



Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey

604 Station Road

Grantville PA 17028

Note Taker: Mark Safran

Agenda:

1. Status of Strategic Plan
2. Discussion on draft bill replacing HR 1304
3. Discussions on CCAP's Survey for the State's Strategic Plan
4. Status of Draft Letter to USGS from Pennsylvania delegation

The following were in attendance:

Stephen Ellis	Jim Pahel
Mike King, Ph.D.	Rob Lowe
Dick MacDonald	Mark Safran
Chris Markel	Mike Shillenn
Ashis Pal	Brady Stroh
John Palatiello	Con Sweeney
Nick Palatiello	Two other guests

Ashis called meeting to order and mentioned that the next PA-MAPPS meeting will be held on June 11 at Michael Baker's office in Harrisburg. Two new board members will be elected as well as a president-elect. Mary Potter will handle the election process.

#### **1. PA-MAPPS Strategic Plan**

John Palatiello provided the status of the PA-MAPPS Strategic Plan progression. It has been reviewed and finalized by the PA-MAPPS Board and is available for review in the web site. He then presented the plan in its current state. The Board is currently seeking feedback and will vote to approve the plan on June 11, if no additional comments are received. On June 11, we will begin the process of implementing the goals as stated in the plan.

Via a previous email, Mary Potter asked if the issue of aircraft use tax within Pennsylvania could be included in Plan. This was discussed and determined that we needed further details from Mary about this issue, but we also agreed that this might be too specific for the Strategic Plan and could be an action that fits in with one of the stated goals.

John reminded the attendees that the issue of Professionalism among geospatial service providers has practical implications related to taxation issues. Use of terms like “product”, “vendor”, or “industry” can be flags for taxation auditors looking for additional revenue.

## **2. Discussion on draft bill replacing HR 1304**

Ashis began the discussion surrounding the introduction of new draft legislation to replace HB 1304, a bill to establish a Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Advisory Council. This new draft legislation will also be introduced by Russ Fairchild, State Representative for the 85<sup>th</sup> legislative District. Comments concerning the draft bill must be submitted to Garth Shipman, the new Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, by June 1, 2009.

Dr. Mike King explained that the major difference between last year’s bill and this draft version is a reduction in overall Council members to 17 and a removal of the terms dictating that the Counsel would have policy making authority. Non State personal with the exception of two CCAP appointees would not have a seat on the Council unless they are voted in as Chair of their standing committee.

The PAMAPPS Board discussed its concerns with the new draft bill, specifically that we would not have a seat on the Council (unless voted into a chair position on a committee) and that we would only get two seats total among the several committees.

It was also pointed out that we don’t want to react too strongly to this draft since we want to show Rep. Fairchild our support and don’t want to kill its chances by acting as if we would withhold support in some form. It was pointed out that we may want to explain to Rep. Fairchild that we provide a unique role in Pennsylvania for the following three reasons:

1. We are the only organization comprised of private geospatial service providers
2. We play a major role in economic recovery with our services and data
3. We are the creators of the data that will be so required and discussed as part of this Council

Rob Rowe stated that he lives in Rep. Fairchild’s district and can act as POC to help get a face-to-face meeting with the Representative. The Board made a decision that it supports the concept of a Council and will work with Rep. Fairchild to help and we will start by submitting our comments and doing the face-to-face meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) **John P. will draft letter to Rep. Fairchild for submittal by June 1. It will include our concerns about lack of seat on Council and limit to two members total.**
- 2) **Rob Rowe will schedule a meeting with Rep. Fairchild**
- 3) **Mark Safran will contact Senator Chuck McIlhinney to see if there is an interest in a companion bill.**

**3. Discussions on CCAP's Survey for the State's Strategic Plan**

PA-MAPPS Board began discussion on the Geospatial Coordination Strategy Plan for Pennsylvania (GCSP-PA). Mike Shillenn led this discussion and emphasized that we need to help decide what the next step will be regarding the outcome of the Plan. While the Plan concluded that a Geospatial Council should be created, it offered no more actions or follow up suggestions. After lengthy discussion, the PA-MAPPS Board decided that we should take the lead in moving the concept of a Council forward. We can reach out to the other constituents and help organize a "continental congress" or "Pennsylvania Coalition of the Willing" (PA-COW) that will move forward toward creation of a Council.

**ACTIONS ITEMS:**

- 1) **At June 11 PA-MAPPS meeting, we will set strategy to begin following process:**
  - a. **PA-MAPPS endorses GCSP-PA**
  - b. **PA-MAPPS selects lead to head up outreach effort**
  - c. **PA-MAPPS initiates out-reach to groups named in GCSP-PA and in Rep. Fairchild's draft legislation to see if they have an interest in working together**
  - d. **PA-MAPPS hosts first meeting of interested parties to organize a collective approach.**

**4. Status of Draft Letter to USGS from Pennsylvania delegation**

Mike Shillenn mentioned that he received a call back from Sen. Casey's office which he perceived as a good sign and will let us know of the outcome once he can speak with his office. It may still be a good idea for others to find PA delegates willing to lead the charge.

5. Mike Shillenn showed off the Hershey Hotel to other members and is hoping to win support to hosting the National MAPPS 2011 Meeting in Hershey, PA.