

Minutes of GISCorps face to face meeting at URISA Annual Conference in Vancouver, Thursday September 28, 2006, at 1:00 PM PST

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Mark Salling, Juna Papajorgji, Dianne Haley, Martha Lombard, Ed Wells, Wendy Francis, Cindy Domenico

1. **Financial Report:** The monthly financial report reflected the following: total expenses: \$15,016.04, total contributions: \$51,810.76, and total balance: \$36,794.72. All figures cover the period between mid 2003 and up to end of July 2006. Everyone agreed that on our website we should explain where people's donations are being expended. We will do so as soon as the site is up and running on its temporary ISP. It was also emphasized that we should send "Thank you" letters to those who donate to us and also to those who complete their missions. We also received two checks from Florida (\$500) and BAAMA (\$1,000) chapters at the conference. Both chapters are repeat donors and long time supporters of GISCorps.
2. **Web site Update:** The static part of the website is moved to the new ISP, the FTP site for the CC members is up and running and Frank will be working on moving the volunteer's database to the new ISP. Everyone was in agreement that the enhancements need to take place as soon as possible and is of top priority. Several volunteers have expressed interest in helping and they will be put in contact with Frank.
3. **Organization Update:** There was an extensive discussion over the new model. Shoreh will send everyone a list of new subcommittees and their tasks (as many as we have compiled) to CC members. Each lead person will then create a detailed list of their subcommittee's tasks and will identify which of those tasks can be accomplished by volunteers, consultants (when applicable), or the part time employee that we are thinking about hiring. Based on the feedback from each subcommittee leader, a job description for the part time person will be developed preferably by the next conference call. Ideally, this person would help the HQ staff in PR and updating their web content and also help GC with a variety of tasks (to be determined in the job description).
4. **Deployment related news:** GSDI projects are complete and MMEX's third project will be completed in the near future. AIMS has decided to take one of our volunteers. His name is Chen Li and he will head to Kabul in November (tentatively). Mark met with the UNHCR person in Geneva and has already started looking for one of the volunteers that they need at this time. There is a great opportunity to enter into a long term agreement with UNHCR. We are still waiting on FEMA, BrightEarth, and CATHALAC projects. The K -12 initiative that Beni Patel suggested in San Diego received positive reaction from those that we talked to at the conference and we are hoping to work on a pilot project for 2007 conference.
5. **Other:**
 - **Approval of Strategic Plan & 06-07 Budget:** we discussed the budget and decided that we would rerun the numbers after the job description (and therefore the salary) of the new part time helper is determined.

- **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair:** Since the Policy document was adopted in December of 2005 and one full year is not over yet, no changes will be made to the position of chair and co-chair until the next annual conference. At the meeting, we discussed the need for an additional person on the CC and invited Dianne Haley to join us. We are pleased to report that Dianne accepted our invitation.
- **Conference presentations:** we had an informal presentation on Tuesday night at 5:30 pm where CC members and a few volunteers met with other interested parties. On Wednesday, at the round table, we talked to more interested URISA members about GC and its missions. Finally, we had a more formal presentation on Friday where Shoreh provided an overview, Juna talked about 2006 projects, and Danielle Ayan and Clare Brown talked about their mission with MMEX in great detail. Our posters from ESRI conference was on display at the project showcase area.
- **Outstanding Special Exhibit:** ESRI notified us that GISCorps' booth along with FEMA and NOAA's won the 2006 Outstanding Special Exhibit Award.
- **Other Presentations:** In November, Shoreh will give a keynote talk at Illinois GIS user group meeting and Juna will give a talk at the SHRUG conference (one of Florida's regional GIS user groups).

Next call: Tuesday October 17th 2006 at 3:00 PM EST (the date may change)