



Minutes
Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS)
May 2014 Board Meeting
May 8, 2014
APPROVED

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGIS Vice President Matt Krok.

Roll Call

Present – Matt Krok, Eric Schmidt, Moni Fox, Gary Johnson, Adam Johnson, Steve Mesa, Don Harper, Mark O'Brien, Eric Ingbar

Not present – Karin Hagan, Karla Chavez

Officer Reports

President (Matt) – Conference numbers are right where they were forecasted to be. We may be able to make a donation to NGIF from this conference. We'll see how the numbers fall out after close of the Symposium.

Vice President (Eric S.) – Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Gary) – Informal report - around \$19,000 in our main operating fund. Also have just over \$10,300 in the grant account. Will place excess grant moneys, if any, into a Certificate of Deposit.

Secretary (Karin) – Not present. Moni will be recording the meetings.

Old Business

Items tabled from the April Board meeting

We need to discuss and see if we want to continue putting effort toward these items.

- GIS Professional Directory – Eric definitely wants to continue pursuing this. How can we support Eric? Unsure; we just need to get started on it, contributing names and contacting people. To get things moving, try to nail down the different counties, agencies, organizations....start with the Board and ripple out from there. We should look at "GIS Practitioners"; people who identify themselves with GIS. Can we just develop a form that people can self-identify? Eric is afraid we're missing those who are not in Clark County or the northwestern part of the state. Gary suggested GSM's directory as a model we can follow. If we do a printed directory, we should organize three ways: alphabetical by name, by organization, and by geography. Can be a basis for approaching people and making them aware of NGIS and the value of membership.

- NGIS Leadership in Nevada – Per Eric, this was a one-time thing and does not need to recur. Mostly a look at NGIS’s role in Nevada.
- Strategic Plan – Matt & Eric think a strategic plan is still useful for us. Eric said he will take it on for this year. It should be a look at where we want to go as an organization.
- Local NGIS efforts – Eric believes this is more of an informational question and should be wrapped up in the strategic plan and leadership discussion. 2015 is a legislative year, and it would be good for NGIS to get on their calendars and host a reception to show them what we do. Note – there may be rules on who can and cannot talk with legislators (agency, university, county).

New Business

Review of Business Meeting Agenda

What do we do if there is a tie? Gary and Moni say that Nevada law is to draw cards. Will pick up a deck of cards, just in case. Do we need to make a motion? Adam stated that we’ll need to add that into the Bylaws. “In keeping with Nevada state tradition....” Adam and Eric want to do a review of the Bylaws, so we’ll keep it to a motion for just this Business meeting. Motion, seconded, no discussion, vote all aye.

NGIS 2014 Membership Voting Status

Adam reported that there are 61 votes cast to date, with 88 or 89 paid members. Voting closes at 10:30 a.m. today. Moni asked if we need to make a reminder announcement about membership and voting. Adam stated that he has sent two reminder emails to those who have not yet voted.

NGIS 2015 Location Discussion

Contacted all properties in the Douglas County portion of Lake Tahoe. The Ridge is interested but cannot host a group of our potential size. Harvey’s and Montbleu sent nice proposals. Given the structure of the contracting offer, will likely be Montbleu. Montbleu offered to add a \$5 fee to the hotel rooms to then give to NGIS as a fundraiser. Gary asked how far Montbleu is from Harvey’s? Across the street. Therefore more than 50 miles from Reno; some employers will cover hotel costs for that distance.

The conference will be in October in 2015. This will create repercussions for conferences moving forward, as it moves us to a Fall schedule. The 18-month gap for this year comes at a good time so we can generate additional attendees and vendors for our 25th anniversary conference.

Open Discussion

Eric S. – The Bylaws state that officers are elected for one year and that elections have to happen before the conference. The Slate of officers presented at this year’s conference will be in office for 18 months, which is a change from the past. Are we ok with that, or should we have elections next spring and potentially change Board members and officers as we’re planning a conference?

Gary asked what the southern Nevada Board members think of having the conference in the fall versus the spring? Adam stated that we had that discussion and the only concern was the cost difference as fall may be more expensive. After research, it looks like there really isn't a cost difference. Don pointed out that it will fall into a new budget year for the Federal agencies, which puts the conference in the beginning of the budget year. For the last five years, Federal agencies haven't had money October 1. Eric wants to be able to announce the new dates at this conference, so that we don't fall off of the agency calendars. If the Board directs the committee, we can move to a fall cycle or go back to a spring cycle. We would be unlikely to have vendor support if we do 2015 in October and 2016 in May, however.

Adam asked if we need a motion or just approval of the Board to the planning committee? Eric S. reiterated the Bylaws question. He suggested that we need to disassociate the voting from the conference. Voting shouldn't require attendance at a conference, whether for a slate of officers or for Bylaws changes, now that we have a list of dues-paying members.

We need to have a review of the Bylaws and move away from a "voting" Business meeting and toward a "reporting" Business meeting.

Summary by Matt:

Move to Fall – ok.

18-month term of current slate of officers – Eric S. suggested that we use it as a "conference year term". Explain that to the membership at the Business meeting, and that we will work to untie voting from the Business meeting in the future. What kind of a term should we go to? Adam suggested calendar year. Or remain as conference year? Should we do a mid-conference-year election? Eric S. stated that he thinks the current possible 18-month term is a gift for the Board to get all of these changes addressed. Then move to a possible calendar year.

Open Discussion, second topic

Eric I. - Discussion of sharing the FGDC strategic plans with legislators. Not ready yet. Need to finish up the drafts, the Board needs to review and prep for posting, post for comments. Perhaps post for review and comment in the forum on the NGIS website. We need to be clear that, for this legislative cycle, the focus is on educating the legislators, not on making any change.

The next regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific.

Meeting adjourned