## Minutes of GISCorps Monthly Conference Call –Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 PM EST

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

- 1. **Financial Report:** The monthly financial report reflected the following:
  - Total expenses in February '07: \$- 43.93 (due to account number change), and since 2003: \$16,174.40.
  - Total contributions in February '07: \$500.00 and since 2003: \$55,714.76
  - Total balance as of end of February '07: \$39,540.36.

## 2. Subcommittee Reports

- Website: Shoreh asked if there were any additional comments regarding
  the list of enhancements and priorities that was sent to everyone a while
  ago and she was asked to send it to the CC one more time for final
  comments. She did that after the call and asked for everyone's comments
  by Monday.
- Publications/Public Relations: Dianne is working with four volunteers on the handbook project. She said that she never received an outline from Martha and that Dick Kotapish is coordinating the efforts of that group now and they will start with Tom Chatfield's document. As for the forms, Dianne will review all the forms one more time for style and content consistency. She is also working on the newsletter. The newsletter will include a report on UNHCR's project. Mark will draft that report. The newsletter will also include a section where we ask the volunteers and FOG to review the donation page and provide us with their feedback. Also, Shoreh will draft a "message from the CC" where she will ask the volunteers and FOG to put us in contact with like minded organizations by sending us their URLs and contact persons.
- Financial Resources: Mark will go over the white paper one more time and will then send it along with a draft of the cover letter to the CC. He will also ask Ray to follow up on potential donors' contact information.
- Volunteer Development: Beni Patel sent an email to Shoreh and said that she along with her committee members will have the first draft package which will include an outline of the project, resources, timelines, and etc. before ESRI conference so that at the conference we can gauge the volunteers' interest in the K-12 project.
- Partnerships: GSDI projects will start in April. Shoreh has sent Invitation to Partnership emails to several organizations including Partner In Health (2<sup>nd</sup> time), The Earth Institute, Pacific Disaster Center (2<sup>nd</sup> time). She also mentioned that she has received two more leads while in Australia and will follow-up with them. She also mentioned the possibility to work with the Engineers Without Border (EWB) via one of the volunteers and she will follow-up on that as well. Dianne also knows an EWB member in Canada and will contact that person to obtain further information.

## 3. Deployment related news

 AIMS (Chen's departure on April 1<sup>st</sup>). Shoreh had a conference call with Chen and another volunteer the night before the call and due to changes in personnel at AIMS, Chen's trip's been postponed. Shoreh has sent an email to AIMS to obtain a new date but hasn't heard back from them yet.

## 4. Other:

- Additional help: Wendy said that HQ staff can always help GC with clerical work. She also said that she has decided to hire someone to take care of organizing conferences by June and that will free up her time and due to that she feels that she can help GC in partnership building activities. She also suggested that we should go back to the idea of inviting a few organizations who might become our future partners and invite them to a workshop of some sort where we can inform them about GC and seek their partnership and input. She suggested that this could be done in DC either before or after this year's annual conference. She also said that she could help in researching and identifying potential participants.
- Allowing volunteers to present on GC's behalf: everyone felt that presentations on GC should be give by the CC members. However, any deployed volunteer is entitled to give a presentation about their mission. Shoreh suggested that we should perhaps place 5-6 introductory slides on the web site that those volunteers could add to their own presentations. Another suggestion was to place a note on the publication page that says: "To Deployed Volunteers: If you are asked to give a presentation about your mission and you need generic information about GISCorps, please contact us at <a href="mailto:info@urisa.org">info@urisa.org</a> and we'll be happy to send them to you".
- Report on GC Presentations; Dianne will give a presentation to Utah GIS user group on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Shoreh just returned from Australia where she gave a GC presentation at the International Emergency Management Conference in Adelaide.
- ESRI Conference: Shoreh mentioned that she had not submitted a
  request for Special Interest Group meeting at ESRI and she will do that in
  the next few days. This is the meeting that we have had in the past 4
  years.

Next call: Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM EST.