



## **PaMAGIC MATTERS** **April 2010**

### **PaMAGIC at the GIS Conference**

The creation of a Geospatial Coordinating Council was the key recommendation of last year's Strategic Plan and our top priority this year, and past issues of the newsletter have carried meeting invitations and meeting reports related to that priority. PaMAGIC will **host a session** describing current legislation to create a Council, and then run a mock session of the Council as proposed. Considering the fact that we'll have a new Administration in Harrisburg by the time a Council is up and running, the main goal of these sessions is to provide input for the new Governor's Transition Team so that an Advisory Board can be effective as soon as possible.

The other main session PaMAGIC will host is the 12th Annual InfoSwap. Come enjoy the company of your fellow practitioners, meet new folks, and unwind from the day! Our great private industry friends and co-workers sponsor the food and beverages for all to share. This is true data sharing! Sponsors welcome.

### **PaMAGIC Elections**

Annual elections for the PaMAGIC Board of Directors are scheduled in conjunction with the Annual PAGIS Conference. Online voting will occur from May 4th to the 10th and is open to paid-up members. Live voting will take place at the GIS Conference in Johnstown on May 11, and the new Board members will be introduced at the PaMAGIC InfoSwap that evening. Three new Board members will be elected for three (3) year terms.

Three Board members have served faithfully and completed their terms. Their work and talents have benefited the Commonwealth and the GIS Community in modest yet important ways. We all owe them a debt of gratitude; they are:

Paul DeBarry – NTM Engineering (4 terms)

Dave Gilbert – Geodecisions (1 term)

Melissia Hinton – Independent (1 term)

Board nominees for the election this year are:

**Mike Bialousz** - PA Fish and Boat Commission, GIS Manager

**Peirce Eichelberger** – Independent GIS Manager

**Dave Gilbert** – Geodecisions, GIS Manager

**Melissia Hinton** – Independent Realtor

**Eric Randall** - Erie County, GIS Analyst

**Brady Stroh** – PSU Middletown, Spatial Institute Director

The notice that online ballots are available as well as brief bios and vision statements from the candidates will be sent to members via the Yahoo Group listserv.

### **PA GIS Strategic Plan Update**

March 11, Representative Russ Fairchild issued a memorandum that described his intention to introduce legislation to establish a State Geospatial Coordinating Council. Included with the memorandum was the recently revised bill. The bill reflects changes that were made from the previous iteration that was unveiled at the January 14<sup>th</sup> GIS Congress meeting by Mr. Garth

Shipman, the Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. After a conference call on January 21<sup>st</sup>, another GIS Congress meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup>. It was at this meeting that the group formulated a list of requested changes to the bill where consensus was reached. These “consensus items” were then forwarded to Mr. Shipman. The memo and proposed bill can be viewed on the PaMAGIC Website here:

<http://www.pamagic.org/pamagic/site/default.asp> Representative Fairchild is seeking co-sponsorship for this bill. Mr. Shipman has related that interested parties should petition their State Representatives, to convey their co-sponsorship interest.

## GISPs Endorsed

Montana becomes the 6th state to endorse the GISP program. The other five are:

California - 2008

Montana - 2009

New Jersey - 2007

Ohio - 2008

Oregon - 2005

North Carolina - 2004

The National Association of Counties formally recognized the GISP program in 2007.

## Census Response Rate Maps

### Watch Your Community's Census Participation Online

How well is your community doing in the 2010 Census? With the Census Bureau's interactive 'Take 10 Map,' you can track how well your community is participating in the Census by seeing what percentage of households have mailed back their forms. The map is updated every day as questionnaires are returned, and allows you to compare your community's performance this decade to how well it did in 2000.

View the Take 10 Map online at:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>

### See How Pennsylvania is Doing

You can view Pennsylvania's daily participation rate online at the PA Census 2010 site; the Data Center has also been creating a weekly county-by-county map of census participation rates (just click on 'Participation Rates'). You can view the map, download a PDF copy, or download the data for states, counties, municipalities or census tracts. This map will be updated every Wednesday while the Census is ongoing.

Visit PA Census 2010 online at:

<http://www.pacensus2010.org/>

## GIS Events

**URISA-CAC Meeting** scheduled for Friday, February 12 was cancelled because of snow and has been rescheduled for April 16. For more info contact Heather Martz [Hmartz@spcregion.org](mailto:Hmartz@spcregion.org)

The **18th Annual Pennsylvania GIS Conference** will explore the many ways that geospatial technology is leading the way to a more sustainable future. Presenters from industry, academia, and government will showcase applications that help to advance environmental, economic and social sustainability. In addition, the latest hardware, software, and database trends will be demonstrated by the geospatial industry.

Selected presentations will address some application of geospatial technology to environmental, economic, or social sustainability issues: energy, water resources, workforce, economic development, supply chain management, logistics, land use/planning, human services, and health care. For more information, check the website: (<http://www.pagisconference.org>) or contact Brady Stroh: phone 717-948-6428 or email [bms16@psu.edu](mailto:bms16@psu.edu).

**NW PA GIS User Group Meeting** Friday May 21. For more info contact Matt Gilara (814) 432-9646 or [mgilara@co.venango.pa.us](mailto:mgilara@co.venango.pa.us)

**23rd Annual Towson University Geographic Information Sciences Conference** (TUgis 2010) <http://tugis.towson.edu>. The theme for this year's conference, which will be held on May 24 and 25 on the Towson University campus, is "GIS in Budget Constrained Times: Doing More With Less."

### **World Environment Day Pittsburgh 2010**

The six-week period of Earth Day 40th (April 22) to World Environment Day (June 5) is a remarkable opportunity for the Pittsburgh region. The range of events and initiatives that were already planned and those inspired to occur during this period is growing. Individually and together your activity will help comprise a critical mass of energy and teachable moments enabling World Environment Day (WED) to make real impact.

Click to see a tentative schedule of events surrounding World Environment Day Pittsburgh. It is now time to formalize the list. This calls for your taking a few minutes to formally register and present your event online. The entry page is: [http://www.pittsburghwed.com/events/submit\\_event.html](http://www.pittsburghwed.com/events/submit_event.html)

Plans are coming together for an umbrella PR campaign that will point the public to the WED website which will be enriched by your event. In turn, this amounts to extra outreach to benefit your efforts. Also, do feel free to download the WED logos and use them to brand your event.

**SW PA GIS Conference** – University Club, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 **Friday, September 17** Save the Date!

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If there is something which you would like to have included in PaMAGIC *MATTERS*, please send it to [kathryn.reed@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:kathryn.reed@allegHENYcounty.us)