

## Minutes of GISCorps Monthly Conference Call – August 22, 2006, 3:00 PM EST

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Mark Salling, Juna Papajorgji, Frank Chang.

1. **Financial Activities:** The monthly financial report reflected the following: total expenses: \$14,625.20, total contributions: \$51,719.51, and total balance: \$37,094.31. All figures cover the period between mid 2003 and up to end of July 2006.
2. **Web site Related:** Frank reported that the web site is already moved to the new ISP and he has copied the static portion of the site and will soon copy over the database. He has also setup an FTP site and will be setting up a group email starting with CC's email (already in place) using Google's group email. He said that the site will be up and running by the Annual conference. He along with the web site sub committee members will start looking into the enhancements after the conference. Frank said that he could use Google's API for the mapping portions of the site and also for mapping the location of every volunteer and even roll in their resumes into that environment (only accessible to CC members). Since there has been some changes made to the web site, Juna will send a fresh copy of all the files to Frank. Finally, Frank said that we can perhaps use YouTube for our video clips.
3. **ESRI related topics:**
  - Recruitment for sub committees: at the ESRI UC we asked the people who attended the SIG (and elsewhere) to let us know if they are interested in serving in one of the subcommittees (ER, Website/Outreach, Financial, Recruitment) and also after the UC, Shoreh sent an email to those who had attended the SIG and so far seven people have expressed interest in serving in various committees. CC members decided to extend the request to those who will come to the annual conference and finalize the make of the committees after the conference. Juna said that she had asked Ray Deleon to help with the finance sub committee and that he had accepted. Mark is the lead person for that committee and as such will be working with Ray. Mark will select a few volunteers and will then put them in contact with Ray so they can start exploring various funding needs and opportunities.
  - K-12 idea: During the UC, Beni Patel (one of our volunteers) suggested that we team up with a newly created organization called myworld.org (one of their goals is working towards GIS education for K-12) and have our volunteers work with the schools in their communities for a short period during the year (4-5 hours) to teach them about GIS but as a GC volunteer. She will contact them and keep us informed.
  - Volunteers' Contacting EOCs: this was another idea that came up at the SIG meeting at UC and the jest of it is to have our volunteers get in touch with their own EMA/EMS/EOC offices to learn about their community's emergency plans and procedures and find out how they can help them out when help is needed. This kind of information can then be entered into a database and the volunteers who inputted the original information can keep them updated.

- Pre-deployment handbook: Tom Chatfield gave Shoreh a CD of what he had prepared with the help of BLM staff. This document is designed for domestic emergency related missions. Shoreh will review and then share it with the CC. Eventually this document will be shared with those who will join the ER sub committee.

#### 4. **Deployment related news:**

- GSDI projects: No updates.
- MMEX: Juna had to leave early; however, there is a third mission in the works.
- AIMS: still waiting on UNDP to declare their decision about our two volunteers.
- FEMA: still waiting on their response for 8-10 volunteers (19 resumes were submitted to them)
- UNHCR: Mark, Juna, and Shoreh met with Luc the GIS Director of UN High Commission of Refugees and he described their models of operation and indicated their interest in soliciting volunteers in three areas. He said that he will send detailed descriptions about them. He also described the relationship and the practice in place that UNHCR has with the UN volunteer program.
- Pacific Disaster Center (PDC): PDC is a non profit organization who provides disaster relief services in the Pacific Ocean region and beyond. They sought us at the UC and Shoreh spoke to their representative. He was very interested in forming a partnership with GC. Shoreh will follow up with them.

#### 5. **Other:**

- Annual Conference Activities: there will be one presentation by Shoreh and Juna on 05-06 activities and two volunteers from MMEX project will also present their project. We will have an open meeting with current and prospective volunteers and will also have a face to face core committee meeting.
- Budget for 06-07: Shoreh will prepare a draft prior to the conference and will send it to the group and subsequently to the Board along with the Strategic Plan.
- Revised Policy and annual report for the Board: Shoreh will send the modified document to the Board and Juna will prepare the quarterly report (activities from June to September).
- Reproduction of DVDs and CDs for the annual conference: No objections to re producing the CDs.
- Re-opening CafePress: no objections to re-opening the shop. Shoreh suggested that may be one shop can be opened for URISA and GC. She will check with Wendy.

The call ended at 4:30 PM.

Next meeting: In Vancouver at the Annual conference (day/time to be determined)