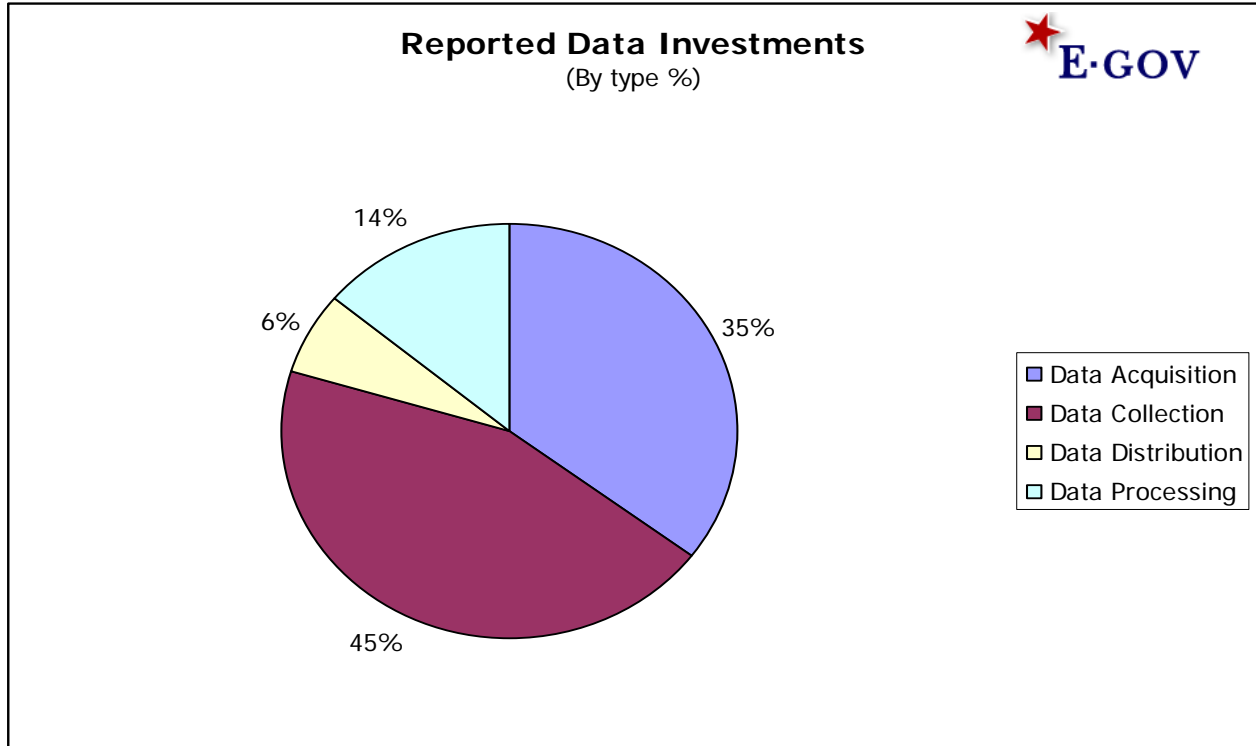


June 2007

## Government Increases Competition with Private Sector

Despite years of effort by MAPPS and numerous Congressional mandates that Federal agencies increase their use of the private sector for surveying, mapping and geospatial activities, the Federal government is back to acquiring a majority of its data in-house, rather than from the private sector.



This troubling trend was revealed by Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), at the committee's May meeting. DeLoatch confirmed afterwards that Data Acquisition means Federal funds spent to contract for data and data collection means Federal funds spent in-house for data.

The breakdown is from the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Geospatial Lines of Business (G-LOB) Initiative, originally supported by MAPPS, to collect better data on the Federal government's geospatial investment. ([Background on OMB Lines of Business](#)). The Federal Government is doing more geospatial collection work in-house than by contract, by a 45% to 35% margin, as a percentage of its data investments. When calculated as a percentage of data collection alone, the situation is worse. Of all acquirement of data, 56% is conducted in-house and 44% is contracted to the private sector. This data does not include DoD (such as NGA), nor the Corps of Engineers.

MAPPS has asked for a full public disclosure of the agencies' responses to the OMB data call. In addition, MAPPS has renewed its efforts in the White House and Congress for a reduction in unfair government competition with the private sector in the geospatial field. (See page 8) "For more than 35 years, study after study has found there is a capable private sector in this field, and each study recommends increased contracting to private firms. However, as this data shows, despite major improvement in some agencies as a result of MAPPS advocacy, the bureaucracy continues to duplicate and compete with the private sector," said MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello.

[G-LOB Presentation](#) (complete version)

# President's Column

## *“Professionalism Revisited”*

by Kurt Allen  
MAPPS President



In the September 2005 issue of FLIGHTLINE, my inaugural President's Column was published. It was based on my remarks to the membership when I took office in July 2005 at our annual meeting in Asheville, NC, and was entitled "Professionalism", which outlined my goals as MAPPs President.

As this is my last President's Column, I would like to revisit the goals I set in 2005 and highlight some accomplishments of which I believe the association can be proud. In that column, I set three goals for my Presidency of MAPPs.

The first goal was to be more forceful in our promotion of professionalism in the geospatial community. I indicated that goal included an effort to "restore professionalism to procurement of geospatial services." While I noted then that MAPPs would be "very aggressive in using all means necessary" to address the QBS issue, including, "if necessary, we will also strive for changes through the legal system," little did we know then that the litigation option would indeed become necessary. While the court has not yet ruled on our case and the issue is not yet settled, I believe MAPPs has taken an honorable, principled and moral stand (not to mention, good for business and good for the citizens and taxpayers of our nation). While it has been controversial and misunderstood by some, and indeed demagogued by a few, it has been respected and indeed applauded by others. I have had numerous Federal officials, State GIS leaders, and others in the geospatial community tell me they are rooting for us from the sidelines and grateful that MAPPs and its co-plaintiffs are seeking to have this issue resolved.

With the help of your Board, however, the Professionalism goal was not limited to just the QBS issue. Together, we tackled the Offshoring issue. This issue was highly contentious within the membership and a Task Force led by John Voycik was able to develop a policy on Data Security with respect to the Globalization of Geospatial Services that the Board has endorsed. These discussions and this policy have guided members to develop and implement a strong and ethical data security policy for their companies.

In addition, the Board recommended working with ASPRS to develop a Joint Task Force to re-write ASPRS procurement guidelines for geospatial products and services. This Task Force, on which MAPPs is represented by Mike Ritchie and Marv Miller, along with members of ASPRS and ASCM, is due to issue their recommendations shortly and will arm the profession with a valuable educational instrument to inform governments and the public on the best procurement mechanism appropriate for their specific geospatial service or product.

Finally, using this President's Column as a "bully pulpit", having a session in Cabo at the 2005 Winter Meeting on sales tax implications for our profession, and poking some fun at the Industry vs. Profession debate (and ourselves) in Naples at our last Winter Meeting helped to directly educate the membership on why the way we conduct ourselves in business is important.

The second theme of my Presidency was to enhance our activity in government affairs. We created a Legislative Affairs Committee, hired a full-time Governmental Affairs Manager, started a Washington Policy Luncheon series, initiated a technology exhibition in the U.S. Capitol, promoted a pro-active agenda in Washington, and protected the interests of our members in the State Legislatures. We appointed a series of task forces to look at legislation slated to come before Congress this year – the Farm Bill, Aviation Bill, Hydrographic Services Improvement Bill, and the FEMA Flood Mapping Bill, and the members of these MAPPs task forces developed recommended provisions for each of these pieces of legislation currently before Congress. Some of the MAPPs recommendations are now in legislation, while others still are being considered by the House and Senate.

In addition, we have effectively harnessed the geospatial expertise of our membership and the political skill of our staff to pro-actively promote public policy that will benefit our members, as well as the clients and the public we serve. We worked with ASPRS (spearheaded by Kass Green) to develop a letter to formally support a Landsat data continuity mission in the form of a free flyer spacecraft that helped lead to White House endorsement of a similar policy. We also moved away

from pushing specific appropriations and focused on policy issues. Not only did we focus on an area where the association and the membership is more effective, but we did it BEFORE the recent earmark scandals made it en vogue. I am proud of the fact that we have strengthened our already effective government affairs and public policy advocacy.

My third goal was to improve MAPPS communications with our members. We implemented an “open door” policy for members to sit-in on Board Meetings. We have continued and expanded efforts to increase membership involvement in MAPPS that were started by my predecessor, Ken Fleming (the task forces and committees described above are testament to the great work efforts of our members). We improved our website and we have hired new staff to manage marketing, communications, and membership to continue to implement this goal. We implemented a regular *Capitol Coverage* and *Field Notes* email broadcasts to our members to regularly communicate what is happening in Congress and around the Federal agencies, identify business development opportunities that may interest the members, and keep the membership informed of the association’s activities. We conducted another installment of the Salary Survey, spearheaded by Marvin Miller and Dave Hart, once again giving members valuable information about geospatial salaries in the marketplace. And we just established the first MAPPS state chapter to give the membership and even greater vehicle for activity at the grass roots and state and local level.

In addition, we have held special sessions on the lawsuit, licensing, offshoring and on other “hot topics.” Over the past two years, we have directly taken on the tough issues; not avoided them. We have continued the “big tent” theme started by past presidents that welcomes all private firms engaged in geospatial services or products into MAPPS and we have recommended to the membership a change to the MAPPS Bylaws to further reflect that MAPPS has grown from a photogrammetry-centered association to one in which the broad spectrum of geospatial firms can feel at home. Many members

have commented on the improvements in communications that MAPPS has implemented, telling me that we are making headway on being more responsive, and attentive to, and inclusive of, the membership.

My final, but unwritten, goal was make sure MAPPS continued to be fun. I have to admit, that was at times tested! When you take on tough issues, such as QBS or offshoring, and when you file a case in Federal District Court, you are bound to cause controversy. But these are important issues that cannot be ignored. I am grateful for the fact that throughout my Presidency, MAPPS members have been polite, respectful, professional and constructive in their comments to me, even when raising a question about a position MAPPS has taken or expressing a concern or dissenting opinion. In some respects, these past two years have simply flown right by, and in other ways, it has seemed like an eternity. While it has been challenging at times, it has been fun.

I want to thank my wife, Kathryn, and my sons Ryan and Braden, for being so understanding and supportive of the time I have had to spend away from them while tending to the business of MAPPS. That same appreciation goes to my colleagues and Mike Ritchie at Photo Science. My firm’s commitment to MAPPS and dedication to our profession is awesome. Thanks to those who served on the MAPPS Board with me; your support and sense of duty is an asset to this organization. The MAPPS staff is a team only a President can truly appreciate. All the work they do behind the scenes to make the association function so well, and make the President look good, is never sufficiently acknowledged or appreciated. And finally, my deepest thanks to the membership of MAPPS. It has been an honor to be President and a privilege to work with some 160 firms filled with enthusiastic and faithful professionals.

With regard to that “fun” goal, I’m not finished. Join us in New Hampshire for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Watch me transition from board rooms back to golf courses. Now that will be fun!

# # # #

## **Bylaws Change Seeks New Membership Category Definitions**

The MAPPS Board of Directors has endorsed, for approval by the members, changes to the bylaws to reflect the transformation the association has made in recent years from one based primarily on photogrammetry firms to a broader based organization of geospatial firms. In order to better reflect the current membership, and to more accurately project the association to the public and prospective members, the Board voted on March 18, 2007 to propose these bylaws changes to the membership for ratification and approval. A membership vote will take place at the annual business meeting to be held in New Hampshire on July 16. [Proposed Bylaws Revisions](#)

## Judges Announced for Excellence Awards

A panel of judges who will select the winners of the 2007 MAPPS Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Awards has been announced. MAPPS has assembled a distinguished panel of objective and knowledgeable judges representing diverse segments of the geospatial community. Based on the high quality of submissions, the judges have a difficult task in choosing the most outstanding geospatial projects. Judges for the 2007 Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Awards are:

**Don Evick, PE** - Serving as panel chairman, Don is retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he was involved as an agency liaison to MAPPS and other trade and professional groups, coordinated Corps architecture-engineering (A/E), (including surveying, mapping and geospatial) contracting policy, and taught the Corps course on A/E QBS contracting.

**Pamela Lawhead, PhD** – Pamela is Director of the Institute for Advanced Education in Geospatial Sciences (IAEGS) at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. IAEGS is Ole Miss's on-line education program in the remote sensing and geospatial field, responsible for soliciting course materials from principal remote sensing specialists internationally, developing this material into a state-of-the-art, interactive learning environment and delivering it to interested community colleges and universities.

**Bob Burtch** – Bob is a professor of surveying engineering at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI. where he was a leader in a summer stereoplotter operator course that FSU and MAPPS jointly sponsored in the 1990s. He also teaches a workshop for ASPRS on Preparing for ASPRS Certification.

**Cyrena Respini-Irwin** - Cyrena is Senior Editor of *Geospatial Solutions* magazine, Eugene, OR. She has previously served as the associate editor, managing editor, and Web editor of both *Geospatial Solutions* and *GeoIntelligence*, as well as digital media editor for *Cadalyst* magazine.

**Marc Cheves, LS** – Marc is the founder of Cheves Media, publisher of *The American Surveyor Magazine*, based in Frederick, MD. He was previously editor of *Professional Surveyor* prior to founding his current publication. Marc is a professional surveyor with prior experience in private practice.

This MAPPS Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Awards program is a new annual awards program that recognizes the professionalism, value, integrity and achievement of MAPPS member and associate member firms in specific projects.

The judges will evaluate project submissions in six categories: Airborne and Satellite Data Acquisition, Photogrammetry/Elevation Data Generation, Remote Sensing, GIS/IT, Small Projects, and Technology Innovation. Judges will select one winning project from each category as well as an overall winner who will receive the Grand Award for MAPPS Project of the Year.

The submission period for the 2007 Awards competition closed May 31, 2007, judging will take place in June and awards will be presented to winners at an awards banquet July 16, during the MAPPS Summer Meeting, at the Mount Washington Resort at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

## Salary Survey Available for Purchase

Every three years, MAPPS conducts the Non-Cash Benefits and Salary Survey. Data is collected from MAPPS member firms by an independent survey research firm. The survey results are provided in a report that includes a comprehensive overview of the major salary data and benefit programs for eight pay levels for technical positions from entry level through middle management. The MAPPS Survey is the only one conducted by a professional organization that regularly (every three years) collects this data exclusively among U.S. photogrammetric mapping and geospatial information service firms. If your firm did not participate in the survey, you can purchase the final report. A discount is provided to MAPPS member firms. [Order Salary Survey](#)

## Summer Conference Kick-off, Annual Meeting Set for July 16

Register today to attend the MAPPS 25th Anniversary Summer Conference, July 16-20 at the Mount Washington Resort at Bretton Woods, NH. An exciting business management and technical program, wonderful social events, and the unparalleled networking for which MAPPS meetings are famous will all be features of the conference. And this 25th Anniversary gathering will be a reunion of many past members.

Registration is open now on the MAPPS web site. Look for a preliminary program and other information and visit the MAPPS web site often for updates. [Bretton Woods Conference Homepage](#)

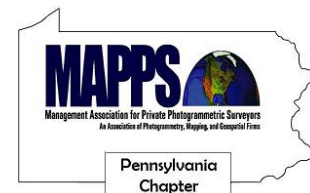
A special "25th Anniversary Sponsorship" program has been launched. The goal is to secure 25 firms as 25th Anniversary sponsors at \$1,000 each. To learn more about these opportunities, go to: [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the MAPPS Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the association will be held on Monday, July 16 at 4:00 pm EDT at the Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The agenda will include election of directors and consideration of a proposed change to the MAPPS Bylaws to revise and update the definition of Member Firm and Associate Member Firm.

## MAPPS Forms First State Chapter in PA; Encourages Others

In an announcement at the Pennsylvania Geographic Information Systems Conference in Camp Hill, PA on May 17, the formation of first state chapter of MAPPS was unveiled in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PA-MAPPS, an association of the Keystone State's private geospatial firms, will include existing MAPPS members based in or with offices in Pennsylvania, and new Pennsylvania firms that are joining MAPPS. The chapter combines the goals of a group of Pennsylvania firms, to give the state's private geospatial community a voice in state legislation and public policy, and MAPPS, which desires to have a strong, unified voice for the private geospatial community at the Federal, state and local level.



Announcing the formation of the chapter, MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello said, "This is a win-win situation. Firms in Pennsylvania will have a state-based organization for networking, education, information sharing, market advocacy and public policy, while MAPPS expands its membership, broadens its programs to reach firms, organizations and government agencies at the state level, and establishes what could be the first of several state chapters."



Ashis Pal, President of geographIT (formerly Advanced Technology Solutions Inc.), Lancaster, PA, the organizer of a group of Pennsylvania firms that led to the establishment of PA-MAPPS, said, "We wanted a voice in the Pennsylvania Legislature and a forum for growing and affecting the market in the Commonwealth, and forming a MAPPS Chapter proved to be the most effective and efficient way to achieve our goals. GeographIT is pleased to join MAPPS and we will work to encourage other Pennsylvania geospatial firm to join as well."

Con P. Sweeney of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., said, "As a longstanding member firm in MAPPS, we recognized the leadership the organization has shown at the national level. Creating a chapter in Pennsylvania will give firms in the state the voice and visibility we need to be active in policy issues and expansion of the market for each firms' products, data and services. We are delighted we were able to work out an agreement with MAPPS to create a unified voice nationally and in Pennsylvania."

Firms will jointly be members of MAPPS and PA-MAPPS. All private sector geospatial firms based in or with offices in Pennsylvania, or firms doing business in or with an interest in Pennsylvania, are encouraged to join MAPPS and PA-MAPPS. [PA Chapter Membership Information & Application](#)

A special session on “Starting a State Chapter” will be held at the MAPPS Summer Conference, July 16-20 in Bretton Woods, NH. This session will assist MAPPS members who desire to start a chapter in their home state.

## **In Memoriam: MAPPS Past President Frank Moffitt**



Francis H. “Frank” Moffitt passed away peacefully at home in Berkeley on April 21, 2007 following complications from pneumonia. Frank Moffitt, 84, was a past president of MAPPS. He was professor emeritus of civil engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, a prominent figure in the field of surveying and photogrammetry as a member of the U.C. faculty from 1951 until his retirement in 1986, the author of textbooks on surveying and photogrammetry that helped educate a generation of students’ in their entry into the profession, and a noted expert witness in landmark cases in which surveying, photogrammetry or photo interpretation were factors.

Frank is the only individual to serve as president of MAPPS (1986-1987) and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, ASPRS, (1979). He was also a National Director for the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, ACSM, from (1967 - 1970).

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps just prior to Pearl Harbor and served in Panama during World War II, processing images of the war in the Pacific. Following the war, Frank studied surveying and photogrammetry at Syracuse University, earning the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Civil Engineering in 1949 and 1950 respectively.

During his tenure as ASPRS President, Moffitt was invited to the summer meeting of the Legislative Council for Photogrammetry (LCP), the predecessor of MAPPS. Frank and his wife, Kathy, so enjoyed the experience and the friendships, he asked to join the association, citing his private sector work as an author and forensic surveyor and photogrammetrist. In an interview last year, Moffitt recalled the many friends and memorable activities in MAPPS. See [FLIGHTLINE, June 6, 2006](#) (page 5).

Frank Moffitt is survived by his wife, Mary Kathleen Boni Moffitt, of Berkeley, California; daughters, Mary Elmstrom of Woodland, California, Eileen Frelier of Three Forks, Montana, Kathleen Vinci of Richmond, California, Ann Zacharias of Pittsfield, Maine, Madeleine Gerdes of Los Altos, California, and Margaret Goebel of Mountain View, California; sons, Nicholas Moffitt of Gig Harbor, Washington, and Anthony Moffitt of Tyler, Texas; 16 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

(Thanks to George Lee of USGS, a former student of Professor Moffitt, for his assistance in preparing this obituary).

## **“Digital Coast” is Topic of June 21 Washington Policy Forum**

Margaret Davidson, Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, SC will be the guest speaker at a MAPPS Washington Policy Forum luncheon on Thursday, June 21, 12:00 noon at the City Club at Franklin Square, 1300 I (Eye) St, NW, in Washington, DC.

Ms. Davidson will discuss the “Digital Coast,” an initiative to provide coastal managers with an array of geospatial data tools to supervise activities along America’s economically vibrant, yet environmentally sensitive coastline. Digital Coast can be an importation tool in monitoring rising sea level phenomena, supporting an integrated ocean and costal mapping activity, and implementing recommendations of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

The Coastal Services Center has a suite of Coastal Geospatial Services Contracts, by which four MAPPS member firms are prime contractors, and dozens of other firms serve as subcontractors, for coastal resource management applications are used to help build the Digital Coast.

The MAPPs Washington Policy Forum is an initiative of MAPPs President Kurt Allen, first announced when he took office in July 2005. Developed due to more and more MAPPs member firms being involved in Federal markets and state & local projects supported by Federal funds. Member firms continue to open offices in Washington, have consultants and lobbyists in Washington, and frequently make trips to Washington, either to meet with Federal agencies or Congressional representatives. The Washington Policy Forum provides an opportunity to get these members more involved in MAPPs legislative and regulatory activities in Washington, DC, and engage major policy figures. The advantages of the Washington Policy Forum include additional benefits to membership in MAPPs, increased visibility for MAPPs among policy figures, enhanced coordination of policy activities of MAPPs member firms so that the private geospatial community speaks with a more unified voice, additional networking opportunity for member firms, and more MAPPs member firm involvement in the MAPPs legislative and policy activities. This Forum will give MAPPs an even greater presence in Washington, DC. Future speakers will include members of Congress, high-level political figures, and government agency officials.

For further information contact Tammy Joslyn at MAPPs, 703-787-6996 or email [tammy@mapps.org](mailto:tammy@mapps.org).

[Policy Forum Registration](#)

## **Nominations Committee Appointed; Candidate Deadline is June 8**

According to the MAPPs bylaws, there is an election for the Board of Directors every year. To lead the 2007 election, MAPPs President Kurt Allen has appointed John Voycik of Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc., Laurel, MD, to serve as chairman of the 2007 Nominations Committee with the following committee members:

### **2007 Nominations Committee**

John Voycik, Greenhorne & O'Mara, Laurel, MD, Chairman

Jean Carter, Aerial Data Service, Tulsa, OK

Herb Gauch, EA MAPS, Rochester, NY

Matthew Herring, John Deere Agri Services, Peabody, MA

Mark Mattox, EMC, Greenwood, MS

MAPPs is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. The Board is the policy-making body for the association. It is responsible for developing public policy positions for the membership that will be advocated before Congress, government agencies, States, other associations and other public forums. The Board also provides policy guidance to the Executive Director on the operations of the association, including the development and implementation of programs for the membership. There are six (6) seats on the Board up for election. The incumbent members of the Board in those seats are Kurt Allen, Michael Bullock, Dave Hart, Brant Howard, Dick McDonald and Anne Miglarese.

Members of the MAPPs Board of Directors are elected by the membership. Terms are for a two year period. Elections are held at the annual business meeting during the summer conference in July. Directors take office upon election. Officers (President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected by the Directors from among the members of the Board.

The Nominations Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors, and to the Membership, on candidates for the MAPPs Board of Directors. The Nominations Committee is appointed by the President, pursuant to the MAPPs bylaws, to make a recommendation on candidates for the annual meeting.

For consideration by the Nominations Committee, prospective candidates complete the [Nominations EForm](#) for submission to the committee **by June 8**. Questions may be directed to Mr. Voycik by email [jvoycik@g-and-o.com](mailto:jvoycik@g-and-o.com) or phone (724) 312-3065.

## **MAPPS Leaders Meet White House Staff**

MAPPS views on government competition, QBS, geospatial lines of business and other current issues were the topic of conversation at recent meetings at the White House complex involving leaders of MAPPS. During the month of May, MAPPS President Kurt Allen met with a delegation of White House staff, led by Michael Bopp, Associate Director of General Government Programs in the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President and in a separate meeting, MAPPS Director Anne Miglarese met with Timothy Young, Associate Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.



In the meetings, MAPPS officials have discussed with President Bush's staff a variety of issues affecting the membership, including the President's Lines of Business Initiative for geospatial activities, Federal agency acquisition of equipment that results in unfair government duplication of and competition with the private geospatial firms, and the policy issues that led to MAPPS and a coalition of organizations filing suit in Federal District Court to gain proper implementation of several laws passed by Congress and enacted to provide for application of the Brooks Act's qualifications based selection process to a broad range of mapping service contracts.

"The fact that MAPPS can gain access to the highest levels of our government is a testimony to MAPPS' stature in Washington, DC," said Mr. Allen. While we may not agree with the Bush Administration on every issue, it is significant that we can present our views, express our concerns, and indicate those areas where we indeed agree and support the Administration, as well as those where we have a difference and work to resolve those."

## **Sites Sought for 2009 Summer Meeting**

MAPPS is seeking nominations of sites for its 2009 Summer Meeting. Site nominations will be accepted for U.S. destinations East of the Mississippi for review by the MAPPS Board. A final vote will take place by the MAPPS membership from a short-list of destinations during the Summer Conference in NH at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Banquet.

[Nominate a Site](#)

## **Board Expands Emeritus Member Program**

In recognition of the contribution a number of now-retired former leaders made to MAPPS in the association's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the MAPPS Board is promoting an Emeritus Member program. Under the MAPPS bylaws, any individual who has been an officer of a firm that has been an active, associate or sustaining member firm for at least the preceding five consecutive years, who has reached the age of 60 years, who has retired from such firm and is no longer engaged in a full time practice in the photogrammetric profession may become an Emeritus Member.

Those individuals who were part of the organization's success as a leader in the association while working in the profession are invited to become an Emeritus Member. This membership category is for retired members who would like to have a way to remain part of MAPPS, and the MAPPS Board believes these founders, past leaders and respected former practitioners still have a lot to offer the association, and the profession. The more MAPPS and the profession change, the more we need to be reminded of where MAPPS has been, what its history is all about, and why it has stood for certain principles and policies.

An Emeritus Membership is just \$100 and includes full rights as a member and entitles these individuals the ability to attend MAPPS conferences at the deeply discounted, below cost rate afforded to members' spouses. If there is a retired former principal of your firm who was active in MAPPS, the current firm or potential Emeritus member should rejoin MAPPS. [Emeritus Membership](#)

## Washington State Stalls Licensing Bill Without Grandfather

The 2007 Regular Session of the Washington State Legislature adjourned sine die on April 22, without considering HB 1184, a bill that would have broadened the definition of surveying to include a number of photogrammetric activities, without providing a grandfather program to permit photogrammetrists to become licensed. MAPPS opposed the bill and organized a campaign of individuals in Washington State to educate the bill's sponsors that the proposal did not follow the NCEES Model Law, particularly with regard to a grandfather provision. MAPPS and ASPRS sent a joint letter to the Legislature urging amendment or defeat of the bill. While the bill is dead for 2007, it could still be considered next year. MAPPS will continue to work with Legislators and stakeholders to assure that any licensing system is fair, equitable and permits current photogrammetric professionals to continue their practice without being required to meet the ordinary licensure requirements for boundary surveying.

At the ASPRS conference in Tampa, FL on May 10, MAPPS hosted a forum on licensing. The session featured three perspectives on the issue. Kass Green of The Alta Vista Company presented the idea of a national license, Mike Ritchie of Photo Science Inc. reported on the current state licensing system and past MAPPS activities in that arena, and Greg Koeln of MDA Federal offer insights into the concept of no licensing, or a *laissez faire* approach.



“Professional licensing is a topic of particular interest to the MAPPS community,” said John Palatiello, MAPPS Executive Director. “This forum was the first step toward adoption of a MAPPS formal policy on the licensure question.”

Historically, MAPPS has taken a defensive position in the states to defeat onerous licensing bills, or to amend them to at least permit grandfathering of currently practicing professionals. MAPPS was also the leader in causing a multi-organizational task force to be formed that succeeded in revising the Model Law of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) to provide for a grandfathering process for experienced photogrammetry and GIS professionals. MAPPS has also had discussions about the concept of a national (federal) license, rather than a 50-individual-state license scheme that could eventually be imposed.

An informal poll of participants at the forum found a split between support for a national license and working within the current state licensing system. The overwhelming view was that licensing in the photogrammetry and geospatial field is a reality and that the debate and the reality of licensing in many states have progressed to a point where a *laissez faire* approach is now moot. PowerPoint presentations from the forum are available in the Members Only Section of the MAPPS web site. [Members Only Login](#)

## Candidates Sought for Federal Geospatial Advisory Committee

The Federal Government is establishing a national advisory committee on geospatial issues and MAPPS is seeking members to be candidates for service on the panel.

At the MAPPS Winter Meeting in St. Thomas, USVI, in January, 2004, a team representing the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), the Federal agency's internal coordinating committee, sought input from the MAPPS membership on a new governance structure, including means for non-Federal interests, such as the private sector, to have input into Federal and national geospatial policies. The establishment of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is a result of that governance study.

The NGAC is being created to advise the Federal government on the management of national geospatial programs and the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The NSDI promotes sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. The Committee will provide advice and recommendations on Federal geospatial policy and management issues and provide a forum to convey views representative of our partners in the geospatial community. The Committee is being formed by the Department of the Interior on behalf of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

"Geospatial data has become a critical element in many agencies' abilities to achieve their goals," said Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, who serves as chair of the FGDC. "The Department of the Interior and the FGDC are committed to working with partners to develop an inclusive geospatial governance process. We believe that the NGAC will provide an excellent forum for our partners to participate in the further development of the NSDI."

The NGAC will include approximately 20-25 members, who will be selected to generally achieve a balanced representation of the viewpoints of the various partners involved in national geospatial activities. The Secretary of the Interior will appoint Committee members and their alternates to the Committee to serve 2-year terms. At the May meeting of the FGDC, it was reported that as many as 10 NGAC members will be from the private sector.

Nominations for Committee membership should be submitted electronically to [ngacnominations@fgdc.gov](mailto:ngacnominations@fgdc.gov) by June 28, 2007. Nominations should include:

1. A statement summarizing the nominee's qualifications and interest in Committee membership and describing the nominee's ability to represent a stakeholder group.
2. A biographical sketch, resume, or vita.
3. A list of three references or endorsements.
4. Contact information for the nominee.

Final selection and appointment of Committee members will be made by the Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, members may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred while attending Committee meetings in accordance with the Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

A draft charter for the NGAC is available at the [FGDC Web site](#). To learn more about the Federal Geographic Data Committee, please visit the main [FGDC Web site](#). Visit the [Geospatial Line of Business Web site](#) to learn more about the Geospatial Line of Business initiative.

MAPPS members who are interested in being considered for the NGAC should contact MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello as soon as possible, at [john@mapps.org](mailto:john@mapps.org) or (703) 787-6996.

## **MAPPS Wins QBS on Texas COG Contract**

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (COG) in Texas has withdrawn a Request for Proposals for a large Orthophotography Acquisition Project, after it was advised by MAPPS that the procurement violates the Professional Services Procurement Act, Texas Government Code chapter 2254. According to the RFP, the Rio Grande COG stipulated 85% of its evaluation was to be based on pricing.

MAPPS advised the COG that the aforementioned provision of law requires QBS by state and local government agencies and authorities, which includes the COG. The RFP's scope of work included services that falls within the Texas state licensing law definition of surveying and the RFP specifically required performance by a Texas licensed surveyor. The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors also supported MAPPS in this effort with a letter from their counsel affirming the requirements under Texas law. MAPPS also noted that Texas has a strong QBS requirement, which includes subcontractors, pursuant to an opinion by then Attorney General, now U.S. Senator, John Cornyn (see: [www.txls.state.tx.us/sect01/news/ag\\_jc0374.html](http://www.txls.state.tx.us/sect01/news/ag_jc0374.html)). The Rio Grande COG later announced that the project is changing to include other counties and councils and the resulting RFP to be issued later this summer will possibly cover 37 counties.



1760 Reston Parkway, Suite 515, Reston, VA 22066  
703-787-6996 (phone) 703-787-7550 (fax)  
[www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org)



## Scheduled Events 2008

### **MAPPS Winter Conference**

January 31- February 4, 2008  
The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa  
Rancho Mirage, CA

### **Federal Programs Conference**

March 10-12, 2008  
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

### **MAPPS Summer Conference**

July 19-23, 2008  
Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho