

October 5, 2004, 3:00 PM GISCorps Core Committee Eleventh Conference Call

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Sanjiv Gandhi, Tom Conry, Martha Lombard, Ed Wells, and Chris Dionne

1. GC Registration and Policies

Contacting the legal council – Chris has contacted the attorneys and is waiting on their response. She will report back after they get back with her.

2. Approval of Division of Responsibilities

The Committee agreed with formation of all 4 groups and representatives from each group will be reporting their activities to the CC on a monthly basis.

3. Volunteer Related (Martha and Tom):

Martha and Tom agreed that until such time that we have a heavier work load, they would be willing to perform the tasks assigned to this group (tasks were listed in August's minutes) and as we grow, we can utilize other volunteers to help out.

As of today, we have 62 volunteers and 208 friends of the GC.

4. Communications & Outreach (Shoreh, Ed):

Shoreh mentioned that she and Ed had worked on an email that was sent to several potential partner agencies (UN Habitat, VVA, ESRI for Florida projects, and Jeb Bush's office). We have not heard back from them yet.

She also mentioned that after ESRI UC, she sent emails to attendees of GC session as well as old volunteers.

Shoreh and Ed will create three one page leaflets for potential volunteers, donors, and partner agencies and will bring them to the conference. Martha volunteered to print those leaflets.

5. Partnership (Juna):

Juna couldn't make it to the meeting, however, she sent the following report which summarizes her activities:

- Partners/Sisters Agencies dbase - Based on previously collected info from the committee members; contacts we made in San Diego; and contacts and information gathered at Barcelona's meeting; I have come up with 30-40 potential programs/agencies (need 1-2 more days of work to brush it up). Half of them come from the Barcelona meeting and are international organizations that operate within local governments. I have also finalized the design of the database in terms of the number of fields and info to be stored in them. Believe that we should have as key item 'name of program', not 'name of agency', since some appear to have

more than one potential program. For now, I have stored everything in MS Words. I have stored Name of Organization/program and mission, contact person when it exists. At this point each of the info needs to be enriched with more detailed info for each of the programs, website, address, etc. Then stored into an Access dbase. I believe now that I have put together what I have, in 2-3 days will be ready to contact Sarah and Dhyan to implement it into an access database and to do the background research to enrich the records.

- GISCorps Ambassadors - My idea for the GISCorps ambassadors derived from the fact that I am already in contact with several people overseas that are ready to help, such as Dhyan and a woman I met in Barcelona, whom I will list in point 3. We could be expanding on people like that in the future as we establish more contacts in various countries and I thought that we might explore the idea of giving them some sort of a formal recognition for their contribution to GC. In the future as we get stronger and more robust perhaps they can become something more for us, should I dream of GISCorps offices over-seas?
- World Urban Forum Conference in Barcelona and FAO - It was an irreplaceable educational experience from the perspective of how the international scene works and who should or could be our partners, and also a very good focal point for information gathering and for contacts. One thing was extremely obvious, that US was a tiny minority in that gathering. It seemed that local officials (the majority of the attendees) were very interested in GC till the moment came that I would mention that we can not sponsor the flight expenses. Lodging did not seem much of a problem to them. In a way it was an extremely useful test to sort of see in the field what the response was to the movement or the idealism or altruism that we think that the GISCorps has to offer. In the end, these are the people that conduct the programs that will benefit from our contributions. Bettering my understanding on how the international mechanisms worked, meaning that it is these big organizations that have the money and that drive the projects in these countries, was invaluable.

Although I had some un-expected adventures that limited somehow my attention and time to the conference, I talked to a number of people but it is only those that I am reporting here that I anticipate could be long term and worthwhile (just as at ESRI UC).

- Runi Khosla, director at the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence in New Dehli.
 - Ismajl Baftjar, at the UN Habitat in Prishtina, Kosovo.
 - Ingemar Savfors, private firm located in Sweden that works exclusively with UN Habitat projects, area of operations Africa.
 - Drew Stroll, ex Peace Corps volunteer, currently working with SCGIS and with a past and present in Honduras.
- City of Newberry - I have also been working very intensively for the City of Newberry, which can be viewed at: <http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/newberry/index.html>

- Rotary International (Martha) - Martha spoke about the opportunity to work with the Rotary International. She explained that every Rotary has a sister agency in another country. The US Rotary can contact the sister agency to seek projects for our volunteers and part of the cost can be defrayed by the US Rotary (i.e. travel costs) which the other portion can be handled by the sister agency (accommodation). Another advantage is that sister agency has a pretty good idea about the nature of the project and partner agency which will help in evaluating the project. Everyone agreed that this was a great opportunity. Martha will therefore, contact and meet Rotary's president and will report back to the committee.

6. Finance & Fund-Raising (Chris, Sanjiv):

- Expenses and Donations to-date: One more donation of \$250 is received from SeCon and two other donations are on their way. One for \$500 from Alachua County and the other for \$2,500 from the City of Newberry (in 2 installments). Chris reported that the balance before these donations were at: \$6,770. After these donations our balance will exceed \$10,000.

The majority of the committee decided that including the budget on the web would not be necessary. However, including it in the minutes is fine and also including names and amounts of donations on the web site would also be fine.

- Contacting industry leaders, IRC and chapter leaders - Sanjiv will contact Gary Outlaw (the chair of IRC) to make sure that he and Shoreh will be invited to IRC's meeting at the conference to talk about GC.

Shoreh asked if HQ would prefer to give them the email addresses of industry leaders and chapters or she should send the PR material to them to email them out. Chris said that they prefer the latter (they will take care of emailing them).

7. New Items

- Tom McConnell's paper - Everyone agreed that we would discuss the opportunity after he establishes his project and when he will be ready to deploy our volunteers.
- GC by-law – Everyone agreed that the by-law or policies and procedures are needed and Ed and Martha will come up with an outline after the conference.
- Preparations for the annual conference – We will have the following events at the conference:
 - Monday Roundtable Luncheon from noon to 1:30 PM (November 8th)
 - Tuesday luncheon meeting from noon to 1:30 PM (November 9th), Shoreh and Juna will present first and Martha and Tom will also talk about Peru and Romania projects. We'll keep the presentations to 40 minutes leaving 20 minutes for Q&A.

- Wednesday from 8:00 to 9:00 AM (November 10th), CC members meeting
- Martha will check the online shop and email everyone a list of items to order for the conference (for demo purposes)
- Shoreh will create and bring to the conference copies of order forms, business cards and generic flyers

The meeting ended at 4:20 PM.

Next meeting will be held at the Annual conference in Reno on Wednesday November 10th from 8:00 Am to 9:00 Am.