

**SUBJECT:** General Meeting Summary

**DATE:** April 4, 2008

**LOCATION:** Clarion Hotel, 74 State Street, Albany, NY

---

*The meeting began at 9:30 AM.*

***Meeting Purpose***

ASPRS meeting, NYS Orthoimagery Program review, TerraGo GeoTiff presentation, NYSGIS Committee updates, Private Sector Advisory Group update, NYS Strategic Business Plan Grant update, and NYS Surveyor Licensing proposed legislation discussion.

***Attendance***

36 attended the meeting, with 17 members present.

***Handouts***

- Copy of NYS Surveyor Licensing proposed legislation (Bill S04396)
- Summary of NYS Surveyor Licensing proposed legislation (Bill S04396)
- Language comparison of the NYS Surveyor Licensing proposed legislation (Bill S04396) and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Model Law
- National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Model Law and Model Law Rules
- TerraGo GeoPDF brochure
- TerraGo GeoPDF demo CD

***Introduction***

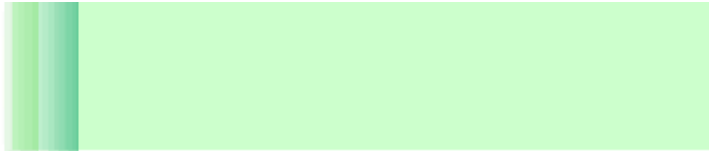
Jeff Volpe coordinated the meeting, with attendees introducing themselves.

***ASPRS Meeting***

Linda Quackenbush and Ricardo Lopez announced several activities of the ASPRS:

- ITT is sponsoring the Student of the Year award (\$2000 for a graduate student, \$2000 for an undergraduate student)
- The 2008 Remote Sensing Symposium will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at SUNY ESF in Syracuse. This is a half-day event held in the afternoon.

*Note:* Austin Fisher recommend using the NYSGISA as a nexus for coordinating statewide events and posting announcements.



### ***NYS Orthoimagery Program Update***

Tim Ruhren of NYS Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC) gave a presentation on the recent orthoimagery lots and upcoming contracts for 2008 and 2009. Listed below are key points to the presentation (the complete PowerPoint will be posted on the NYSGISA website in the near future):

- Two contracts are in place now:
  - 2007 with Infotech is wrapping now
  - 2008-2009 with the Sanborn Map Company is now established, and can be renewed up to 2012
- The 2008+ imagery will include 4 bands (red, blue, green, and NIR) capture at the price of 3 bands
- Digital capture is required
- Raw imagery is available
- Accuracy of the imagery is +/- 4 feet for 1-foot resolution, +/- 8 feet for 2-foot resolution
- The imagery is compressed in JPEG2000 format
- Lot 7 (2007) – some counties are now complete, others flown are still in review
- Lot 8 – will be flown this year (2008)
- Lot 9 – to be flown in 2009
- Ricardo Lopez of the NYS DEC discussed the FEMA DTM Option
  - Funds originally slated by the NYS DEC for NIR band capture will now be used for LIDAR in three areas of the state, in partnership with CSCIC and NYS DOT

### ***TerraGo Presentation on GeoPDF***

Matt Falter provided a presentation on TerraGo Technologies's GeoPDF product. This included a brief company overview, software orientation, and demonstration of how the product works. Evaluation CDs were provided at the handout table (but does not include the Geomark functionality).

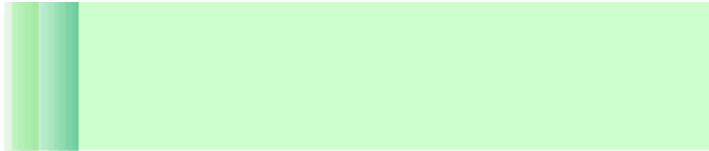
### ***NYSGISA Committee Updates***

#### **Marketing:**

Bruce Oswald announced the Committee members. A survey will be posted on the NYS GIS List Serve next week. Lanyards and some flash drives have been ordered and will be distributed at the 2008 NYS Geospatial Summit. Association news blitzes will be posted on the NYS GIS List Serve on a regular basis in the near future. Bruce wrapped up with a request for two volunteers – one to post job announcements on the NYSGISA website, another to keep the Events section of the website up to date.

#### **Business Development:**

Verne LaClair announced that the Committee would post a PowerPoint on the NYSGISA website describing the objectives of the Committee. Members of the Committee were listed and the goals were read. The Committee has been reviewing other studies of GIT for relevance and ideas for stimulating GIT growth in New York.



Education:

Bob Brower described how business development in NYS is closely tied to work force availability, and therefore the Education and Business Development Committees are coordinating activities. The NYS SUNY system is exploring a goal of making NYS the GIS education center in the United States.

Last week the NYSGISA Board of Directors approved contribution of \$1,500 for five \$300 scholarships for the TWIST GIS summer camp at Cayuga Community College (<http://www.iagt.org/twist/students.aspx>). Students receiving a scholarship will be expected to provide a write-up of their experience.

Bob requested members for the committee.

Regional Coordination:

Larry Alber announced that all regional user groups are now active. A major goal of the Committee is increasing communication between the regions. A map of general distribution of the regional groups is posted on the NYSGISA website.

Legislative:

See final section of this report.

***Private Sector Advisory Group***

Austin Fisher announced that the Group is drafting guidelines for GIS services (as an aid for RFP development). A conference call between group members will be set up in the near future.

***FGDC Grant Update***

Frank Winters (NYS CSCIC) briefly discussed the grant status. 162 people participated in the stakeholder meetings held throughout the state in 2007. The findings and feedback from these meetings were compiled into a Discussion draft in December 2007, and will soon be posted on the CSCIC website. The comments are also being refined and incorporated into the draft strategic business plan.

***NYS Surveyor Licensing Proposed Legislation (Bill S04396)***

Bill Johnson (CSCIC) provided handouts (see Page 1 of this report) and described the existing legislation as well as the current proposed bill. Key notes:

- This land surveyor licensing bill has been submitted to the NYS Legislature for three years, but has yet to be approved by the Education Committee
- The bill was introduced by the New York State Public Land Surveyors (NYSAPLS)
- The bill could be approved at any time by the Education Committee
- The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) publishes a “Model Law” and “Model Rules” providing guidelines for defining engineering and surveying. Each state can use this language or modify it for their respective licensing



legislation. The Model Rules provides explicit examples of what are considered surveying responsibilities.

- Some states, such as Oregon, have adopted the language and Model Rules examples within their licensing legislation. This has helped clarify what activities are restricted to licensed surveyors, and what activities are exceptions (i.e., can be done by non-licensed individuals).
- Other states, like New York, are also in the process of modifying surveyor licensing legislation.
- Although the handout of the proposed bill can be used as a reference, NYSGISA member comments and feedback to the Board of Directors should be postponed until the current version is posted on the NYS Legislature website
- NYSAPL is not interested in inclusion of examples defining licensed surveying activities in the proposed bill. If the bill is approved without such examples, this means the NYS Education Department will need to interpret the broad and vague definition of the proposed bill for cases (rather than having specific examples to refer to as a baseline for determination)
- Bill Johnson suggested two action options for the NYSGISA:
  - Work with NYSAPLS to encourage modification of the bill's language to accommodate both the surveying and GIT communities needs
  - The NYSGISA can work at the Education Committee level now to have the bill's language modified or to get the bill thrown out altogether

Following Bill Johnson's summary, a discussion of the bill and possible NYSGISA response was opened to the meeting attendees. Listed below are the comments:

- Austin Fisher thought the NYSGISA quickly decided whether to take a stand before the bill passes the Education Committee, and also recommended several volunteers review the current bill and generate an action plan to the Board of Directors
- John Trimber clarified how the existing law defines what can and cannot be done by non-licensed individuals:
  - Only a licensed surveyor (or a person working directly under the supervision of a licensed surveyor) can be paid for GPS data collection. This appeared to include paid interns collecting GPS data for their employer
  - Data can be collect by GPS by a non-licensed individual for their own use (or organization's use), but cannot be sold (even to cover the cost of materials and shipping)
  - Products produced from original data do not have to be created by a licensed surveyor
  - The current law is "all inclusive"
- The NYSGISA needs to time to review the proposed bill and decide whether it is good or bad for the GIT profession as a whole and specifically for GIS businesses in New York
- Does modification of the proposed bill negatively impact public safety?
- How can the NYSGISA help definite "best practices" for GIT work in NYS?



- Would adding inclusions/exclusions defining activities restricted to licensed surveyors in the bill really help the State Education Department reviewing cases?
- It will be probably be very difficult to modify the bill (if and when it is passed) if the NYSGISA takes no action at all before the bill is approved by Education Committee
- Can the NYSGISA lobby in favor or again legislation? The Association's legal council needs to be consulted on this issue.

**A motion** was raised by Austin Fisher for the NYSGISA Legislative Committee to draft a letter for review by the Board of Directors recommending the Education Committee of the Legislature **delay a decision** on the proposed bill. The intent of such a letter would be to communicate:

1. The NYSGISA recognizes that the bill may impact the GIT community
2. The NYSGISA is unprepared to either support or oppose the proposed bill, and would like more time to review the legislation, as well as reach out to NYSAPL

The Board of Directors will determine whether to forward to letter on to the Education Committee of the Legislature. This review by the Board will take place in the next week or so.

The motion was passed by the majority of attendees, with one opposition.

*The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.*