

Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium

Annual Report 2012



Mission Statement:

"To develop and support the GIS professional in Minnesota for the benefit of our state and its citizens."

The Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium is a forum for communicating information to, and improving cooperation among, those interested in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Land Information Systems (LIS) in the State of Minnesota. Members include GIS users in local, state, federal and tribal government agencies; business and industry; educational institutions and nonprofits. Membership is **FREE** just by being on our mailing list.

The Consortium hosts annual statewide conferences, and establishes committees that deal with specific GIS/LIS-related issues in Minnesota. Opportunities to participate in Consortium activities are available through volunteer work with committees, conferences and workshops. The Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium is an official 501c3 non-profit organization.

Message from the Board Chair

From Ben Verbick, Board Chair

“Thank you.” It probably doesn’t get said often enough. And when it does it’s not often said with the sincerity it merits.

Now that I’ve put this caveat around a simple phrase I’m going to try to say thank you with the sincerity it deserves to all of the people and organizations to which it needs to be directed.

The MN GIS/LIS Consortium is a volunteer organization. It relies completely on the generosity of others in order to further its mission. We have a dedicated and impassioned Board of Directors and several committees dedicating a great deal of their time to developing and supporting GIS professionals. But beyond that, the MN GIS/LIS Consortium relies heavily on the generosity of other organizations in and on the periphery of the GIS world. Every fall we have come to rely on the fact that we’ll have more than 20 vendors step up to actively participate in our annual conference by purchasing booth space, donating prizes to raise funds for our scholarship endowment, helping to sponsor networking opportunities, and generally being magnanimous supporters and advocates for the Consortium.

It’s fairly easy to itemize the dollars donated by these folks but not so noticeable are the things that happen quietly, behind the curtain. Things like offering a few more dollars “out of pocket” to push a fundraiser over a threshold; donating technology to a task or event; allowing employees to “borrow from company time” to be more involved with Consortium projects; simply being willing to spend some of your free time to help out.

Please take a minute to turn the page and scan the list of Consortium supporters. And, if you get a chance during one of our events, thank them for helping to make the MN GIS/LIS Consortium the valuable asset that it is to the GIS professionals in our state.

Conference Exhibitors

Aerial Services, Inc.
Aero-Metric, Inc.
Applied Geographics, Inc.
Ayres Associates
Compass Tools, Inc.
Esri
Flat Rock Geographics
FOSS4G North America
Frontier Precision, Inc.
Fugro Horizons, Inc.
Houston Engineering, Inc.
Intergraph Corp.
Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.
Moore Engineering, Inc.
North Point Geographic Solutions
Pictometry International
Pro-West and Associates, Inc.
Rowekamp Associates, Inc.
Surdex Corporation
The Schneider Corp.
Timmons Group
Treebiz
Woolpert
WSB & Associates, Inc.

Conference Advertisers

Aero-Metric, Inc.
Ddms, Inc.
Elevated GIS Solutions
Houston Engineering, Inc.
Intergraph
Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.
North Point Geographic Solutions
Pro-West & Associates

Protegra

University of Minnesota Duluth

WSB & Associates, Inc.

Distinct Sponsorships

Ddms, Inc. provides Project Portal for our online document management.

Municipal, County, and State Government

A large percentage of the attendees and active participants at our annual conference, spring and fall workshops and other Consortium sponsored events are employees of local government throughout the state. Equally as many are state government employees. These groups of GIS professionals are important drivers of our mission and their involvement is critical to the success of the MN GIS/LIS Consortium.

Federal Agencies

Federal agencies step up every year to involve their staffs in Consortium events and help keep GIS professionals in our state informed of important national events and initiatives.

Higher Education

University of Minnesota

University of St. Thomas

St. Cloud State University

St. Mary's University of Minnesota

Federal Government

U.S. Geological Survey

Donated Honoraria

Every year many of our speakers and instructors generously decline honoraria, requesting instead that these funds be directed to our scholarship endowment fund.

Other participation

All organizations that have graciously allowed their employees to donate time to present, moderate, plan, and attend our annual conference and other events.

Consortium Events

2012

The Consortium conducted three major events and did well financially in 2012, helping to further our mission and increase our financial stability. Details are listed below.

1. Spring Workshops: 110 Attendees 8 Workshops
2. 21st Annual Fall Conference: 423 Attendees 11 Workshops 142 Workshop Attendees
27 Exhibitors 16 Posters 74 Presentations
11 Lightning Talks
10 Mentor/Mentee pairs participated in the
Young Professionals Mentorship Program
3. Summit Networking Event: 73 Attendees

Raised Funds for the Scholarship Endowment:

Donated Honorariums - \$2,600 (only fall conference so far)

Funds raised from Raffle and Networking events in October and November - \$3,412



The River's Edge Convention in St. Cloud. Home of the 2012 MN GIS/LIS Annual Conference

Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement Awards



David Arbeit with Board Chair Ben Verbick and committee chair Mark Kotz



Randy Johnson - Randy's daughter and son-in-law accept the award in Randy's absence

Polaris Awards



Sarah Schrader (right) - Goodhue County with presenter Lisa Hanni



Gerry Sjerven (right) - NRRI, UMD with presenter Mike Dalbow



Ron Wencil (left) - U.S.G.S. with presenter Nancy Rader

Student Scholarship Winners

Daryn Hardwick - St. Cloud State University, *Graduate Competition, 1st Place - \$1000*
Jacqueline Brost - St. Mary's University of Minnesota, *Graduate Competition, 2nd Place - \$500*
Carson A. Smith - Minnesota State University-Mankato, *Graduate Competition*
Matt Taraldsen - University of Minnesota, *Graduate Competition*
Fartun Dirie - University of St. Thomas, *Undergraduate Competition, 1st Place - \$800*
Caroline Devany - Macalester College, *Undergraduate Competition*
Sam Giebner - University of Minnesota-Duluth, *Undergraduate Competition, 2nd Place - \$400*
Kate Geraets - University of Minnesota, *Undergraduate Competition*
Hanna Kennedy - Bemidji State University, *Undergraduate Competition*
Mark Rhodes - St. Cloud State University, *Undergraduate Competition*
Andrew Welsolowski, Minnesota State University-Mankato, *Undergraduate Competition*
Melody Morris - Itasca Community College, *Community College Competition, 1st Place - \$500*
Manoah Anderson - Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, *Community College Competition*



Scholarship winners Jacqueline Brost, Daryn Hardwick, Fartun Dirie, and Sam Giebner with committee chair Stacey Stark

A new **Member Portal** was implemented on our web site in 2012. The portal is a user friendly, professional resource for your personal development, member contacts, group communication, and activity participation. We used features of our new portal for our 2012 Fall Conference registration. We encourage all members to use the portal to maintain a current member profile and as a resource for member contact.

Our member communication opportunities began an evolution in 2012, initiated by a name change to our Newsletter Committee, now known as our **Communications & Social Media Committee**. Our newsletter distribution process is changing, we've begun testing a blog, and our presence on Facebook and LinkedIn continues to grow.

Initiated in November of 2011, **Networking Events** have become a big hit. The Consortium sponsored two events in 2012; both were very well attended. Networking events offer our members, sponsors, and other guests additional opportunities to share knowledge and experiences in an informal, fun setting. Through sponsorships and donations our networking events also raise money for our scholarship endowment.

The MN GIS/LIS Consortium offers **Event Grants** to qualifying GIS/LIS activities. In 2012 we helped sponsor the SE MN GIS User Group, the GISSO Career & Networking Fair, and the first ever Spatial Hotdish, a team-based map mashup "competition". Event grants are available annually from the Consortium. Please take advantage of a possible sponsorship when organizing your event. See our web site for additional information and a grant application form.

Profit / Loss

	2011	2012
Fall Conference / General Operations Income	\$127,995	\$124,406
Spring Workshops Income	\$6,445	\$10,125
Scholarship Income	\$3,316	\$4,335
Total Income	\$137,756	\$138,866
Fall Conference Expenses	\$99,495	\$108,341
Spring Workshop Expenses	\$3,239	\$4,549
General Operations Expenses	\$24,572	\$28,928
Total Expenses	\$127,306	\$141,818

Balance Sheet

Net Amount – General Fund	\$39,373	\$34,504
Reserve Fund	\$35,046	\$35,082
Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$33,330	\$39,145

DESCRIPTIONS:

Fall Conference/General Operations Income – Workshop and Fall Conference registration fees, exhibitor fees, and interest from General Operations account.

Spring Workshop Income – Workshop registration fees.

Scholarship Income – Donations, fundraising and interest.

Fall Conference Expenses – Including but not limited to event space rental, food & beverages, audio/visual fees, printing and honorariums for workshop instructors.

Spring Workshop Expenses – Including but not limited to event space rental, food & beverages, printing and honorariums for workshop instructors.

General Operating Expenses – Expenses for the general operations of the Consortium including but not limited to professional management fees, website maintenance fees, student scholarships, printing and event grants.

Net Amount – General Fund – Operational account balance as of December 31st, 2012.

Reserve Fund – Separate line item in Consortium budget to protect the solvency of the Consortium in the event a conference does not generate enough revenue to host the next year’s conference.

Scholarship Endowment Fund – Separate account to hold monies that will only be used for student scholarships. The goal is to reach \$100,000 before distributions are made from this account.

Detailed accounting documentation is available upon request. Contact any Board Member for more information.

The MN GIS/LIS Consortium is run solely by volunteers. All consortium members are invited to participate on any of the following committees:

Awards

Coordinates Polaris and Lifetime Achievement Awards. You must be a past award recipient to sit on this committee.

Conference

Plans and executes a fun, educational and successful fall conference.

Database/Web

Helps manage the Consortium database and website.

Education

Works to foster relationships between the consortium and educational institutions and to support GIS in K-12 and higher education. This committee also coordinates our annual mentoring program.

Communications/Social Media

Solicits, reviews and organizes articles for the MN GIS/LIS Newsletter, monitors our blog and social media sites.

Outreach

Works to promote the GIS/LIS Consortium, its mission and events.

Networking Event Planning

Organizes networking events as educational and/or fundraising activities for GIS professionals.

Spring Workshops

Organizes spring workshops for GIS professionals.

Scholarship

Manages the Consortium's student scholarship program.



About the MN GIS/LIS Board of Directors and Consortium Committees

Board positions are elected by the membership. We encourage you to run for a seat that matches your experience and current association. In addition, there are many opportunities for you to contribute your skills, time, and enthusiasm to make a difference, without having to run for office. Several committees need your help. We're sure you will enjoy working with such an interesting group of people who are committed to providing the best possible educational and networking opportunities to our membership of GIS professionals.

Please feel free to contact us at any time at webmaster@mngislis.org.

**Chair**

Ben Verbick
Local Government
Information Systems
Association (LOGIS)

**Chair-Elect**

Joshua Gumm
Scott County

**Treasurer**

Kari Geurts
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources

**Secretary**

Catherine Hansen
University of St Thomas

**Conference Chair**

Alison Wieckowicz
Minnesota Department of
Transportation

**Conference Chair-
Elect**

Derek Lorbiecki
Hennepin County

**Private Sector**

Blaine Hackett
Flat Rock Geographics

**State Government**

Bart Richardson
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources

**At-Large**

Heather Bergen
WSB & Associates

**Higher Education**

Stacey Stark
University of Mn, Duluth

**Local Government**

Michelle Trager
Rice County

**Past Chair (Ex-Officio)**

Sarah Schrader
Goodhue County

**MnGeo (Ex-Officio)**

Nancy Rader
Minnesota Geospatial
Information Office (MnGeo)

**MnGeo Statewide
Geospatial Advisory
Council (Ex-Officio)**

Gerry Sjerven
NRRI, University of MN,
Duluth

Association Management and Event Management

Ewald Consulting

Eric Ewald, Vice President

Scott Franzmeier, Director of Operations – Ewald Conference Center, Meeting Planner

Amanda Ewald, Vice President of Finance & Client Accounting

Janey Duntley, Communications Specialist

Kathie Pugaczewski, Vice President of Communications & Technology

Michele Wolfel, Account Executive Assistant

Bridget Fox, Events Coordinator