

**MAP Board of Directors Meeting  
January 9, 2009 (MDOT Conference Room, Augusta)  
Minutes**

Meeting Convened at 10:40 AM

Present: Maureen O'Meara (President), Steve Condon, Rebecca Schaffner, Helen Edmonds, Linda Johns, Beth Della Valle, Mac Stocco, Stacy Benjamin, Noel Musson, Hugh Coxe (by phone), Judy Colby-George, Fred Marshall, Carl Eppich

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.** The Board voted to approve the Meeting Minutes of 12/5/08 9:0:3 (F. Marshall not present for this vote)

**2. Website Upgrade.** Judy Colby-George.

- Design of the upgraded website is proceeding based on the preliminary designs reviewed by the Board.

**3. Geolibrary Master Plan.** Judy Colby-George.

- Judy's review of this plan indicates that there is not much of direct relevance to planning. The project is very under-funded and it is doubtful there will be financing through the bond package.
- Board members discussed problems with this program in terms of data accessibility and utility, including an overall lack of education about the resource.
- Mac reported that he has had good success with OGIS, which provides a lot of useful data and is a good resource. However, the Board discussed that OGIS is merely the manager of the data portal; it is up to others to take the data and make it useable. At this point, the Office is still in the process of gathering the data to make it accessible.
- The Board determined that it would be helpful for MAP to provide a supportive letter regarding the OGIS mission.

**Motion:** MAP, through Maureen, should send a letter supporting OGIS mission. Second.

- Carl suggested that Judy draft the letter on behalf of MAP, although it will come from Maureen as President. Judy agreed to this approach.

**Passed:** 13:0:0. [*A copy of the letter that was sent is attached.*]

**4. Awards Committee.** Anne Krieg.

- Anne was not able to attend the Board meeting, however it was reported that the nominations forms are ready to go in the next newsletter. Steve, Linda, Noel are assisting on this committee.

**5. Newsletter.** Rebeccah Schaffner.

- The next deadline is 2/6/09. A number of Board members offered to provide articles; it appears the newsletter is full.
- Maureen noted that the proposed budget should be included in the next newsletter, as well as information about the annual meeting.

**6. 2009 NNECAPA Conference, Sept. 24-25.** Rebeccah Schaffner.

- Rebeccah reported that the organizing committee met again.
- The committee looked at venues in Belfast other than the originally planned Hutchinson Center, but it is difficult to find a suitable alternative.
- The website will include links to area B&Bs; in addition, a small block of hotel rooms will be reserved across the River. Trolley service is still in the concept stage. The committee is trying to keep food service local.
- A preliminary list of sponsors has been developed.
- Session ideas are still in process. There will be a session on law and ethics; Helen volunteered Pierce Atwood to provide this session. The session will provide CM credits.
- Maureen asked for discussion of whether MAP should hold its annual meeting at the NNECAPA conference, or whether we should hold a more “streamlined” annual meeting in May/June. After discussion, there was consensus that MAP should hold a brief meeting in May/June, to include a brief topical discussion (e.g., GIS Users Group) followed by the business meeting and a social event. The Board will discuss this further at the February meeting.
- The Board also discussed a possible joint session with MMA on GIS.

**7. Other.**

- Rebeccah reported that NNECAPA has come back with a revamped CPC Grant proposal. She asked whether the Board is interested in working on this or reconsidering the decision not to fund. At this point, the item could be included in next year’s budget. The Board felt

- The Board agreed to provide cell phone numbers for the Board member database. Please email these to Stacy.

**9. February 6, 2009 Meeting.** This meeting will be by telephone between locations. Helen will reserve a conference room for the Augusta group, but will not be present. Maureen will need to appoint a recording secretary.

**Motion:** Move to adjourn. Second.

**Passed** 13:0:0

Maine Association of Planners  
Maureen O'Meara, President  
January 20, 2009

Maine GeoLibrary Board  
Augusta, ME

To Whom It May Concern:

The Maine Association of Planners would like to express its support for the 2008 Strategic Plan Update of the Maine GeoLibrary. The Maine planning community is very interested in increased access to local data and adoption of standards which promote regional uses of local data sets. We are also hopeful that the state will continue to provide updated statewide datasets, especially aerial photography, land cover and impervious surfaces, and increasingly accurate elevation data. We support the recommendations of the plan and encourage the state to move forward in implementing the recommendations.

Geographic Information Systems are an invaluable resource for many of the tasks planners deal with. It is currently used widely in developing natural resource protection plans, comprehensive plans, and open space plans, among others. GIS is being used with more frequency to analyze various planning options, to illustrate options and help citizens to understand the choices before them.

We applaud the board for their work on behalf of the state and look forward to the implementation of this plan.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen O'Meara  
President, Maine Association of Planners.