

Minutes of GISCorps Monthly Conference Call – Tuesday November 28th, 2006, at 3:00 PM EST

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

1. Financial Report:

The monthly financial report reflected the following:

- Total expenses in October '06: \$208.49, in 2006: \$6,576.49, and since 2003: \$15,460.21
- Total contributions in October '06: \$1,520, in 2006: \$8,721.25, and since 2003: \$53,330.76
- Total balance as of end of October 2006: \$37,870.55

2. Subcommittee Reports:

- **Website:** Frank has put in 40 hours of work to move the web site so far and he said that he will have to work another 20 hours to complete the move. He said that the changes will be in place before the next call which is on December 12th. He has also implemented some of the enhancements including the Multi Variable Query for volunteer recruitment. We also discussed the need for someone to take care of the web updates once the web site is in place and thought that it would be great to have the HQ staff to take care of that. We will check with Wendy to see if this would be feasible.
- **Financial Resources:** Mark will setup a conference call next week with Ray DeLeon (one of our volunteers), Juna and Shoreh. Juna suggested that Jenny Rechel who in the past has helped with FGDC grant to also attend the call. Wendy had sent an email to Juna and Shoreh to contact Charles Convas of ESRI who is responsible for conservation grants. He works with 5000 non profits primarily in developing countries and has a need for volunteers. Shoreh will setup a conference call with him.
- **Volunteer Development:** Shoreh had developed a Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOPM) which is awaiting the web site migration so its content can be tested in detail and on various projects. This subcommittee includes a sub group who is lead by Beni Patel and is working on a K-12 project. The group members along with Shoreh had a conference call in mid November where they discussed the idea and its potentials and the group members (Laura Horton, Leanne Pacatte and Beni Patel) decided to start the process by investigating existing programs and potentials for collaborations. They will report their progress to the Chair who will in turn notify the CC.
- **Partnerships:** Juna reported that the representative from Google she met at the SHRUG, was interested to put our missions and volunteers locations in Google Earth. Juna will provide the shape files to him. She has opened a dialog with the OSGeo foundation which in principle seems interested to work with the GISCorps, but nothing specific is now on the table. Juna has asked Philippe Duchesne a volunteer from Belgium to be our liaison with the OSGeo, in case something specific came up. He seemed ok with it. At the GSDI meeting Juna also met and talked at length with the UN's Peacekeeping Operations chief cartographer, who seemed overly interested in our volunteers, and she will follow up with

him as it seems that there is an opportunity for a very interesting long term partnership with them.

- **Publications/Public Relations:** Dianne reported that she and Martha have identified 6 work areas/tasks for their subcommittee and have corresponded with 6 volunteers, each volunteer has identified 2-3 tasks that they can work on. Martha is taking on the handbook and workshop and Dianne will take on the remaining tasks. The 6 work areas are:
 1. Developing a Volunteer Handbook (Martha – the work hasn't started yet)
 2. Review/revise/create standardized forms and letters used by GISCorps during the administration of registration/recruitment and deployment (Dianne – the work hasn't started yet)
 3. Preparing a newsletter (working with Katy Carpenter and Michelle Boivin, waiting for material from CC members)
 4. Preparing press releases (Dianne)
 5. Developing a workshop for volunteers (Martha – the work hasn't started yet)
 6. Assist the website committee in designing and creating a blog area for deployed volunteers (Dianne – the work hasn't started yet, waiting for website's move)

3. Deployment related news:

- **UNHCR** (Mark): Lori Quinn has finished the main part of the project and is now working on the metadata. At the end of the project, she will prepare and submit a report.
- **MMEX** (Juna): the third project is complete now.
- **AIMS** (Shoreh): as of the conference call, there were no news, however, a day after the call, AIMS contacted Shoreh and Chen Li and it seems like Chen will be going to Kabul in the next few weeks.
- **FEMA** (Shoreh): No news yet.

4. Other:

- **GSDI Conference:** Juna attended half day. She made contact with a couple of entities, with which she will follow up. She re-confirmed at the conference that the 2007 GSDI grants will soon be announced, and that the GSDI association continues to be interested in partnering with us.
- **New partnership opportunities:**
 - Partners in Health
 - Pacific Disaster CenterShoreh will contact these two organizations and will report by the next conference call.
- **Newsletter:** Dianne is working on the newsletter and needs a report from Shoreh and also a report from Mark on UNHCR and one from Juna on MMEX project. She would like to send it out in early December.

Next call: Tuesday December 12th at 3:00 PM EST