

## GISCorps Conference Call - Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM EST

Present: Juna Papajorgji, Shoreh Elhami, Wendy Francis, Chris Dionne

1. **Trademark Status:** (Chris) – No updates at this point
2. **Financial Activities:** donations, expenses, and balance (Chris) – Chris sent a report that listed GISCorps' as follows (all figures are from GC's inception to end of October 2005):  
Total expenses: \$7,827.61  
Total Contributions: \$40,127.51  
Balance: \$32,299.90  
Chris will complete the donation file so the web site can be updated with the names of the new donors.
3. **CC Organizational:** Policy Document status, SP, OP, and Standard Operation Procedure Manual (SOPM) – All - Shoreh said that she and Ed provided a summary on the content of the Policy document to the Board members at the Board's last conference call. Dianne made a comment that the number of CC members need to be changed from 6 to no fixed number to match with URISA's by-laws. Shoreh sent the link to the policy document to the Board and asked that they review the document and then vote on it at the next Board call. She will make the change to the document and will re-send the link to the Board to seek their input once again and then for their vote on December 7<sup>th</sup> call. Discussions regarding the SP, OP and SOPM were postponed to next month call when all CC members are present.
4. **Web site update:** (Wendy) – Wendy reported that the server will be sent back to the HQ very soon and that the site should be up and running by the end of the year.
5. **GISP letter:** (Shoreh, Scott) – Scott met with the Oversight Committee of GISCI and brought up the issue of GC's credit for GISP. They will discuss and provide us with their feedback after their next call.
6. **Deployment related news:** (Shoreh, Juna)
  - Medical Mission Exchange (Juna) - Juna has given a deadline to the MMEX for Thanksgiving, has asked Clare Brown to provide a final report on the project and on everyone's contribution. She will then approach Paul at the MMEX and ask for his evaluation of the work, before we distribute certificates and send a press release.
  - GSDI grants (Juna) - The GSDI committees for each continent have finished their grant evaluation and a final meeting will be held to decide the awards. As part of that meeting GC projects will be approved too.
  - Katrina related news – Stone County Project (Shoreh) –Lucia Barbato has continued her work with Stone County after she returned from MS. The concern was over the fact that her continuation of work, while commendable and very helpful to the county, was performed without going through GC's normal procedure. Everyone agreed that we should

contact her and let her know that while she could continue her work with the county as an individual, it should be clarified especially in an article that she has written that this work is not under GC's umbrella. Shoreh will contact her.

- Punitive policies or more specific enforcement policies for deployed vols – All – We discussed a few examples where either our copyrights or other matters in our policy document have been disregarded by a few volunteers. We already ask that volunteers check boxes for accepting the code of Ethics and also GC's policies, however, we thought that we should perhaps add additional verbiage to the release form and also on the final evaluation form that emphasizes our policies on copy rights and also our neutrality regarding software. Hardware, and data providers.
- Remote team issues – All - Remote teams have issues of their own and perhaps we ought to keep them with a time cap and define them better.
- Yearly project cap, project hourly cap – All - Good to keep a project number cap per year and respect that, so that we all have realistic expectations of the amount of yearly effort necessary for the GC. We will incorporate this into our Strategic Plan.
- Contact organizations such as UNV, ICMA, Peace Corps, etc. – We all felt that we should contact key organizations and make them aware of our existence in order to create new partnerships and as a result get new projects. Wendy suggested that we could perhaps have a breakfast summit or gathering of sort in DC where the majority of these organizations have offices. Everyone thought that this was a superb idea and we decided to come up with a list of organizations that should be invited and also look for appropriate time for the meeting. Attendees could be from: Associations (ICMA), other NGO's (VVAF, Red Cross, Peace Corps), governmental agencies (FGDC, USAID, State Department), private industry (Intergraph, ESRI), and educational institutions.
- A possible new project with Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) - Leslie Smith of OFI contacted Juna and expressed interest in working with us. OFI had a prominent booth at the map gallery at ESRI UC this summer right next to Jane Goodall's Institute.  
<http://www.orangutan.org/projects/esri.php>. You can read more about them at: <http://www.orangutan.org/home/home.php>.

Leslie said that they need 2 teams of 10 volunteers both in June of 2006. Most of what's left of Orangutans is apparently in Indonesia and therefore, the site will be the islands of Borneo or Sumatra where their field operations are located. This will be mostly field work, G.P.S. and Mapping. They have an established volunteer program that covers local lodging, transportation, and insurance costs and they seem to have all the right connections with the right NGO's in the ground but their program asks the volunteers to pay travel expenses to Indonesia estimated at \$1,400-\$2,000. As part of the program they also offer a 5 day tour guided by a renown scientist that has mothered the rescue program over there.

Juna explained to Leslie that GISCorps does not fund travel expenses but as this seems like a dream opportunity and as the timing looks promising, Juna led the conversation with her if they would be willing to be part of

some joint effort between them and us into addressing a third party to cover transportation costs or start thinking of some other sort of a solution. Juna said that her rationale was that we have two specific well-defined projects with well-defined needs, a chunk of the expenses is taken care of, the area of application is dear, and all this should facilitate the funding process.

This was music to her ears and we ended up with her promising me to write up a one page detailed description of the two projects, their cost absorptions, willingness to cooperate with us, and pursue something for these projects. By the time this minutes were written, OFI had already submitted the one page.

We also talked about the possibility of contacting our corporate members for mileage donations and even exploring possibilities of volunteers paying for a part of their flight expenses.

#### **7. Other:**

- Auction Results (Chris) – Chris reported that the total revenues from the auction is at +/- \$900 at this time but that not every item have been purchased and also there are still a few people who have not sent their money. She will send us a detailed file after all items are picked up so we can send all donors thank you letters.
- Sending appreciation certificates, brochures, plaques (Chris) – Chris reported that she has sent certificate of appreciation to all volunteers who were not present at the conference. Shoreh asked that we send a plaque to Alachua County Board of Commissioners in appreciation for hosting our web site. Everyone agreed and Juna will send the information to Chris.
- Upcoming conferences and presentations: Central FI User Group (Juna ) - Juna, Ann Holden and Matt Cieri gave a presentation to over 40 people in Orlando. State of New York, a users group – Juna will be able to present in March 2006, Michigan (Shoreh) – this is to Imagine conference and Shoreh will present in May 2006, GIS CAMA (Cindy) – Cindy and one other volunteers will give this presentation in Orlando in February 2006, GIS-T conference in Columbus: Shoreh and Dick Kotapish and possibly two other volunteers will present at this conference in March 2006.
- Letter to Jack and Margie and others for donation switch (Shoreh) – Shoreh has drafted the letter and Wendy and Chris will send them out.
- Video tape review – We received a CD containing several video clips that were taken at the annual conference from Data Transfer Technology Inc. Shoreh and Juna have had a chance to review them, however, before the final decision is made, the remaining clips are needed. Shoreh will contact them and ask them to send all other clips and all CC members can then review and finalize the pieces.
- Prospects for new members – A few individuals have approached various CC members for CC membership while CC members have asked a few people if they would be interested in joining the CC. Ken Sipos and Allen Ibaugh belong to the first group and Mark Salling, Nigel Roberts, Peter Price, and Frank Change belong to the second group.

Juna asked Peter Price if he would accept CC candidacy and he seemed very much inclined to accept but wanted to know the level of commitment required before making a final decision. After Juna got back with an answer on the level of commitment anticipated, he responded that he was afraid that he could not keep up with the expectations, but he indicated that he wanted to remain involved and to contribute in any other way.

Shoreh asked Nigel and he said that he is starting a new non-profit project and will be very busy. Mark accepted the invitation and Frank is still in work transition. Shoreh will follow up with Frank further.

Wendy suggested that perhaps for the next call, we should develop a list of sub-committees and goals of each one of those sub-committees.

- Newsletter: Shoreh suggested that a newsletter must be going out to FOG and Volunteers and that it has been a long time since we have sent a newsletter out. She suggested that it would include a summary on ten missions, a link to annual conference photos, and link to the Health award.

The call ended at 4:40 PM.