slideshare accounts. The Committee also published a newsletter, maintained the WVAGP member liststerves, and assisted with the conference website.

- ConstantContact Email Marketing
 - Free mailing list (members or non-members)
 - Subscribe/Unsubscribe automatically
 - Newsletter Archives
- WVAGP Member ListServe (WVAGP@LISTSERV.WVU.EDU)
- WVAGP on Facebook
- SlideShare for Presentations
- Conference Website / Communications

Members of the Communications Committee included Jennifer Selfridge and Eric Meadows.

Kurt Donaldson, Chair

Conference Committee

The 2010 WV GIS Conference was hosted by Marshall University's Geography Department, State GIS Coordinator, and WVAGP. Almost 200 people attended the conference. Noteworthy enhancements of the 2010 WV GIS Conference include an expanded awards program and attendance by Governor Manchin. Committee members included Kurt Donaldson, Dr. James Leonard, Craig Neidig, Katherine Paybins, and Jennings Starcher. Approximately eleven Marshall and WVU students provided significant administrative support. Refer to the conference website (<http://wvagp.org/conference/2010/>) for more information.



Student Assistants for Conference

Tony Simental, Chair

Outreach Committee

The level of WVAGP outreach activities increased in quantity and intensity during the last year. Many individual WVAGP members participated in activities such as presentations and talks to social and civic organizations, schools, and professional groups throughout the state. Discussions and jointly sponsored activities with organizations such as URISA, the WV Geography Alliance, Miss Utility of WV, the WV Society of Land Surveyors, and others have occurred. Several organizational actions of note took place:

- In cooperation with the WV GIS Coordinator's Office, and the WV GIS Technical Center, WVAGP sponsored a Tax Mapping workshop held June 10, 2009 at Glenville State College.
- WVAGP members were involved in planning, organizing and participating in the 3rd Annual Eastern Panhandle GIS Users Group meeting held September 18, 2009 in Shepherdstown.
- Members of the WVAGP GIS-Surveying committee cooperated with the WV Board of Professional Surveyors to draft language to modify the "Inclusions and Exclusions of Surveying Practice" as prescribed in the NCEES Model Rules, to be incorporated into legislation. Both organizations adopted resolutions supporting the measure.
- In cooperation with the WV Dept. of Transportation, WVAGP members were involved in planning, organizing and participating in the annual GIS In Transportation (GIS-T) Conference held April 10-14, 2010 in Charleston.

- WVAGP was the principle sponsor of, and WVAGP members were involved in planning, organizing and participating in the 2010 WV GIS Conference held June 7-10, 2010 at Marshall University in Huntington.
- WVAGP members provided input into the new state GIS Strategic Plan that was unveiled in June 2010. WVAGP members also are active in the State GIS Policy Council and State GIS Steering Committee.
- In cooperation with the WV Department of Education and ESRI, WVAGP members were involved in planning, organizing and participating in the GIS Training for Teachers Workshop scheduled for July 26-30, 2010 in Morgantown.

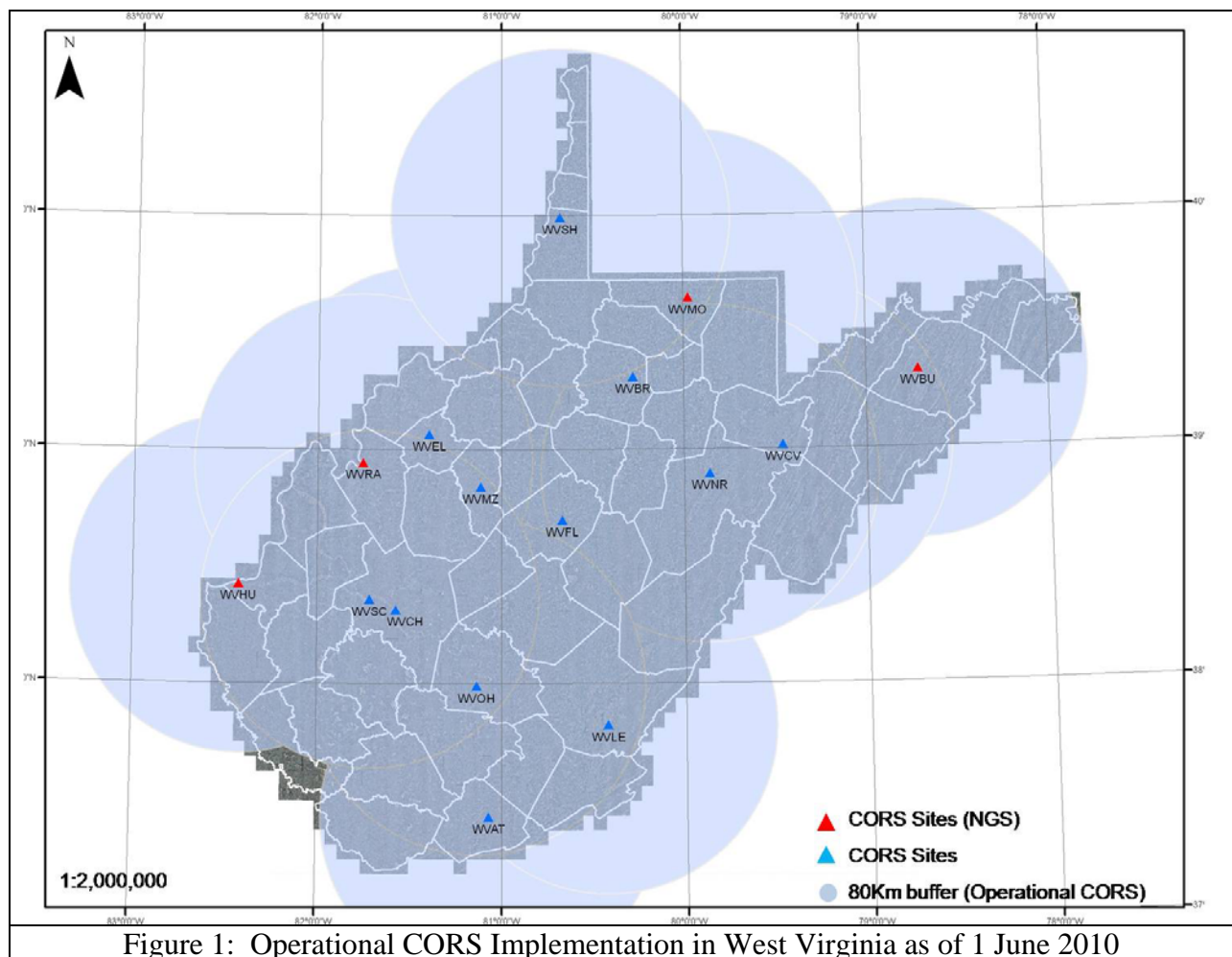
Future WVAGP outreach initiatives include the planning and scheduling of future workshops on GIS topics. Cultivation of relationships, both informal and formal, with other organizations with geospatial interests also will be undertaken. Participation in “geomentoring” activities related to academic and professional development, especially at the K-12 and technical college level, is encouraged.

Craig Neidig, Chair

Technical Issues Committee

Technical Committee continues to deal with broad spectrum issues. Two major cooperative efforts continue into 2010. They are (1) implementation of a network of CORS in West Virginia and (2) standing up geoservices-based distributed GIS applications. A third major cooperative effort, Statewide LiDAR coverage, began to be seriously discussed and then actively worked on in early 2010.

Progress continues toward a successful implementation of a CORS network in West Virginia (see Figures 1 and 2 below). Currently data from stations WVBU (Burlington), WVHU (Huntington), WVMOR (Morgantown), and WVRA (Ravenswood) can be downloaded from National Geodetic Survey (NGS) by accessing their [CORS repository](#) (see red triangles, Figure 1 below). Stations



Several additional stations are now operating but have not been fully accepted by the NGS. These include WVAT (Athens), WVBR (Bridgeport), WVCH (Charleston), WVCV (Canaan), WVLE (Elizabeth), WVFL (Flatwoods), WVLE (Lewisburg), WVMZ (Mount Zion), WVNR

(Elkins), WVOH (Oak Hill), WVSC (South Charleston), and WVSH (Sherrard) are also represented in Figure 1 (blue triangles). Antenna locations for these test sites have been determined from available information; however the positions are subject to adjustment as each station moves toward becoming approved by NGA and fully operational as a CORS. Finally Figure 2 (below) shows sites currently considered non-operation (black triangles) that are in the process of being constructed. In addition to use by surveyors, data from West Virginia’s new CORS stations was utilized in controlling a LiDAR mission flown in April covering Coal and Guyandotte River watersheds in the southern part of the State.

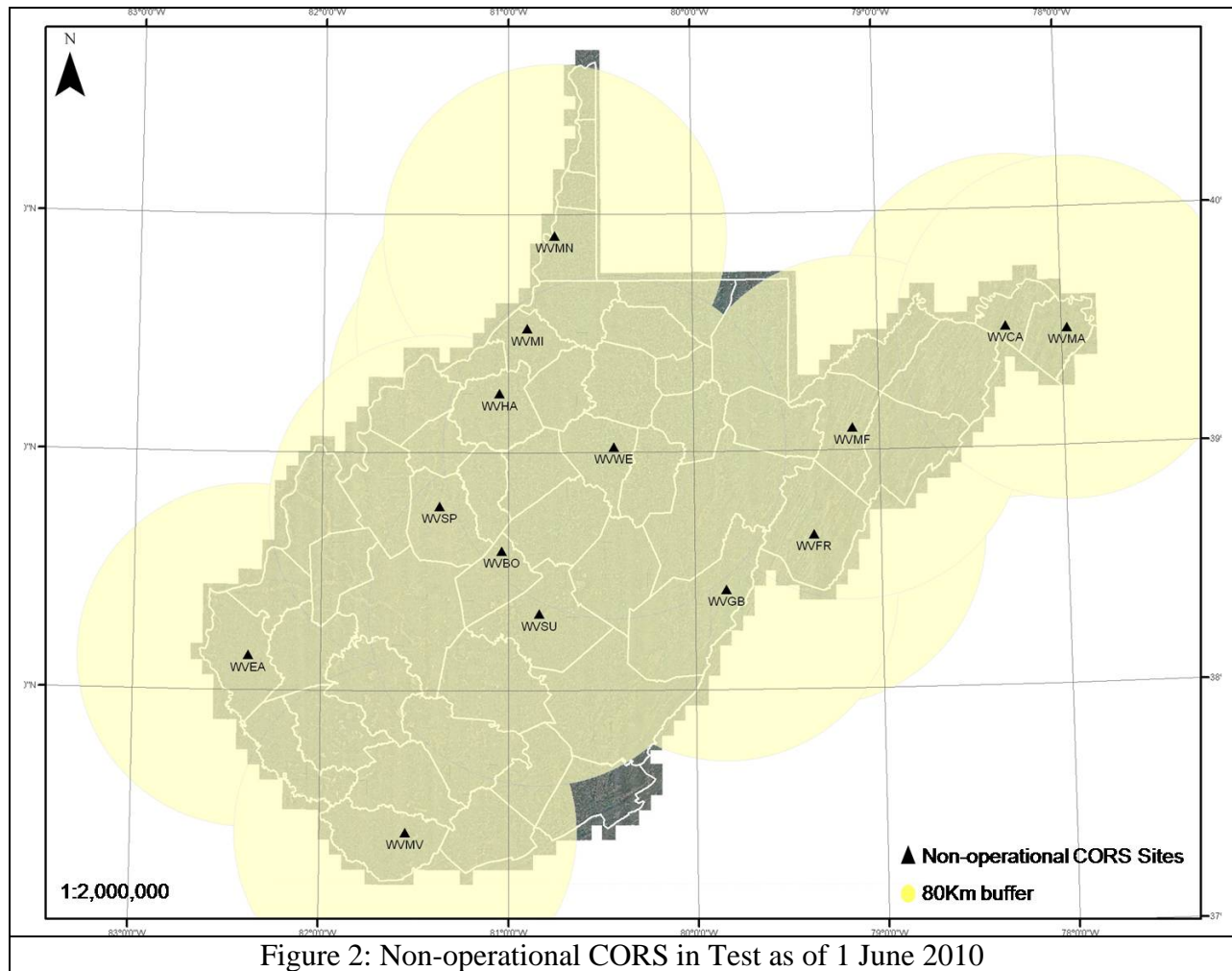


Figure 2: Non-operational CORS in Test as of 1 June 2010

April 29, 2009’s Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)/ESRI Server Technologies one day work shop jointly hosted by WVDEP and WVDoT resulted in establishment of several new geoservices in 2010 by those participating. Significant new geoservices includes a geocoding service created by the WV GIS Technical Center that utilizes addressing data accumulated via the 2003 WVSAMB project, locations of highway construction projects in West Virginia and a new 2009 imagery geoservice. The imagery data was created from quarter quad tiles stored on a USB drive by the GIS Tech Center and delivered to WVDEP the morning of May the 21, 2010. As of yesterday morning professionals running ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Explorer could now attach to a new imagery geoservice using the Internet. A proof of concept of what can be accomplished collaboratively using ArcGIS Server/Flex API-based has also been stood up at

<http://gisonline.dep.wv.gov/demo/wviambad/index.html>. This app mashes up geoservices from ESRI (street and topo basemap layers), WVDEP (construction materials stockpiles point layer, imagery basemap), WVDoT (road construction projects layer) and the GIS Technical Center (geocoding service). It also reprojects datasets from geographic coordinates (WVDEP's datasets) and UTM coordinates (DoT) on-the-fly to a common Web Mercator projection. This is the kind of real time, distributed, cooperative GIS application that can only be created using a geoservices-based data model. The last of the 2009 workshop goals, 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, remains unrealized but is regarded as the keystone for moving forward cooperative GIS in West Virginia. Initial thinking that best return on investment for ArcGIS Server was creation of rich Internet applications (RIAs) as discussed above has begun to be challenged by the notion that creative use of geoprocessing might very well provide a much larger group of users immediate and significant benefits. In fact the potential use of providing geospatial functionality that non-geospatial developers can utilize might actually be the "low hanging fruit" of ArcGIS Server. To support this new thinking four basic testing prototypes have been stood up. They provide users the following geoprocessing functionality:

- Push up coordinates from anywhere in the country and get a return of the State and County (could be expanded to include zipcode, quadrangle, watershed, etc.).
- Click on a map and get a return of an elevation value anywhere in West Virginia (... USGS geoservice that returns data from a 3 meter elevation grid).
- Push a .gpx file (Version 1.0 on the .gpx format only so far) up to ArcGIS Server and see the points collected instantly on a map → <http://gisonline.dep.wv.gov/wpt/>.
- Push an Excel '96 – '03 format .xls file up to ArcGIS Server and see the points collected instantly on a map → <http://gisonline.dep.wv.gov/xls/>.

In December of 2009 the opportunity to purchase West Virginia's first contiguous block of LiDAR data larger than a county in extent lead to serious discussions about how we might move forward with a project to complete acquisition of LiDAR statewide. The first step in reaching that goal was identified as inventorying spatial extent of all existing LiDAR projects. Figure 2 shows the area in West Virginia that will be covered by LiDAR data after completion of WVDEP/WVU's current 2010 Coal Fields project. This graphic also includes recent LiDAR acquisitions completed by Cabell, Jefferson, Kanawha and Marion Counties and a large flight contracted by Hunting District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along the New and Kanawha Rivers. Now the challenges are figuring out how to fund more work and how to prioritize where that work should be done. One possible way to accomplish the next step might be to capitalize on what the WVDEP/WVU 2010 Coal Fields project didn't fully capture. Because the WVDEP/WVU project is watershed and current and future mining-based, the most cost effective opportunity for expansion likely involves counties with only partial coverage funding completion of their acreage. Their cost to complete the county will be considerably less than having to fly its entire spatial extent. Computations have not yet been done to see how far that would move the project beyond 41% coverage at the end of 2010 toward a goal of 100% sometime in the future.

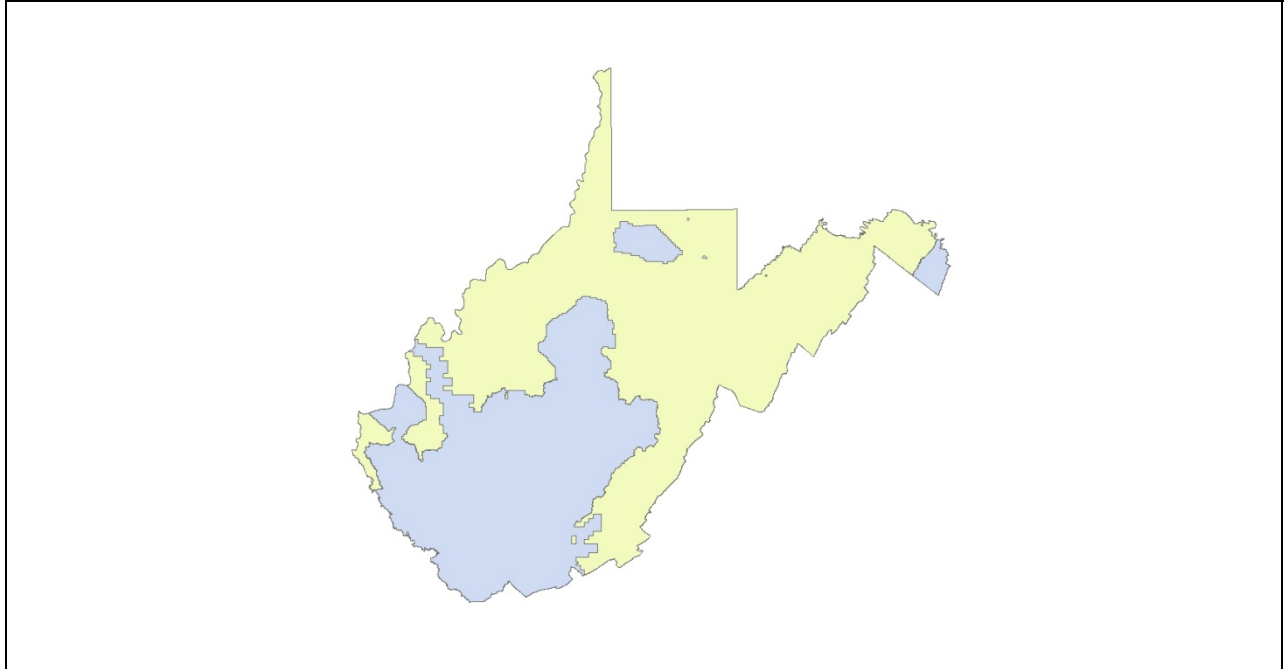


Figure 2: Area of West Virginia covered by one or more LiDAR flights by the end of 2010

Members of the Technical Committee also continued attending GIS Steering Committee and GIS Policy Council Meetings, participated in preparation of the draft GIS Strategic Plan, and assisted the geospatial community in West Virginia and the WVAGP in many other ways since the last Association meeting.

Larry Evans, Technical Issues Committee Chair

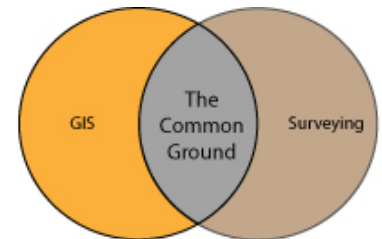
SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

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

GIS-Surveying Committee

In 2009 the GIS-Surveying Committee drafted and the WVAGP membership approved two resolutions. The first resolution approved a map disclaimer policy to encourage geospatial professionals to appropriately cite data sources on hardcopy maps. The second resolution approved the NCEES Model Rule Inclusions and Exclusions of Surveying Practice to delineate GIS and surveying practices. In 2010 the WV Legislature incorporated into WV Code the surveying inclusion and exclusion rules. The GIS-Surveying Committee also discussed the establishment of allied memberships between WVAGP and WVSPS. Since the committee tasks of this ad hoc special committee have been fulfilled, the committee recommends that the GIS-Surveying Committee be discharged and that future GIS-Surveying issues be addressed by the Outreach Committee.



Committee Members: Professional Surveyors included John Green, Rick Witte, Chuck Smith, and Richard Henline; GIS Professionals included Robert Shaffer, Craig Neidig, Jennings Starcher, Sam Lammie, and Matt Mullenax.

Co-Chair, Jeff Stephens

Co-Chair, Kurt Donaldson

BYLAWS

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