



## Indiana GIS Volunteer Corps Committee Meeting Minutes June 16, 2009

### **Participants:**

Christina McCullough  
Bruce Nielson  
Shoreh Elhami  
Roger Koelpin  
Diane Osborn  
Chris Waldron  
Pam Soule  
John Milburn  
Becky McKinley  
Jie Shan  
Phil Worrall

### **Interest and Expectations:**

The Indiana GIS Volunteer Corps had a successful first meeting. Each member was able to discuss their ideas, concerns and expectations of the committee. Overall everyone focused on how to proactively provide support during emergency events. Sharing data, knowledge, resources and technologies were mentioned often. However, a large portion of the meeting discussed the importance for communication flow during emergency events occurred and how GIS can provide assistance to the decision makers.

### **Volunteers Membership**

Phil, Becky and Christina are working together to build a GIS resource database. The database will include basic volunteer information. The information will be collected by various methods. This includes Survey Monkey and Ramona.

### **IDHS Guidance**

Pam Soule and Roger Koelpin expressed their concerns about understanding what emergency managers require during emergencies. Understanding how information flows within jurisdictions and across from the locals to state to federal agencies is crucial. Pam suggested that we attend county/local planning council meetings to begin the dialog with the emergency management community.

It is hoped that this committee will focus on facilitating the “people to people” aspects of developing GIS support for Emergency Management. The slow adoption of GIS within the emergency management centers throughout Indiana is likely due to cultural instead of technical issues. In short, we are not yet relevant to the customer. Accordingly, we need to understand the business(es) of emergency management and then develop GIS solutions that heal pain for emergency managers.

To become relevant it is necessary to understand how the customers conduct their business. The lines of business that are embraced by emergency management are laid out in a body of practice called the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Within NIMS is a subset of practices called the Incident Command System (ICS) which provides the organizational lines of authority and

rules of engagement when responding to an incident or event. These are the governing principles emergency managers are required to follow.

A noble goal for this group would be to shift the expectation from the emergency manager having to understand GIS to having the GIS community better understand emergency management. There are several on-line training classes that provide certificates upon successful completion of the introductory NIMS and ICS modules. Another opportunity would be for GIS practitioners to reach out to their emergency managers within their respective jurisdiction. Self-study and simple outreach will provide the GIS community stronger legs to stand on as we begin the walk towards relevance for emergency management.

### **IGIC Coordinating Bodies**

The Committee agreed to discuss this topic to be determined at a later time. Potential partnerships would include FEMA 5, NSGIC, EMAI, URISA, etc

### **IndianaMap**

The IndianaMap was not discussed in great detail. The IndianaMap is an invaluable GIS data resource and available for all to use free of charge.

### **Training**

Providing educational training with the focus on emergency support was discussed at length, but no solid solutions have been decided. Potential processes would be to present at the IGIC conference, provide links to training on the IGIC GIS Volunteer Corps website and hold a seminar through the IGIC Education Committee.

### **Local Coordinator's Meeting**

The committee has been allotted 20 minutes to present. It was suggested that we try to reserve a time slot for local EMA Director to speak about their needs during emergencies.

### **URISA Project**

Shoreh from URISA's GISCorps, an international GIS volunteer group, expressed her interest and support for our committee. As URISA volunteers are from around the world, they can provide volunteers if we would need them. The DRS (Disaster Response Subcommittee) of GISCorps is managing pilot projects in several states. Oregon is currently participating and Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi are candidates. The DRS subcommittee would like for Indiana to be part of their pilot project. Indiana is very interested in learning from URISA's GISCorps best practices. This topic will be discussed in greater detail during the next GIS Volunteer Committee meeting.

#### **DRS Pilot Project:**

- 1) Research emergency response protocols in the pilot state:
  - Setup meetings with the key players in the pilot states; introduce GISCorps by using a set of slides on GC's previous emergency response missions
  - Identify the main players/stake holders at the local, state, and federal level; map out/list the hierarchy among various players
  - Identify the roles of all other non governmental and non profit organizations in a crisis (i.e. Red Cross)
  - Determine the most appropriate role that GISCorps can play (ask how GC can help them) and find the most appropriate way to publicize GISCorps' existence and utilize our volunteers' expertise

- Demonstrate the results of the pilot project to non pilot states and at various events; then use those findings towards implementing a nationwide inventory

2) Search for a list of links to spatial data resources for each pilot state.

**Next Meeting Time and Location:**

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

11:30am - 12:30pm

Conference Call

1-906-481-2100

Participant Code 160134