

July 2008

**RE: GISCC “State of the Committee, 2008”**

Dear Members and Friends of the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC):



I would like to end my term as 2007-2008 Chair of the GISCC with a “State of the Committee” letter. Such a document is new for the GISCC and hopefully precedent-setting, as I believe we all appreciate a year-end summary and that the Committee deserves a mechanism for tracking accomplishments/progress over time.

Thank you for electing my service over the past year. I was very honored to Chair the Committee and will continue to stay involved in this important organization as current Outgoing Chair and future member. I foresee that support for GIS in Georgia will be elevated and much broader over the next few years, and I am glad to know that work efforts from GISCC volunteers have and will continue to have a positive impact on the current and future geospatial health of our state.

Highlights from this year’s GISCC activities include the following:

- As Chair of the GISCC and on behalf of the GISCC, I was able to secure a federal grant for Georgia under the FGDC/USGS "2008 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program /Category 3: **Fifty States Initiative - Strategic and Business Plan Development.**" This grant included \$50,000 federal award with a 50% match from the Georgia Institute of Technology Center for GIS and helped initiate a strong momentum for GIS this year which will likely continue to accelerate.
- Via the above grant vehicle, the GISCC has been serving as the Steering Committee for Strategic Planning discussions and resulting document development, such as the new “Business Rationale for a Geospatial Enterprise License Agreement (ELA),” the “Georgia GIS Maturity Assessment,” and the “Georgia Geospatial Prospectus.”
- The above-referenced documents have been (and continue to be) utilized to support meetings with the Governor's Policy Advisor, the Office of Planning & Budget and others to raise the level of awareness and strategic planning for needed geospatial components in Georgia.
- With the aid of our grant, the Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure (GaSDI) website Information Architecture is being revamped to include a GIS Forum, Showcase, and other dynamic items.
- I have routinely represented the GISCC at the Regional Development Center Executive Director’s meetings, garnering written resolution in support of GIS strategic planning efforts.
- The GISCC started holding 2-showcases of GIS in practice at each monthly GISCC meeting to share agency GIS-related activities with the group. These showcases can also serve as a reference base for future activities, such as GIS Day at the Capitol, etc.



- On behalf of the GISCC and GIS community in Georgia, I coordinated/moderated the first-ever GIS presentation at the Society for Information Management's (SIM) 2-day "CIO Forum & Executive IT Summit," showcasing a panel of state, local, academic and private geospatially-driven business procedures that enhance decision-making.
- The GISCC was unanimously granted a non-voting seat at the state CIO Council meetings.
- The GISCC has renewed discussions regarding an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) for ESRI geospatial software and facilitated input from the GIS Community regarding the business agreement terms (ELA outcome pending, but very positive)
- The Clearinghouse managers, long-term members and representatives of the GISCC, have continued to work with the Board of Regents (BOR) and the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) to secure FY08 and FY09 funding for the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse.
- A new Executive position for the GISCC was unanimously created: Outgoing Chair
- GISCC partnered with ESRI to arrange/promote a Technology Briefing: "Connecting People, Places and Policy," with former 2-term Governor of Wyoming, Jim Geringer (postponed from June until fall 2008)
- I was nominated to the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Board, pending a September 2008 vote. Regardless, I will continue to nationally represent Georgia's interests within this organization.

Again, I feel that a lot was accomplished this past year to really advance our industry expertise and to set the stage for a future enterprise GIS Program in Georgia. Thanks to every person who volunteered their time and energy to the GISCC discussions and efforts. I am proud to be part of such a dedicated group of professionals.

Warm Regards,

**DANN**

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GISCC 2008 Outgoing Chair

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