April 20, 2004, 3:00 PM GISCorps Core Committee Sixth Conference Call

Participants: Shoreh Elhami, Ed Wells, Sanjiv Gandhi, Juna Papajorgji, Tom Conry, Chris Dionne, and Martha Lombard.

Agenda Item 1 – Strategic and Operational Plans

No additional comments and modifications were suggested and all members agreed that both documents are finalized now and could be placed on the web site.

Agenda Item 2 – Other Policies

- General Policies including Code of Ethics and privacy policy:

It was decided to leave privacy statement under General Policies and add another set of policies under the title "*GISCorps Code of Conduct*". All agreed that URISA's *Code of Ethics* could be included under the GISCorps *Code of Conduct* as is in a separate bullet. All volunteers will eventually have to agree with both sets of policies (*General Policies* and *Code of Conduct*) to get accepted as volunteers which will be via the application form only. After these two sets of policies are finalized, we will ask the current volunteers (up to 72 individuals now) to accept these terms so that they could be considered to be sent to a mission.

Ed volunteered to include an outline for the *Code of Conduct* on the Twiki and the rest of the members will add details to each category. Ed suggested generic items such as: Obligations of: volunteers, project sponsors, donors, and the Core Committee.

It was everyone's consensus that GC and its volunteers will not accept donations of software or hardware directly and will remain neutral in this regard. Furthermore, they will seek the most appropriate and sustainable technology and solution for the community in need (as applicable). They will also make recommendations without exploitation or regard for personal or company profit. If GC volunteers become involved in software evaluation and selection, like any other acquisition, selection of the software has to go through competitive bidding and GC volunteers cannot and will not influence that decision.

There was a discussion about situations where a partner agency already is using a certain type of software (either donated or otherwise) and is looking for a volunteer to teach/train using those software packages (VVA example about a months ago). It was the consensus of the committee that in those cases GC volunteers would be able to offer their expertise. In general, everyone agreed that these matters vary depending on the type of the project and assistance needed.

- Limits that URISA's 501c3 status places on GC:

Chris said that she would check with the Auditor to find out what kinds of donations GC could accept so URISA's status would not be harmed. Also, will check to find out if URISA could list donations to be given to GC as "Grant" or "Seed Money" or else so that governmental agencies could donate that way, since for now they cannot make 'donations'.

Agenda Item 3 – Registering the new name

Shoreh sent an email to the Board addressing some of their questions and comments in early April. It was suggested that we send an official request to the Board and include the following in that request: 1) seeking an official endorsement of GC, 2) sponsoring GC financially until it can return the funds 3) and, seek their approval to start mass PR activities. Shoreh will prepare the request and send it to the Board prior to the Board's next meeting on May 5th.

Agenda Item 4 – Web Report

Juna had sent a link to the group prior to the meeting (http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/geocorps/) and since not everyone had a chance to review it, Shoreh asked that everyone would send their feedbacks by Tuesday April 27th.

Juna reported that all Twiki material is now included on the site and also she and her interns have created an admin interface and also a database of volunteers and FOGC on the site.

Even though we were planning to launch the site by the end of April, it was decided that it should be launched after Board's next meeting and their approval of proceeding with PR activities. The *Code of Conduct* will also be incorporated prior to the launch. Mid to end of May is the possible time for the launch.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on Peru Project and ACMA projects

Martha reported that Peru project is an ongoing one and could use GC volunteers' expertise in the long run. She also said that she will be meeting with ICMA representatives in DC and will inform the committee of possible future collaboration opportunities.

Agenda Item 6 – GC related PR

Articles: Shoreh and Juna will prepare a draft of PR material (in form of an electronic brochure) targeting various groups such as: volunteers, sponsors and donor, partner agencies, and academia. Will place it on the twiki for other committee members' review.

FLURISA Conference: Sanjiv and Juna talked about FLURISA's annual conference. Juna is presenting at the conference, talking about GC and Sanjiv is planning to seek

endorsement and financial assistance from them. They will inform us of the results after the conference.

Pirelli Award in Italy: Juna explained that she is nominated for an award and is heading to Italy in May and wondered if she could establish some ties with the FAO and in general publicize GC while there. Everyone felt that was a great idea.

Agenda Item 7 – GIS Material for conferences

Shoreh suggested that T-shorts, pins and similar items would be created/ordered for the conference. Martha provided a link to a web site that allows anyone to set up her/his own store. After the store is set up, interested parties can go to the site and order any items that they decide and pay them directly and GC will then get a percentage of the sale price. Everyone thought that this was a great idea and we will definitely explore it further. The web site's URL is: www.cafepress.com

Agenda Item 8 – Financial Report

Since neither Barb nor Wendy was present, no financial report was given. We will have one at the May meeting.

The next conference call will be on May 18th at 3:00 PM EST.

The call ended at 4:30 PM.