

August 17, 2004, 3:00 PM GISCorps Core Committee Tenth Conference Call

Present: Juna Papajorgji, Shoreh Elhami, Sanjiv Gandhi, Tom Conry, and Chris Dionne

1. GC Registration and Policies

The HQ staff will contact the attorneys and ask them to proceed and will report back to the committee in September.

2. Division of Responsibilities

Discussed the need to divide responsibilities for various activities. This will help increase our efficiency. The person(s) leading each activity will be responsible to provide a progress report to the committee on a monthly basis. Areas of responsibilities/activities are:

- **Volunteer Related (Group leaders: Martha and Tom):** This group's activities will include:
 - spearhead establishing strategies for recruiting new volunteers
 - Preliminary investigation of a partner agency's request for volunteers
 - Contacting as many CC members as needed to review the resumes
 - Collecting reviewer's comments and reporting it to the full committee for final approval.
- **Communications & Outreach (Group Leaders: Shoreh, Ed, & Juna):** This group's activities will include:
 - Coordinate and work closely with each group to send correspondence to: volunteers, partner agencies, potential donors
 - Develop various PR materials to send electronically or for conferences (electronic brochures, news letters, online shop material, and etc.)
 - Coordinate the content of the web site, web maintenance and development
 - Seek and recommend events for GC to attend and establish its presence, such as national, state, conferences, etc.
- **Partnership (Group Leaders: Juna with help from Sarah Elliott – a GC volunteer):** This group's activities will include:
 - Identifying programs that are in sync with GC's vision and develop a database
 - Contact these programs
- **Finance & Fund-Raising (Group Leaders: Chris, Sanjiv, and Barbara Frommel – a GC volunteer):** This group's activities will include:
 - Providing a monthly financial report including total expenditures and Revenues (including donations) to be posted on the web
 - Seeking potential donors (create a database) by contacting:
 - Industry leaders such as Map Info, Intergraph, Tele Atlas, etc. (email addresses from Wendy)
 - IRC (Gary Outlaw)

- URISA Chapters (email addresses from Wendy)
- Coordinating with URISA Board of Directors (Chris for now and Shoreh after January 1st, 2005)

3. Volunteer Related activities:

- Responses to-date: as of 8/17/04 we had 43 volunteers.
- Another follow-up letter: Shoreh will send another follow up letter to people who had originally volunteered and have not re-submitted

4. PR Related Activities:

- *Report from ESRI UC (Juna and Shoreh):* GISCorps meeting was held on Wednesday August 12th and 30-35 people attended the meeting. In addition to the meeting, throughout the week, Juna and Shoreh attended several other related sessions and gatherings and spoke with many prospective volunteers and future partner agencies. The following is a summary of their findings and contacts:

- Projects for short term follow-up:

- **UN Humanitarian Affairs (Giorgio Sartori)**, 2 potential projects – attended Mr. Sartori's demo and spoke to him regarding opportunities to assist with their missions. He expressed a lot of interest and said that they will possibly have two projects for our volunteers; one to cleanse a few of their databases and the other, collect and process satellite imageries. Both projects can be conducted in the US which will definitely make it more plausible.
- **Roger Tomlinson's project** – A multiple year project, which is an effort to save Mexico's Rio Laja Watershed, in danger to be eroded in the next 50 years. Roger Tomlinson has offered his GIS expertise as a volunteer to multiple Mexico based volunteering organizations and local communities along with many world renowned scientists in other disciplines.

- Background information on potential agencies and programs for long-term follow up:

- **USGS** – they have already a program in place under their education section that asks for volunteers but it seems to operate mostly within US. When their representative Joseph Kerski gave the presentation he made a point that they conduct training all over the world, that's what Juna's conversation with him was about for the GISCorps volunteers.
<http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/outreach/volunteer.html>
- **GUO** – Global Urban Observatory, under UN Habitat, they just got a grant from ESRI for \$15 million dollars to be applied to 1,000 highly undeveloped cities, each city at \$15 k. Based on what Juna heard in the presentation and based on their materials, there

could be a potential for GISCorps to piggyback.

<http://www.unhabitat.org/quonet/gis.asp>

- **GISCorps Ambassadors** – CJ Cotte seemed very optimistic in helping GISCorps in the long run partner with the Peace Corps. Based on this idea and on what she saw in the Water.org's site, Juna came up with the idea of creating GISCorps Ambassadors. This could be a network of people that could or could not be GIS volunteers but that will be GISCorps contacts either in other countries or other organizations. For example, a Peace Corps volunteer in a particular country, could also be a GISCorps ambassador.
- **Water Partners International** (www.water.org) - This is a wonderful organization with a mission to provide safe drinking water every where in the world. They raise money routinely for various projects and dispatch volunteers and their staff to implement various projects in developing countries. Partnering with them seems like a perfect match. Also, they seem to have been born in a similar way as the GC and are now at a self sufficient point.
- **International Institute for Geo-Information Science and earth observation (ITC)** www.itc.com - This is a Dutch organization that provides MS and PhD degrees and also conducts various GIS training courses in developing countries. They are very interested in recruiting our volunteers for places that can't afford to pay for training
- **Vietnam Veteran's of America (VVA)** <http://vvaf.org/programs/immap/> Spoke with Shawn Messick and he reported that they are mainly in Iraq at the time being and as soon as he knows of any projects "safe" enough for our volunteers, he will contact us.

- Other ideas/tasks generated from the meeting and contacts in UC:

- Bruce Joffe suggested that we send an email to FOG and ask them to provide us with possible projects and partner agencies with similar goals
 - Send an email to attendees of the Wednesday meeting and others who we met last week to thank them and remind them to volunteer
 - Spoke to Jack and thanked him for his generous donation and he said to let him know if we needed his support in any other way and form.
- *Creating/contacting partner agencies (database):* This task will be handled by Partnership Group. Sarah Elliott, one of our original volunteers will help Juna create this database.

- *Creating/contacting agencies with similar mission and objectives (database)*: This task will also be handled by Partnership Group. Juna and Sarah Elliott.
- *Creating/contacting potential Donors (database)*: This task will be handled by Finance & Fund-Raising Group. Barbara Frommel, one of our newer volunteers will develop this database and also seeking and writing grants.

5. Financial Related Activities:

- Expenses and Donations to-date: Chris didn't have an update. She will provide it in September

6. New Items

- Helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Charlie
- Tom's concern over using the term "without regard for profit and exploitation" in the second bullet under Vision Statement in our strategic plan as well as the power point demo. The committee felt that without regard for profit could change to "non-profit", however, since this is included in the Strategic Plan, we will ask for Board's approval.
- Decisions on matters related to trips (standard way of reporting) and any other matters requiring CC's vote. Come up with an internal consistent way (perhaps a by-law) to make all decisions related to GC/URISA.

The meeting ended at 4:20 PM.

Next meeting on Tuesday September 21st, 2004 at 3:00 PM EST