



PaMAGIC MATTERS **June 2010**

President's Corner

PaMAGIC has always been an organization that represents the many facets of Pennsylvania's geospatial community. Over the years our mission has evolved as it continues to reflect the ever changing values and needs of our members. One could say that PaMAGIC functions as a commonwealth of individuals and organizations, much like the state where we live and work.

Every year, after the PaMAGIC Board elections are completed, Board members head to the center of the state for an annual retreat. This work session follows closely on the heels of the PAGIS Conference, where we have an opportunity to hear directly from the membership about the events of the previous year, and discuss the needs and priorities for the upcoming year. With that information fresh on our minds, we are able to develop an organizational plan for the upcoming year.

The message that we heard loud and clear at this year's conference is that our mission should be enhancing communication and collaboration within Pennsylvania's geospatial community. After many formal and informal discussions about how to accomplish that, we identified three main goals to pursue as a board. We will,

- Continue to encourage the formation of a Geospatial Coordinating Council;
- Strengthen GIS community networks across the Commonwealth; and
- Encourage geospatial collaboration through data standards and best practices for application development and spatial analysis.

Based on ideas from the conference, and these goals, we developed an action plan which we will use to guide us as we strive to reach these goals. This monthly newsletter, and our <http://www.pamagic.org> website are 2 channels through which you can find out how you can partner with us carry out these goals.

As new board president, I wish to thank Glenn McNichol for serving as president for the last year, he led this organization in the foreground at our many events while he worked hard behind the scenes. I would also like to recognize Paul DeBarry, who served on the PaMAGIC Board for 12 years, and Melissia Hinton, who served as treasurer. Thanks to both of them for their dedicated service and active leadership in the geospatial community.

Dave Gilbert was re-elected to a second term on the board. We can always count on him to provide leadership, enthusiasm and detailed documentation of our activities. We also welcome two new board members Brady Stroh, and Mike Bialousz who will bring new ideas and fresh perspectives to our discussions.

On behalf of the other members of the PaMAGIC Board, we want to thank you for the opportunity to serve for another year. We look forward to a very successful and productive year.

Glenn Mohler

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PA GIS Strategic Plan Update

House Bill 2300, creating a State Geospatial Coordinating Council was introduced on June 8:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/HS/2009/0/20100608.htm>

Final text of the bill:

The PAMAP Program has secured funding to complete production, QA, and distribution of all remaining 2008 data areas.

This funding is from a variety of sources, including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Talisman Energy, a gas and oil company from Alberta, Canada working in the Marcellus Shale gas play.

Lidar data is currently in QA for Bradford and Susquehanna counties. Lidar data is in production for Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties. Orthoimagery is in production for Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties. All other data production activities are expected to begin in June.

The PAMAP Program and the PEMA Bureau of 911 have been coordinating on collection and aggregation of selected data layers from county GIS and E911 programs. This coordination includes data collection from PAMAP County Agreement partners and counties receiving GIS development funds from the Statewide Wireless E9-1-1 Plan. An update collection of data this year may be asked from counties that provided data to the PAMAP Program during 2008 and 2009.

Many people may not be aware of the availability of the NAIP imagery for the Commonwealth flown in the summer of 2008. The National Agriculture Imagery Program has now moved to a two-year cycle for their orthoimagery products. Full leaf-on statewide coverage of Pennsylvania was completed in 2008. At the request of PAMAP, PASDA has acquired the three-band county mosaic products and has made them available for download.

Pennsylvania is scheduled for another round of NAIP imagery this summer (2010). The PAMAP Program has been working with NAIP staff on planning for this project. PAMAP has supplied copies of our QA survey checkpoints to NAIP for their use in quality assurance testing of the imagery. PAMAP and the USGS have also been working on updating the National Elevation Dataset (NED) with the high-resolution PAMAP DEM data. NAIP uses the NED for orthoproduction work, and NAIP users should see an improvement in the accuracy of the NAIP product due to these improvements in the NED.

GIS Events

Census Data Workshops

Registration is now open for the PaSDC's 2010 Census Data Workshop! This one-day hands-on workshops teach you the fundamentals of finding, downloading and analyzing Census Data. Learn how to analyze your community or market area, or back up your business proposal or grant application with detailed statistics. Register online for June 17 (Middletown):

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/census_2000/Census2000Workshops.html

If there is something which you would like to have included in PaMAGIC MATTERS, please send it to kathryn.reed@alleghenycounty.us