URISA
BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

Spring Newsletter 2007

Editor: Jerry Maedel
Web Site: http://www.urisabc.org
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Note from the President

Phil T. Bates, P.Eng.
URISA BC President 2006-2007

BC continues to be a busy place to work, whether you are in government or the private sector. The Province appears to be "flat out", and unemployment sits at a record low. All of this bodes well for the GIS industry as we work to create and maintain datasets that influence and affect a growing portion of the population. The days of keeping this technology in a back room do indeed appear to be gone. I am always surprised about the new uses that GIS has been applied to, and the problems and questions it is solving. "Hats Off" to those that work in the trenches, keeping those valuable datasets current and accurate. GIS is truly hitting the mainstream, and will be increasingly referred to by professionals in engineering, health, finance, risk management, and the public.

In light of the International Conference in September, the URISA BC chapter decided to hold only one local seminar this year. For those who attended the International Conference, I am certain that you benefited from the wide range of topics, and discussions with people from out-of-country. It is interesting to see that the

issues that we face here at home are usually very similar to those elsewhere. In fact, we can be proud to know that GIS in BC or Canada leads the way in certain areas. Well done!!

On April 18th, URISA BC will be hosting a 1-day seminar entitled "Asset Management/Asset Accounting – GIS Brings Them Together." For people involved in maintaining publicly owned assets, this topic has been receiving increasing coverage over the past several years. With the advent of new public sector accounting regulations, the interest in asset management has spread from the engineering and public works departments to those involved in producing the corporate financial statements. Finance and risk management departments are now taking a keen interest in what is happening over-the-fence. With this seminar, URISA BC is attempting to help educate and create discussion around the topic of assets, and how to manage and account to the public.

Thanks to all those who have served on the executive committee over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with you. As volunteers, your efforts often go unrecognized, but without them URISA BC would not be the strong organization that it has become. For those of you who have recently joined the executive group, I want to

thank you in advance for offering your support. In August, I will hand the torch to James Andrusiw from the City of Coquitlam. James has been a strong contributor to URISA BC, and will no doubt make next year a great success.

Here is to a brilliant year ahead, and good times with all your GIS endeavors.

Asset Management/ Asset Accounting – GIS Brings Them Together

URISA BC is hosting a seminar on April 18, 2007 at the Burnaby Hilton Hotel adjacent to Metrotown just off Kingsway. As a GIS professional…. Have you ever wondered why those engineers keep asking you questions about the accuracy of your pipes, roads, hydrants….?? As an engineer…. Have you ever wondered why those accountants keep asking you increasingly urgent questions regarding the replacement of your infrastructure?? As an Accountant…. Have you ever wondered what PSAB 3150 is supposed to do for you?? This 1 day seminar will attempt to shed more light on these questions, and help all those involved in the Asset Management game.

Seminar Sponsors

BCIT Scholarship

We were very happy to present the URISA BC scholarship to Julie Scott-Ashe at an awards ceremony held at BCIT this March.

GISP Recertification – What is required?

This article will briefly outline the requirements for a GISP to get recertified. But first, what is a GISP? A GISP is a certified Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Professional who has met the requirements for ethical conduct and professional practice as determined by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). As of February 25, 2007 there are 1,443 GISPs registered throughout the world. In 2008, the first 29 Certified GIS Professionals (GISPs) will celebrate their 5-year anniversary; at this time these GISPs will need to apply for recertification. Recertification is compulsory every five years for individuals to maintain their GISP credential.

For recertification, the GISP will need to satisfy the "point requirements" of 3 core areas (plus 28 additional points), as determined by the GISCI. The Recertification Requirements Table 1 below lists the

categories and required points for each, which needs to be earned after their initial certification. This article will briefly summarize these requirements. For detailed descriptions of each category and point calculation, please see "Draft Renewal of Certification Application" at this web page: http://www.gisci.org/renewals.htm. The GISCI has indicated that the final "Renewal of Certification Application" will be available shortly.

Table 1 - Recertification Requirements

Category	Minimum Points
Educational Achievement	3
Professional Experience	37
Contributions to the Profession	7
Additional Points	28
Total Minimum Points	75

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Minimum 3 Points

Relevant courses and workshops are those which content appears within the UCGIS Body of Knowledge http://www.aag.org/bok/. One can obtain Educational Achievement points in these categories: Credential Points, Course and Workshop Points, and Conference Points. For example, for completing a Certificate in GIS one would earn 5 (Credential) points and, and for completing a 3 credit university/college course in GIS one could earn approximately 3.4 (Course) points.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Minimum 37 points

For Professional Experience, points are awarded for the number of years and fractions of years worked as a GIS professional. The Points for Work Experience Table 2 shows the number of points awarded for one year of experience for different levels (Tiers) of experience. Note, one may report having worked more than one Tier for a particular time frame (e.g. 30% - GIS Programmer and 70% GIS Technician).

Table 2 - Points for Work Experience

Tier-Level	Title	Points/Yr.
1	GIS Programmer	25
2	GIS Technician	15
3	GIS User	10

For the Tier 1 level, the GIS Programmer, one is expected to perform GIS Analysis, System Design, Data Development, and Programming. For the Tier 2 level, the GIS Technician, one is expected to perform Data Compilation, Data Maintenance, Map Composition, and Teaching. For the Tier 3 level, the GIS User, one is expected to utilize applications involving geospatial technologies. In addition, if applicable, a supervisory bonus (10 points/year) maybe included.

Contributions to the Profession: Minimum 7 Points

All of the following activities are considered potential acceptable contributions to the profession: GIS Publications, GIS-Related Professional Association Involvement, GIS Conference Participation (role as either Conference Chairperson or Conference Committee Member), Workshop Instruction, GIS Conference Presentations, GIS Awards Received, GIS Volunteer Efforts, and other GIS contributions. For example, for publishing a map (author) one may earn 3 points, and for Association/Organization Membership one may earn up to 1 point per year of membership, and for providing a Conference Presentation one may earn 1 point per Presentation.

Additional Points: Minimum 28 Points

The additional 28 points can be counted from any one or more of the three categories (Educational Achievement, Professional Experience, or Contributions to the Profession).

For successful recertification, the point minimums must be met for all categories. A GISP who has had their recertification denied may make an appeal of this decision to the Appeals Committee, if that GISP has earned a minimum of 56.25 (75%) points. The recertification fee has been set at $115. This fee will cover an additional 5 years of affiliation. For additional information regarding GISP certification please see http://www.gisci.org/

Finally, other organizations are certifying GIS Professionals. The Canadian Institute of Geomatics is a non-profit scientific and technical association that has a certification program for a GEOMATICS SPECIALIST (GIS/LIS); information is found at this web page http://www.cig-acsg.ca/page.asp?intNodeID=7. Another organization that is certifying GIS Professionals is ASPRS (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), which certifies both GIS/LIS Mapping Scientists and GIS/LIS Technologists. Information about ASPRS certification program can be found at this web page: http://www.asprs.org/.

Tourism Vancouver Launches Mapping Site

In February, Tourism Vancouver using software from The Map Network, launched a site completely

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focused on serving the tourist community. The site can be accessed at http://tourismvancouver.com/visitors/maps.

For those of us municipal folks who have spent a lot of time building web GIS sites that provide a lot of detail and depth across the board, this one is a little different. The legend contains listings for accommodations and restaurants, among other features. When an individual establishment is selected in the legend, a window with further information appears and the map zooms to that location.

This site re-emphasizes the different purposes that web GIS sites can serve. Municipal sites provide significant detail down to addresses, assessed values, and many other property-specific attributes. The Tourism Vancouver site focuses on providing information for a specific segment of the user base. Two different purposes, two different sites. This is not meant to imply they can't be combined but for now we'll allow the specialization.

Have a look at it, particularly if you are looking for a place to eat.

Surrey As-Built Drawings Available Free Over the Internet

Access to asset information through as-built engineering drawings within the City of Surrey just got a whole lot easier. As-built drawings show constructed City assets such as water, sanitary and drainage mains resulting from completed projects. These drawings can now be immediately accessed via COSMOS (City of Surrey's Mapping Online System). Anyone with access to the internet can use COSMOS to locate a specific area of the City and view all the drawings for that area. Previously in COSMOS, customers were only provided with a list of drawings for the area, from which they could request from the Engineering Department and wait for a staff member to send the drawings back; a process that could take up to several days. Now COSMOS provides a link to open the drawing immediately free of charge.

One of the first steps in planning and designing new developments is gathering as much information about the infrastructure that already exists around a proposed site. The City maintains a spatial database of all existing and planned utility infrastructure and a comprehensive library of all the as-built drawings submitted to the City. A contributing factor to the decision to offer drawings free of charge was the hundreds of requests for data and as-built drawings the City received every year. The City has always tried to be as

responsive to these requests as possible. This tool is a good example of how technology can be used to simplify business processes, increase the City's level of service, and promote efficient sharing of data with the business community and the general public.

COSMOS can be accessed through the City's home page www.surrey.ca or directly at http://cosmos.surrey.ca/. Later this spring COSMOS will also allow users to download digital data from the City's GIS.

2007 Executive Changes

Many thanks to the executive members who worked so hard to help us organize past events and now move on to other challenges:

Adam Chadwick
Tjaart van den Berg
John Samulski
Randy Hall

We now welcome three new members; Steven Frick, Greg Allen, Dan Tancon and Boris Zanic.

For a complete list of our current executive please go to our website: http://www.urisabc.org/executive.htm