

Minutes of GISCorps Monthly Conference Call –Tuesday April 10th at 3:00 PM EST

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Dianne Haley, Mark Salling, Wendy Nelson, Juna Papajorgji.

Note: *The main focus of this meeting was the issue of a designated/specialized staff support for the GISCorps, which has been identified imperative for a more efficient and stable running of the program, as identified in the F2F meetings of both the GISCorps Core Committee and the URISA Board, in September '06, in Vancouver. For related Action Item, please see item (2) below.*

1. **Financial Report:** End of March figures were not available at the time of the call. However, Ann Bishopp sent the monthly report a few days later. The monthly financial report reflected the following:
 - Total expenses in March '07: \$130.78, and since 2003: \$16,217.32.
 - Total contributions in March '07: \$0 and since 2003: \$55,714.76
 - Total balance as of end of March '07: \$39,497.44.

2. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - **Website/staffing:** There have been quite a lot of problems with the website in the past few weeks and therefore, CC members decided to allocate more time to discuss those matters. There was a lengthy discussion on various responsibilities related to the website. It was the consensus of the group that we needed someone to be able to monitor various components of the website and coordinate all matters between the consultant(s) that URISA uses and the web committee (Paresh and his group). This person could be the HQ staff that CC has been hoping to get. Wendy said that she will be meeting with her staff and will be assigning new responsibilities to them and will get back with us on who may be able to help us in this area. We had developed a job description for this person and that JD once again was sent to Wendy following the call. Also, there are still some remaining problems with the site (post migration) which need to be taken care of. The hope is that the web committee lead, Paresh Patel could help us determine whether we should outsource or ask other volunteers to trouble shoot web problems. He would do the same for implementing the enhancements. Everyone thought that it would be great if Paresh could attend our next meeting to discuss web fixes and enhancements. Shoreh will invite Paresh.
 - **Publications/Public Relations:** Dianne prepared the spring newsletter which went out in early April.
 - **Financial Resources:** Mark revised the white paper and cover letter and both documents were sent to the board to be discussed at their F2F meeting on April 21st. Mark will ask one of his students to come up with a list of potential donors and their contact information.

3. **Deployment related news**
 - AIMS Mission- Chen Li left for Kabul on April 5th and will return in a month. He has been sending accounts of his mission to Shoreh which she has been posting on the website.

4. Other:

- HealthCare Volunteer: This non-profit organization sent a request for volunteers about a week ago. Juna has spoken to them and they seem to be looking for some one with IMS expertise. Juna asked if Dianne would be willing to lead that project. Dianne had left the call at that time and in a later follow-up email accepted to lead the project.
- On TOPP project, Juna said that she thinks under the circumstances, it's best to deal with TOPP the same way as the rest of the partner agencies. Everyone agreed with her.
- Katrina web pages update: Shoreh has added all the Katrina pages back on the website. They can be accessed from www.giscorps.org/katrina.php.
- ESRI UC: Shoreh has requested a room for GISCorps Special Interest Group (SIG). The meeting will be held on Wednesday June 20th, at 5:30 to 7:00 pm in room 28-A. We will have at least 2 speakers.

Next call: Tuesday May 8th at 3:30 PM EST.