

Note from the President

Greetings In July, the BC Chapter of URISA kicked off its new year with a fresh executive committee ready to tackle new challenges. Participation in URISA throughout the province at the executive level and at the membership level has been very strong for many years now and we anticipate growth and interest in the association to continue in the future.

This year, the executive set a variety of new goals. One of which was to better communicate with our membership by sharing local and international spatial-technology issues with you. As a result, we have published this newsletter.

The newsletter will be published quarterly and will feature articles pertaining to seminars hosted by the BC Chapter of URISA plus specific activities, functions and headlines concerning information systems in our region. We hope you find the newsletter beneficial and we appreciate your feedback.

In addition to the newsletter we have also revised our website. Our website committee has been hard at work creating a new look and feel to our old site.

We hope you find both the newsletter and the website intuitive, concise and informative.



Upcoming Events



Solutions Seminar – November 26, 2002 (8:00 – 5:30)
 The B.C. Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association is hosting a seminar entitled *Showcase Applications*. You are invited to attend this one-day event at the Ramada Plaza Conference Resort on November 26th, 2002 between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Lunch and Coffee will be served.



McElhanney

The seminar will explore how GIS applications are playing a role in both business and local government. Five speakers will discuss how their applications help to provide information to their clients. The themes include Emergency 911, a variety of GIS Website applications, GIS in the field, GIS in the office, local elections over the web and more. In the afternoon, a discussion panel will examine issues in GIS technology and will open the floor to the audience.



The seminar agenda is available at www.urisabc.org



NOTE: The logos represent the industry sponsors of our seminar, who we thank for their generous support.



GIS Day in King County, Washington

The King County GIS Centre in Seattle Washington is holding its 3rd annual GIS Day 'GIS Poetry Contest'. Brush off your poetry skills and enter the official King County GIS Day haiku Contest. For rules, a list of prizes (and some examples to get you started) visit the website below.

<http://www.metrokc.gov/gis/gisd/haikucontest2002.htm>

New Web Site

See what's new at our web site:

<http://www.urisabc.org>



Sharing the \$ of GIS

Just returned from the big URISA conference in Chicago, Karen Stewart would like to share her notes from three presentations, the first entitled: **Local Government GIS-Partnerships in Developing an Enterprise GIS**

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Moderator: Doug Roberts, Project Manager, SD.I, Chicago

Because budgets are always a constraining factor in deploying and maintaining GIS within local government, an increasing trend is to find ways to share the cost with other local and state government as well as with private companies.

Local government has responded to this challenge in a variety of novel and effective ways.

For example:

Some counties solicit municipalities to whom they will provide county-wide base mapping, both planimetric and cadastral, on a subscription basis with updates provided quarterly.

Other local governments have banded together into a consortium wherein savings can be found through application development and GIS data updates provided by an exclusive relationship with one or a handful of preferred vendors.

There are even non-profit service organizations established through joint-funding from counties and municipalities that provide all GIS services, including data maintenance and application development, for their paying clients who access the data through Web-based interfaces.

All of these partnerships are aimed at delivering cost-effective GIS solutions to the customer, the tax-payer.

For an example of a private distributor of GIS data check out the Geocommunity site:

<http://data.geocomm.com/catalog/US/61069/2292>

GIS Certification

The second presentation Karen would like to share her notes was on GIS Certification.

GIS Certification – To do or not to do? That was the question! URISA is on its way to implementing GIS Certification. The State of Georgia will be pilot area – commencing November 2002. Many conference attendees felt that if URISA moderated or managed the GIS Certification the whole Purpose of URISA would change. Many URISA members are worried about what the GIS certification would do to the Industry. The consensus of conference attendees was that URISA is basically for a bunch of 'mis-fits' who do not know where else to go (MISA, GITA, etc.) and they find a purpose or sense of belonging with the rest of the URISA members. Conference attendees felt that if URISA manages the GIS Certification then many of the people who attend conferences or are URISA members will not belong any more.

<http://www.urisa.org/certification/2certific.htm>

Code of Ethics

The third presentation Karen would like to share is on a code of ethics for GIS practitioners. This is best viewed from the original presentation paper available from:

http://www.urisa.org/ethics/code_of_ethics.htm

2002 Executive

Our new executive committee consists of:

President - Shawn McLeod
Vice-President - Karen Stewart
Treasurer - Dave Newman
Communications - Jerry Maedel
Webmaster - Gurdeep Singh
Secretary - James Andrusiw
Secretary - Lisa Blewett
Partnership/Liaison Officer - Brian Sameshima
Partnership/Liaison Officer - Jonathan Mark
Member - Tjaart van den Berg
Member - Bill McKay
Member - Carla Dresser
Member - Richard Sims
Member - Richard Mackay
Member - Parthipan Krishnan
Member - Cam Trent

Any suggestions or comments on the newsletter please e-mail me at jerry@maedel.ca

Happy GISing!