



February 1, 2010

Garth Shipman, Executive Director
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
126 Ryan Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Shipman:

As part of the effort to gather support for the formation of a Pennsylvania GIS Council, PaMAGIC held a "GIS Congress" meeting this past January 14th. At that meeting, you presented a new, draft bill that would establish a State Geospatial Coordinating Council. The PaMAGIC Board offered to collect comments on the draft bill in the week following the initial GIS Congress meeting. We received a modest number of comments, which were discussed in a conference call on January 21st. During that call, it became apparent that we needed to further refine and solidify the various comments into one coherent form, and then reach a consensus on the changes to the bill that were being requested. To accomplish this, another meeting was held on January 27th. It was at this meeting that the group formulated a list of requested changes to the bill where consensus was reached. This list is as follows:

Regarding language on Page 2, line 23:

Resolution of Consensus: Recommendation that the text be changed to include any "accredited institution of higher education in Pennsylvania", to allow the inclusion of private or State System of Higher Education colleges or universities.

Regarding language on Page 2, line 25:

Resolution of Consensus: Replace PASDA voting position with a member from the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, leaving the Council size at 17 members. Remove PASDA as a voting member and add them as an ex officio member of the council.

Regarding ex officio members first mentioned on Page 3, line 24:

Resolution of Consensus: Add regional level of government (MPO or LDD) as ex officio member.

Regarding language on Page 4, line 14:

Resolution of Consensus: Recommendation is to remove specific reference to the number of members required for a quorum from the bill, and let the Council itself decide the quorum in the by-laws they set for themselves.

Regarding language on Page 5, line 3-4:

Resolution of Consensus: Change "establish standards" to "recommend standards".

Resolution of Consensus: Remove "and architecture" since architecture standards are rapidly changing.



Regarding language on Page 5, line 21:

Resolution of Consensus: Recommendation is to change the word 'solicit' to a term less indicative of a request for services and more oriented toward advice. Let the LRB editors determine the exact word to be used.

Regarding the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geospatial Technologies Fund first mentioned on Page 5, line 25:

Resolution of Consensus: The order of clauses 1 and 2 in this section should be reversed in the bill to clarify the purpose prior to defining the source of funds.

Note: OA has been asked to supply revised text to define what the funds will be and will not be used for (currently clause #2).

Regarding language on Page 6, line 11:

Resolution of Consensus: Request that OA supply revised text – to limit the support of OA to what is “feasible and within their resource means”.

Regarding further advice and comment on a resultant bill:

Resolution of Consensus: Each of the groups that originally endorsed the concept of a Geospatial Council is free to act independently with regard to commenting on a numbered bill when published.

The aforementioned items represent issues where consensus was reached, however there were a couple of comments that dealt with issues that may need further attention when a numbered version of this bill is published, hence the resolution of consensus regarding further advice and comment on a resultant bill.

Also, as an addendum to this consensus items list, I've included a summary of our January 14th meeting, prepared by our facilitator, as well as notes from all three January meetings.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn F. McNichol".

Glenn McNichol

PaMAGIC President, 2009-2010