

## January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015: Regional Coordination Committee Conference Call; 11am to Noon

### Draft Minutes

#### Agenda

- 1) Regional Roundup: Brief reports from all regional groups
- 2) What's new with the NYS GIS Association (NYS GIS Association President Susan Nixon, if available)
- 3) Building out Regional Groups to cover the entire State: Central NY, Saratoga, Southern Tier, Catskills
- 4) Report on Geospatial Advisory Committee developments (Jim Daly, Vice Chair of GAC and Co-Chair Regional Committee)
- 5) Discussion of NYS GIS Association advocacy for GIS services to jurisdictions across the State who currently lack them.
- 6) The initiation of Professional Affiliation Groups (PAGs) in Transportation and Infrastructure
- 7) The Fall 2015 GeoCon in Albany, and an awards contest for best GIS applications
- 8) Professional Development events for coming months (Garvis DeLauro, Chair, Professional Development Committee)

#### Attendees

Garvis DiLauro, Central NY

Jonnell Allen Robinson, Central NY

Andre Finkelstein, Central NY

Ross Baldwin, LIGIS

James Daly, LIGIS, Co-Chair Regional Committee, Vice-President NYS GAC

Doug Schuetz, Rockland County

Steven Pollachov, NYC ARC Users, NAPSG

Eileen Allen, North Country

Star Carter, North Country

Susan Nixon, President, NYS GIS Association; Synergis

Alan Leidner, Bd of Directors NYC GISMO, Co-Chair Regional Committee

#### Minutes

**1. Regional Updates:** Participants were asked to provide updates about their work and their regions. Leidner welcomed the participation of three members of the newly formed Central NY Regional group.

**Steven Pollackov (NYC ARC Users, NAPSG):** Informed the Committee that he had retired from the NYC Fire Department and now works for a private sector GIS firm. He continues as a leader of the NYC ArcUsers Group and mentioned that there are plans for an event in the near future. He also serves on the Board of Directors of NYC GISMO and is the regional chair of NAPSG. He is working on developing symbology for urban fire departments.

**Andre Finkelstein (Central NY):** The Central NY Regional groups is now starting to organize. Next week there will be a meeting with eleven participants expected. They will talk about organizing webinars and other events. They will discuss how data can be better standardized and combined across the region. They will identify good data managers in the region and seek their advice about short cuts, etc.

**Ross Baldwin (LIGIS):** LIGIS held a successful Fall users conference and has an upcoming 2015 Steering Committee meeting set for Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. They are working towards a Spring Conference.

**James Daly (LIGIS):** Serves as GIS coordinator for Suffolk County and also as Vice Chair of the NYS Geospatial Advisory Council to State GIO Bill Johnson. Also serves as Co-Chair of the NYS GIS Association Regional Committee.

**Doug Schuetz (Rockland County):** Rockland County issued a press release (see attached) about the newly completed Indian Point mobile application developed by Rockland GIS. The application will help the county manage any incidents involving the nuclear plant and can be used on desktop and mobile devices. Doug thanked Jake Needle for his assistance. Doug also announced that in addition to his GIS duties, since June, he is also serving as the acting Commissioner of both the County Transportation and Planning Departments.

**Eileen Allen (North Country):** With the help of Alex Chaucer of Skidmore College in Saratoga NY, a representative of the US Census Bureau will be giving a talk to students and teachers in Plattsburg NY.

**Star Carter (North Country):** Serves as GIS Analyst for the North Country Development Authority. Has recently developed an internet/mobile mapping application for use by the Town of Potsdam in St. Lawrence County. Training classes are being held.

**Alan Leidner (GISMO):** Mentioned a successful meeting in November at which 9 GIS startup companies gave presentations about their products. The event attracted more than 125 attendees to the auditorium in the basement of the main branch of the NY Public Library at 42<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The video of this event is available on the NYS GIS Association website. On February 5<sup>th</sup> GISMO will hold a series of 15 lightning talks by the GIS directors of NYC agencies. GISMO's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> during an extended afternoon of toasts and presentations.

## **2. NYS GIS Association President's Report**

**Susan Nixon (NYS GIS Association President):** Announced that NYS GIS Association membership was at 511 as of mid-January. Susan suggested that Regional groups contact Carol Zollweg, Chair of the Communications Committee about any events being planned. [czollweg@sprynet.com](mailto:czollweg@sprynet.com) Susan announced that the Association would soon be opening a "webstore" selling NYS GIS Association gear such as caps and T-shirts. She was looking to ramp up the legislative committee as the Association gets more involved in GIS policy matters.

## **3. Coverage of Regional Groups across the State**

**Alan Leidner:** Noted that the Catskills region of the State was the only one not represented by a GIS group.

**Ross Baldwin:** Mentioned that he knows a number of GIS professionals who work in the Catskills. Ross will talk with Jim Daly and together they will find an approach to building a GIS group in the region. Alan Leidner will provide NYS GIS Association data about members who live in Catskills zip code areas.

#### **4. Report on NYS Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)**

**Jim Daly:** December GAC meeting minutes have now been posted to the NYS GIS Clearinghouse website along with revamped information about the GAC.

<https://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/details/index.cfm?ID=10>

Jason Winner, formerly of Scenic Hudson, has resigned from the GAC due to a job change. Matt Knutzen of the NY Public Library will be taking his place as one of the representatives from non-profit organizations. Julie Tolar, current NYS GIS Association Past President has replaced Alan Leidner on the GAC. Association Past Presidents have an ex-officio position on the GAC. At the last GAC meeting Andrew Nicklin, State Open Data Coordinator spoke. Promoting Open Data policies is a top priority of the GAC and is also important to State GIO Bill Johnson. Discussions are moving forward on how to make State Clearinghouse data available as open data. State ITS counsel is being called in to discuss. The next four meetings of the GAC during 2015 will be 3/26, 6/11, 9/16 and 12/9.

#### **5. GIS for “have not” jurisdictions**

**Susan Nixon and Jim Daly:** The GAC as well as the NYS GIS Association are looking to find ways to enable jurisdictions across the state that do not now take advantages of GIS services. Bill Johnson and Frank Winters are looking into the use of Cloud technology and open data. Other options include education, training, common applications and proof of ROI. Susan Nixon, Jim Daly, Mickey Dietrich (incoming Association President) and Julie Tolar will be getting together to discuss strategy.

**Eileen Allen:** Suggests workshops and demonstrations that are customized by region. Also, presentations to legislative bodies to get buy in from leadership. Eileen believes she could attract State Representative Janet Duprey and her staff to such a sessions.

**Jim Daly:** Wants the State Association and the GAC to work together so that the message is coherent and unified. Perhaps develop a PowerPoint presentation and customize it by region.

**Eileen Allen:** Draw up legislative bullet points. Coordinate strategy with all regions. Hold mini-workshops. Teach GIS personnel how to best appeal to elected officials and executives.

#### **6. Professional Affiliation Groups (PAGs)**

**Alan Leidner:** PAG initiative is to give Association members the opportunity to form groups with GIS professionals across the state on the basis of their area of expertise and practice. Envisions every Association member being identified both by a Regional group and by an Affiliation group. This will multiply opportunities for engagement in Association activities. Kevin Jenkins was first to form the Transportation PAG which has already held its first webinar on “EnvironCar” which uses sensors and GPS to measure environmental indicators in real time. Alan Leidner in the process of forming an Infrastructure PAG and hopes to have a first conference call in March. Frank Winters has agreed to

Speak about water/wastewater infrastructure and the CIRIS system. Susan Nixon is on the lookout for someone to coordinate the development of additional PAGs.

## **7. 2015 GeoCon**

**Susan Nixon:** Discussed progress on GeoCon 2015. The GeoCon Committee continues to look for topics and speakers. The Conference website is expected to be up and running in February. The Conference Committee is meeting weekly. The conference will be held at the Albany Hilton on October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Alan Leidner:** Working with Ben Houston to try and design an award contest for best GIS applications. Awards would be handed out at the GeoCon.

## **8. Professional Development**

**Garvis DiLauro:** Will be meeting shortly with the Professional Development committee. They are actively discussing the presentation of technology that can track athletes using motion sensor technology and GPS. This has application to government service delivery operations. Also discussing a webinar tentatively entitled “The Good, The Bad, The Data.” The webinar would discuss data quality issues and solutions and might be the beginning of a “mini series” to discuss in depth.

### **General Discussion**

**Jim Daly:** Proposes that we find a way to identify those jurisdictions in the state that have a GIS presence on the web. Also believes it is worth doing a survey to find out who has what and to differentiate the haves from the have nots.

**Susan Nixon:** Agrees with Jim. Believes that a survey would be useful. One approach is to find out how many counties and municipalities have websites with GIS components. Will Razi with the survey idea.

**Jim Daly:** He will ask Eric Herman, Chair of the GAC to consider this.

**Alan Leidner:** Reported that a small team of NYC GISMO members is looking to establish an organization with the ability to get funding for critical City and State GIS research and development needs. More to come soon.