



**Date:** July 27, 2011

**Subject:** Board of Directors Teleconference

**Attendees:** Bruce Oswald, Lis DeGironimo, Ann Deakin, Dorothy Nash, Rich Quodomine, Carol Zollweg,

**Unable to Attend:** Christa Hay, Ben Houston, Sheri Norton, Verne LaClair, Dennis Wischmann, Joe Jones

**Minutes:**

The teleconference meeting began at 2:00 pm

Previous Minutes

Minutes for the June Board of Directors meeting were not reviewed. The Board agreed to do that during its August meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Association and Geospatial Summit budgets were discussed briefly. However, as no reports were available, no action was taken on them. Bruce stated that the preliminary results from the Summit indicated that the event had been financially viable for the Association.

Previous Action Items

A brief review of the following action items identified during the June BOD meeting was conducted.

- IRS tax Exempt process (Working) – Bruce noted that the letter from NYS Tax and Finance was fairly definitive on why it turned down the Association for tax-exempt status. He agreed to try to get a free opinion from a lawyer to review the document to determine if it makes sense to appeal the ruling. If that is not possible, Rich agreed to contact a lawyer he knows.
- Web site Contract (Working) – Bruce apologized for the delay in getting a draft of the web site contract to Carol. Carol agreed to review it and provide comments to Bruce.
- Web site payment (Working) – The Board authorized Christa to pay IDS for the work (which Carol indicated had been completed). Bruce will write a letter to IDS indicating the Association's displeasure with their service.
- Policy of giving out membership info (Working) – The Board agreed to postpone discussion on this issue.

Items Requiring Board Action

- New Board Member – The Board acknowledged the resignation of Jeff Volpe from the Board and noted the contribution that he had made to the Association of the past several years. It was noted that Jeff had some 15 months left on his term and the Board needed to appoint a new person as soon as possible to take his place. A discussion occurred over potential candidate. Key factors noted for consideration were diversifying geographical

diversity of Board members, improving ties to regional groups and insuring that the Board retained a good mix of public and private sector participants. The Board agreed that one of the most active user groups was GIS/SIG (Rochester and surrounding region) and Board representation from that area or Long Island would be desirable. Lis agreed to contact GIS/SIG to see if they had any potential candidates for Board consideration.

- Comments to FCC – Lis suggested that the Board forward a letter to the FCC requesting that it withhold authorization for LightSquared to commence operations. The Board agreed with the suggestion. Lis indicated that she would draft a letter as well as a notification for the list serve. Lis stated that she would forward a final letter to the FCC by the deadline of July 30<sup>th</sup>. She also agreed to draft letters to our US Senators.
- Annual Meeting – Bruce noted that Board needed to initiate planning for the Annual Meeting to be held at NEARC including the creation of a Nominations Committee.
- Nominations Committee – Lis agreed to chair the Nominations Committee. Rich and Bruce agreed to serve on the committee as well. Lis will contact Sheri to learn about the procedures that Sheri had used for the committee in the past.
- Awards – Bruce stated that Ben Houston had indicated that the Marketing Committee would be starting work on this in August.
- Attracting new members – The Board agreed to postpone discussion on this until the next meeting.

### Committee Reports

#### Legislative:

- Bruce noted that the legislative session had ended without the surveyor's legislation ever getting out of committee. He stated that the Association would continue to work on refining the bill language over the coming year.

#### Education:

- Ann reported that the K-12 Esri license had been signed by NYIT and agreed to put an announcement out on it for the list serve in the near future.
- The Board discussed the amount of funds that they could make available to support the 2011 TWIST workshop. Ann made a motion to provide \$1,000. Dorothy seconded it. It passed unanimously.

#### Regional Coordination:

- Lis indicated that she was following up with the regional groups who had been contacted regarding the signing of an MOU with the Association.
- Dorothy reported that the NYC GeoSymposium would be held the week of NEARC. This event would include a remembrance of the contributions of regional geospatial professionals during the recovery from 9/11. Dorothy asked for assistance in seeking outside funding. Bruce agreed to see if he could help.

#### Conference:

- Bruce reported that the Summit had gotten good reviews from attendees and that he felt it had been extremely successful. He noted that the preliminary budget numbers showed that it had been successful financially thanks to the grant from the USGIF and the sponsorship levels.

- Bruce also reported that some additional e-mail correspondence on the State Conference had occurred between himself and Chuck Spuches of ESF regarding its future. Bruce indicated that he had made it clear to Chuck that the Board's position on the conference moving in a different direction after the 2012 conference had not changed.

#### Marketing:

- Ben Houston had previously submitted a written report on the Marketing Committee actions to the Board.

#### By-Laws:

- By-Law changes – Rich stated that he would be working with Bill Johnson on the changes and agreed to forward a draft to the Board for their review shortly. He also noted that he would be sending a letter out to the list serve asking for member input on changes they felt might be necessary.
- Rich indicated that he wished to put forth a “Memorializing” policy for Board consideration. After some discussion, Bruce requested that Rich provide a draft the policy for Board comment and suggested that it be discussed at the next Board or Prez call meeting.

#### Membership:

- Carol noted that the membership year had started on July 1<sup>st</sup> and we currently had 163 members.

#### Communications:

- Carol indicated that Don Meltz was continuing to provide regular communications on Twitter and Facebook and the committee was trying to see how the sites might be linked more closely. Carol stated that they would like to have the Board members contribute to both sites directly and indicated that would send out a the password to the Board to enable them to access the sites.
- Carol also reported that DeepInk was working on the revised website and Vijay was evaluating the best software to use for the membership database.
- Finally, Carol noted that the last draft of the newsletter was out for review and that Sheri hoped to have it out by the end of the week.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm

#### ACTION ITEM LIST

- Bruce agreed to try to get a free opinion from a lawyer to review the Tax Exemption rejection letter to determine if it makes sense to appeal the ruling. If that is not possible, Rich agreed to contact a lawyer he knows.
- Carol agreed to review web site contract and provide comments to Bruce.
- Christa is authorized to pay IDS for the web site work. Bruce will write a letter to IDS indicating the Association's displeasure with their service.
- Christa will provide an updated Treasurer's report and a final report on the Summit's finances.
- Sheri will complete the newsletter in the next few days.
- Lis will contact GIS/SIG to see if they had any potential Board candidates for consideration.

- Lis will send a note suggesting to the list serve encouraging comments to the FCC on the LightSquared issue and draft a letter from the Association to the FCC for review before sending the final version to the FCC by the July 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. She will also draft a letter to New York's US Senators on the same issue.
- Lis will contact Sheri to see if she would be on the Nominations Committee.
- Lis will follow up with the regional groups who had been contacted regarding the signing of an MOU with the Association.
- The Marketing Committee would be starting work on the Association awards in August.
- Ann will put an announcement on the list serve in the near future out on the progress of the K-12 initiative.
- Christa is authorized to send a \$1,000 donation to TWIST.
- Bruce will provide help for Dorothy in obtaining outside funding for the NYC GeoSymposium remembrance of the contributions geospatial professionals during the 9/11 recovery.
- Rich will work with Bill Johnson on the by-law changes and forward a draft to the Board for their review shortly. He will also send a letter out to the list serve asking for member input on changes they felt might be necessary.
- Rich will draft a "Memorializing" policy for Board consideration.
- Carol will have the Twitter and Facebook passwords sent out to the Board to enable them to post messages to the sites.