

## **GISCorps Meeting - Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 to 5:00 PM – Kansas City**

Present: Martha Lombard, Ed Wells, Juna Papajorgji, Shoreh Elhami, Wendy Francis, Chris Dionne, Tom Chatfield, Twyla McDermott, Ken Sipos, Sarah Yurman, Sandi Majosky, Peter Price, Frank Chang, Dianne Haley, and Cindy Domenico

The meeting was held at the URISA annual conference in Kansas City, MO.

1. **Recap of the conference:** On Monday morning, at an award ceremony, GISCorps volunteers and Core Committee members were given certificates of appreciation. Three of our volunteers gave a presentation at the Monday luncheon and a round table was held at the luncheon session on Tuesday to discuss Katrina related matters. On Wednesday, five of our volunteers presented non-Katrina missions.
2. **Volunteer appreciation letter, volunteer GISP letter:** A certificate of appreciation was handed out to all volunteers who were present. Those who weren't present will receive their certificates via mail. A template for GISP letters need to be drafted. The letter must clarify the type of the mission and level of contribution (number of days, hours, etc.)
3. **Letter to those who sent their donations for Katrina Relief:** several individuals/companies sent their donations for Katrina relief efforts and according to the Auditor, these funds cannot be spent on anything other than Katrina related matters. Therefore, it was decided to send these donors a letter and ask them to change the purpose of the check from Katrina to GISCorps.
4. **Web site update:** at the previous meeting, we had decided to move our web site to another ISP until URISA was ready for us. However, things are moving faster and URISA's web site may be operational in a few weeks and therefore, it may not be necessary to move GISCorps' web site to another ISP.
5. **CC Organizational: SP, OP, and Standard Operation Procedure Manual (SOPM):** The Policy document has been sent to the Board of Directors and will be reviewed by the Board at their upcoming meeting. SP, OP, and SOPM documents will be developed after the Board approval of Policy document.
6. **“How to Volunteer” Workshop:** The need for a new workshop was brought up. The idea is to develop a workshop that describes all the do's and don'ts for a volunteer. This could be an online workshop and it was suggested that no volunteer should be deployed unless they take this workshop. It was agreed that the workshop will be free of charge. Martha will work with Frank on that.
7. **Two possible initiatives:** Twyla McDermott and Tom Chatfield, both Katrina volunteers, talked about two projects that they would like to work on. Tom expressed interest in developing a manual for volunteers who are called to assist in disaster relief in the US. He said that he with the help from other volunteers can develop this document by the end of the year and possibly a corporate member can support publishing the document. It was suggested that we should also have three other manuals, a total of four as follows:

- Non-Disaster missions outside US
- Remote Missions
- Disaster Relief outside US
- Disaster Relief in US

Twyla talked about developing a model language that would insert the use of geospatial technology in the US Emergency Operation Center's plans and would reiterate its importance. She will be working with other volunteers on this project. No timeline or other details were given. Upon some discussion to tie this initiative with the GISCorps it was agreed that this activity would fit best under URISA's activities as it does not have much connection with the GISCorps' mission.

8. Juna reported on the proposal/idea from Bruce Joffe to create a GISCorps Brigade in California that would be specialized on disaster relief. Nothing specific came out of the meeting on the subject.
9. There was some discussion about the role that disaster relief in US would play in GISCorps' mission. There was general agreement that GISCorps should engage only in the very first stage of it, as it otherwise would be competing with private sector's interests.
10. A very detailed discussion was held as to who would be presenting GISCorps activities in the future. It was unanimously agreed that only CC members should.

The meeting ended at 5:00 PM.

Next conference call: Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM EST