

CHARTER OF THE NORTHEAST INDIANA GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION COMMUNITY

Article I – Title

The name of this organization shall be the Northeast Indiana Geospatial Information Community also hereafter referred to as NIGIC, “the User Group” or “the Group”. The Group was formed in January 2008 as an unofficial association of GIS users in the Northeast Indiana region and was not created under any statutory authority or with any official sanction.

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of NIGIC are to:

- a) Create a forum whereby GIS professionals and others interested in geospatial information may network with their peers to exchange ideas, techniques and experiences; to obtain advice about how geospatial information may be used to address the challenges they face; and/or to discuss opportunities for joint, inter-agency projects.
- b) Establish a framework in which the various governmental units, academic institutions and private organizations of Northeastern Indiana may cooperate in the investigation, study, discussion and recommendation of improvements in geospatial information management.
- c) Aid members in the development of a GIS and of GIS personnel within their agencies.
- d) Provide a means whereby the membership's opinions on geospatial issues affecting the Northeastern Indiana region can be presented as a unified professional voice to State government, to the Indiana Geographic Information Officer (GIO) and to the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC).
- e) Support the Indiana Geographic Information Council and legislation beneficial to the acquisition, improvement, maintenance, use and distribution of geospatial information in Northeastern Indiana.
- f) Advance geospatial knowledge and practice through continuing education of GIS users, elected officials and the general public.

Article III – Membership and Voting

Membership is open to all interested individuals. Members may present product- and services-neutral information on solutions to issues raised by the Group. Members are expressly disallowed from the promotion of their for-profit products and/or services at a meeting unless they are doing so at the request of the Group or in response to a direct question asked during a meeting.

When appropriate, decisions shall be made by taking a vote of all voting members in attendance. Unless otherwise specified herein, a vote shall be successful if supported by a simple majority of the voting members in attendance. A vote shall generally be made either by a show of hands or by roll call however a member may request that any vote be taken by secret ballot. Members providing any products and/or services are prohibited from voting on any issue in which they would have a financial or ethical conflict of interest including, but not limited to, any project on which they may or intend to provide products and/or services for a fee.

Voting Member - A person shall be considered a voting member if they have attended at least one other NIGIC meeting during the current or immediately preceding calendar year and have paid membership dues (if any). Attendance will be documented by the Secretary in order to maintain a registry of voting members. Voting members may make motions and cast votes in addition to participating in the group's discussions and other activities.

Non-voting Member - A non-voting member is any person present at a meeting who has not attended any other NIGIC meetings during the past year or who has not paid membership dues (if any). Non-voting members may not make motions or cast votes however they may participate in the group's discussions and other activities.

The User Group is not an officially-sanctioned policy-making forum therefore its actions are not binding on any member however the Group may occasionally make recommendations for consideration by its members. The Group may, as an organization, decide to support or oppose an organization, project or legislative proposal without any obligation for individual support or opposition by its membership.

Article IV – Dues

It is the intent of the Group to be an all volunteer organization however the Group may wish to provide services beneficial to the Group such as a website, community outreach and education services, refreshments for meetings, etc. in which case dues may be levied. The decision to require or not require dues and the amount of dues will be decided by majority vote during the first meeting of each new year. Discussion and majority vote is required prior to any expenditure of Group funds.

Article V - Officers

The Officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary

The President shall schedule and conduct group meetings, establish standing and ad hoc committees, and appoint temporary officers until vacancies can be filled by electoral procedures.

The Vice-President shall oversee committees and act as treasurer in the event the group elects to require dues or receives any donations. The Vice-President shall fulfill the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

The Secretary shall take minutes of meetings, notify members of meetings and maintain member attendance records.

Article VI - Election of Officers

Officers will be elected annually by secret ballot. Nominations and elections will be held in the late fall meeting. Newly elected officers will take office during the first meeting of the new year. Current officers shall continue until replaced.

All offices must be decided by a majority of the voting members present at the meeting in which elections are held. The President or acting-President will not vote except under tie breaking circumstances. If a majority is not reached among more than two candidates, the nominee with the least votes will be dropped and a re-vote will be held for the remaining candidates until such time as only two candidates remain. In the case of a tie between the top two candidates, a re-vote will be held. If no majority is reached after two re-votes, the President will cast the deciding vote.

An officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all Association members eligible to vote and in attendance at any regular or special meeting.

Article VII - Vacancies

Any vacancy created by the resignation or termination of the President, Vice-President or Secretary shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining voting members. The newly elected officer(s) shall fill the remaining term of office. Prior to the election of the new President, the Vice-President shall serve as acting President.

Article VIII - Meetings

The Group will hold regular quarterly meetings, the date, time and location of which shall be determined by the President. The President can call a special meeting for any purpose. Should the President be unwilling or unable to call a special meeting, the Vice-President and Secretary may jointly call a special meeting for any purpose. Notice of the date, time and place as well as the general purpose of the meeting shall be given to the membership at least 48 hours prior to the meeting for both regular and special meetings.

Article IX – Committees

Standing or ad hoc committees will be established by the President on an as-needed basis.

Article X - Amendments

This charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all Association members eligible to vote and in attendance at any regular or special meeting, provided that notice and a copy of any proposed amendment(s) shall have been sent to all members, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.


Article XI - Dissolution

The User Group will continue to function as such until dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership except however that Group will automatically dissolve should any period of eighteen (18) months elapse without a meeting.

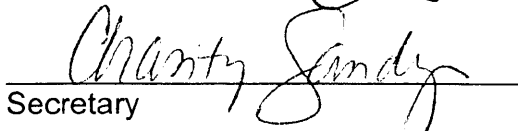
This charter was unanimously adopted at the NIGIC meeting held on July 31, 2008.



President David Estes October 30, 2008



Vice-President Michael Shelling October 30, 2008



Secretary Chasity Sandy October 30, 2008

**I affirm, under the penalties for perjury,
that I have taken reasonable care to redact
each Social Security number in this
document, unless required by law.**

