

**2006 WEST VIRGINIA GIS FORUM AND WORKSHOPS**  
**AGENDA FOR GIS ACTIVITIES DAY MAY 17**  
**MOUNTIANLAIR BALLROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

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**Opening Remarks**

**8:30 – 8:45**

*President David Hardesty, West Virginia University*  
*Gregory Elmes, Co-Director, WV GIS Technical Center, West Virginia University*

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**U.S. Geological Survey**

**8:45 – 9:00**

*Bruce Bauch, Geospatial Liaison KY, TN, WV*

Federal  
Session

The U.S. Geological Survey continues to develop technology and programmatic capabilities to support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). It will continue to work with federal, state, and local agencies to explore development of partnerships for building the NSDI. In West Virginia, it will support the FGDC CAP grant project to develop the Strategic and Business Plans for the State's geospatial efforts. This past year USGS supported conversion of the SAMB orthophotos to the UTM projection and the conversion of the elevation data into a gridded format for inclusion in the National Elevation Data Set. It is also currently supporting a pilot local resolution National Hydrographic Data project to create the best available stream coverage for West Virginia.

**9:00 – 9:15**

*Dwight Hughes, Software Engineer, Geographic Names Project*

Federal  
Session

With almost two million features represented, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the Federal standard for geographic nomenclature and the official Federal repository of domestic geographic names data. The GNIS provides data to all levels of government and to the public, as well as to numerous applications through a web query site, web map and feature services, file download services, and customized files upon request. New web mapping services allow users to dynamically layer the latest GNIS data into their GIS. Authorized users can directly enter and edit data in the GNIS through Web applications. Batch files for new and edited data are accepted in any standard format. The Geographic Names Project actively seeks partnerships with State and local agencies to ensure that their data are correctly represented at the Federal level, and that the data are readily available to all users. The Geographic Names Project is updating the entire school feature layer for West Virginia, and in the future will partnership with the State to revise and maintain names of other cultural features and stream names. West Virginia State and local agencies with feature data (except roads and highways) are encouraged to join the partnership program. See <http://geonames.usgs.gov> for additional information.

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**U.S. Census Bureau**

**9:15 – 9:30**

*Gordon Rector, Geographic Coordinator, Detroit Regional Office*

Federal  
Session

The 2010 Decennial Census is fast approaching. The Geography Division is overseeing new geospatial programs that will improve the spatial accuracies of its geographic data compilations. Census Mapping Activity Timeline: **2006** - Realignment of TIGER street centerlines to SAMB base. **2007** - Start benchmarking TIGER and Master Address File (MAF) to create LUCA map and address files. LUCA invitation letters mailed. Program continues through 2008. SAMB Road Centerlines publicly available in TIGER format. **Late 2007-2008** - Phase 2 of Redistricting Program (States delineate Voting District Boundaries for Census 2010 data tabulation). **2008** - Statistical Areas Program (Census Tract/Block Group delineation) underway between Census and WV participants. **2009** - Canvass WV to update/verify Census Master Address list. **2008-2010** - Annual Boundary and Annexations Survey (BAS) will update municipal/county boundaries to realigned TIGER files. **2011** - Statistical area and census administrative boundaries publicly released. Redistricting GIS file released.

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**9:30 – 9:45**      **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
*Michael Craghan, Civil Engineer*

Federal Session

The primary goals of flood map modernization are to reduce the loss of life and property, minimize suffering and disruption caused by disaster, and better prepare the Nation to address the consequences of flooding and other hazards. Through September 2005, 21% of the counties in Region III have digital flood insurance rate maps, and another 40% have mapping projects underway. West Virginia will be one of the first states in the Nation to have complete digital flood map coverage. FEMA has mapping projects underway with the following WV based partners: USACE-Huntington, USACE-Pittsburgh, USGS, WVSAMB, WVGISTC, Region I Planning and Development Council, and Canaan Valley Institute. New mapping products will be in GIS formats, making information more usable and more accessible.

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**9:45 – 10:00**      **Farm Service Agency**  
*April Savage, GIS Specialist*

Federal Session

As part of its effort to map the nation's farms and fields, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set out to establish the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS data layer that will allow mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The development of the CLU data layer is the most critical component for the successful implementation of GIS by the FSA. This layer will ultimately include all farm fields, rangeland, and pastureland in the United States. In West Virginia, the statewide CLU layer will be completed in 2007.

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**10:00 – 10:30**      **BREAK**

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**10:30 – 10:45**      **WV Department of Transportation**  
*Sean Litteral, GIS Manager*

State Govt. Session

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is comprised of more than 6,000 men and women who work in the Division of Highways; Division of Motor Vehicles; Division of Public Transit; the Public Port Authority; the Parkways, Economic Development and Tourism Authority (W.V. Turnpike); the State Rail Authority; and the Aeronautics Commission. WVDOT provides essential services in transportation, tourism and economic development. Our top 3 geospatial accomplishments in the past year: established a GIS training program for the WVDOT; created a GIS Portal to share geospatial transportation data; and created a geo-spatial crash analysis website. Our top 3 geospatial goals for the coming year: design a transportation data model that works for the WVDOT; start in the development of a reference network; and increase staff size.

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**10:45 – 11:00**      **WV Department of Environmental Protection**  
*Larry Evans, Manager, Technical Applications & GIS Unit*

State Govt. Session  
(*Mine Mapping*)

The Technical Applications and Geographic Information Systems (TAGIS) is engaged in developing a comprehensive, state-wide spatial database to support environmental monitoring, analysis, and decision making throughout the agency. It provides spatial and environmental database development, spatial data services, research, analysis and consulting for the Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) which regulates the mining industry in accordance with federal and state law. DMR activities include issuing and renewing permits for mineral extraction sites and related facilities, inspecting facilities for compliance, monitoring water quality, tracking ownership, and issuing and assessing violations.

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**11:00 – 11:15**      **WV Geological and Economic Survey**  
*Nick Fedorko, Head, Coal Program*

State Govt. Session  
(*Mine Mapping*)

The Geological and Economic Survey (Survey) has been compiling underground coal mine areas for several decades, more recently utilizing GIS within the Coal Bed Mapping Project. More recently, the Survey has teamed with the WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training (MHST) in this effort and additional funding has come through their office from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration to accelerate the work. MHST's goal is to make the archives more complete by examining private mine map collections for maps not currently in the archive. The Survey's goal is to create a complete as possible compilation of underground mines by bed in a GIS format. This information is invaluable for mine safety, environmental assessment, resources assessment, mine subsidence, infrastructure development, and many other uses.

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<p><b>11:15 – 11:30</b></p> <p>State Govt. Session</p> <p><i>(Mine Mapping)</i></p>	<p><b>WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management</b>  <i>Jimmy Gianato, Director of WVDHSEM; Joe Seppi, Baker Project Management Team</i></p> <p>The Mine Rescue application is using the best-available data from WV Department of Environmental Protection and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). We are now working with mining companies and the WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training (MHST) data to update the currency and spatial accuracy of these data. This will take time but involving these additional organizations is the best way to assure correct information.</p>
<p><b>11:30 – 11:45</b></p> <p>State Govt. Session</p>	<p><b>WV Statewide Addressing and Mapping Board</b>  <i>Craig Neidig, Chair, West Virginia State Addressing and Mapping Board; State GIS Coordinator Joe Seppi, Baker Project Management Team</i></p> <p>By the end of 2007, West Virginia will have: ALL rural addresses (RR, HC, Star Route) converted to city-style addresses; county MSAG's for E9-1-1 completed; USPS postal address conversion well underway or completed; a centralized, Oracle-based Statewide Addressing Maintenance System (SAMS); 9-1-1 address updates occurring at county-level on regular basis; increased integration of 9-1-1 information with other county (Assessor) and state offices (DHSEM, etc.).</p> <p>The Statewide Addressing and Mapping System (SAMS) was delivered to IS&amp;C on 15-16 March. The system was fully redeployed on 16 March, and was reconfigured to accommodate use in the WVDHSEM Mine Rescue Hotline's call center. Development on SAMS continues now with an emphasis on the mobile applications.</p>
<p><b>11:45 – 12:00</b></p> <p>State Govt. Session</p>	<p><b>WV Office of Technology</b>  <i>Kyle Schafer, Chief Technology Officer</i></p> <p>Mr. Schafer will share his thoughts on how geospatial technologies can be better integrated into the broader state IT infrastructure, and what role the State Office of Technology might serve to promote the use of GIS throughout all levels of West Virginia government.</p>
<p><b>12:00 – 1:30</b></p> <p>Lunch Keynote</p>	<p><b>Kentucky Division of Geographic Information</b>  <i>Gary Harp, Director of Kentucky Division of Geographic Information</i></p> <p>As part of the Commonwealth Office of Technology, the Division of Geographic Information (DGI) is responsible for encouraging, coordinating, and implementing GIS programs within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. DGI works with both state and local government, and serves as a liaison to federal mapping agencies. Activities include strategic planning, project management, technical and administrative support, dissemination of spatial data, education and training, research, and policy development. DGI also works closely with the Kentucky Geospatial Board.</p>
<p><b>1:30 – 1:40</b></p> <p>Associations</p>	<p><b>WV View</b>  <i>Rick Landenberger, Research Assistant Professor and WV View Manager, Dept. of Geology &amp; Geography, West Virginia University</i></p> <p>West Virginia View is a consortium of public, private, and non-profit remote sensing organizations. Some of its objectives include: (1) Establish the formal linking of, and cooperation between, the major remote sensing organizations in West Virginia, and promote community outreach by these organizations. (2) Share existing and purchase additional remotely sensed data (as permitted by data purchase agreements), and develop the remote sensing infrastructure through improved access to data, computer resources, and field equipment.</p>
<p><b>1:40 – 1:50</b></p> <p>Associations</p>	<p><b>WV Society of Professional Surveyors</b>  <i>Jeffrey Stephens, President</i></p> <p>The WV Society of Professional Surveyors (WVSPS) is the professional organization in West Virginia that represents all surveyors while protecting the public. This goal is achieved by education of current and future practitioners and legislation that will insure competency of those individuals. WVSPS would like to collaborate with the GIS community on standards, policies, applications, training, and other activities which advance the State's Spatial Data Infrastructure.</p>

**1:50 – 2:00**      **WV Association of Assessors**  
*Jim Priester, Assessor, Marion County*  
 This past year a Tax Mapping Advisory Committee formed to revise the statewide tax mapping procedural rules which must be approved by the Property Valuation Training and Procedures Commission (PVC) and State Legislature. Since December 2005, the Committee's first two meetings have been focused on updating the *Statewide Procedures for the Manual Maintenance of Surface Tax Maps*, WV Code Title-Series 189-04, to include guidelines for the maintenance and publishing of **digital** tax maps. Future meetings will review procedural rules for *Tax Map Sales*, WV Code Title-Series 189-05. The Committee consists of Assessors, county mappers, and other geospatial professionals from the WV Department of Tax and Revenue and other organizations. Committee members have a common interest in creating **uniform** guidelines for the maintenance, publishing, sales, exchange, and multi-jurisdictional viewing of tax maps. The new procedural rules will be written to conform to national cadastral standards, including the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Standard on Digital Cadastral Maps and Parcel Identifiers approved in July 2003; and cadastral and reference standards recently published by the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Subcommittee for Cadastral Data.

**2:00 – 2:15**      **WV Geospatial Strategic Plan**  
*Diane Eldridge, Eastern Region NSDI Partnership Office, U.S. Geological Survey*  
*Kurt Donaldson, Chair, WV Geospatial Strategic Plan; Manager, WV GIS Technical Center, WVU*  
 As part of the Fifty States Initiative, the Federal Geographic Data Committee awarded West Virginia a 2006 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant. This grant will support the formation of a new statewide GIS coordination program and strategic plan by spring 2007. This initiative will facilitate the coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources that enable the coordination, collection, documentation, discovery, distribution, exchange and maintenance of geospatial information in support of the NSDI and the objectives of the Fifty States Initiative Action Plan.

**2:15 – 2:35**      **WV GIS Coordination Program – Presentation**  
*Sean Litteral, Chair, WV GIS Council Formulation Subcommittee*  
 During a statewide geospatial coordination meeting in November 2005, members of the geospatial community appointed a committee to organize a new GIS coordinating body for the State. Since December 2005, the GIS Council Formulation Subcommittee has had monthly meetings to develop a new coordination council for the State. The proposed name for this new coordinating body is the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals (WVAGP). Proposal documents, including bylaws and organizational diagram, will be presented at this meeting for review and discussions. It is hoped that these bylaws will be adopted at the next statewide geospatial coordination meeting in the fall of 2006.

**2:35 – 3:00**      **BREAK**

**3:00 – 4:30**      **WV GIS Coordination Program – Discussions**  
*Bruce Bauch, Moderator, WV GIS Council Formulation Subcommittee*  
 Coordination      Discussions regarding the new WV GIS Coordination Program.

**5:30 – 8:00**      **EVENING SOCIAL at the Clarion Hotel Morgan, Elevation 127 Restaurant, Dinner Included**