

VGIN Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
1:00 PM, CESC
Draft Minutes

Members Present:	Senator John Watkins Delegate Jeffrey Frederick Delegate Sal Iaquinto Supervisor John Jenkins Stanford Hovey Connie Brennan Charles Donato	W. Page Cockrell Murali Rao for David Ekern George Coulter Bill Price for Joseph Maroon James Wilson
Members Absent:	Senator Mark Obenshain Delegate Sam Nixon Delegate Dave Englin Delegate Beverly Sherwood	Jeffrey Anderson Christopher Knights Rick Pevarski
Staff Present:	Dan Widner, Coordinator Terry Mayo, Board Assistant N. Jerry Simonoff, ITIES Director Steve Marzolf, ISP Director	Stu Blankenship, Staff John Scrivani, Staff April Branton, Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Senator John Watkins called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Senator Watkins welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Senator Watkins welcomed and introduced Mr. George Coulter, VITA's new CIO, to the Advisory Board, and said that he is happy that Mr. Coulter is a part of the VGIN Advisory Board.

Senator Watkins asked for corrections or additions to the July 8, 2009 draft minutes. There were none. Senator Watkins called for a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Delegate Iaquinto made a motion to approve the Minutes as written, and Supervisor John Jenkins 2nd the motion for approval. All approved; 9-0-0 (Delegate Jeff Frederick, Connie Brennan and James Wilson had not yet arrived).

Mr. Widner briefed the Board on what was included in their Board packet: a copy of the VGIN Internal Process Audit Report, the October Coordinator's Report, and Strategic Plan Presentation. Mr. Widner directed the Board's attention to a letter included in their packet from the Virginia Association of Mapping and Land Information Systems (VAMLIS) to the Board, expressing a need and support of renewed interest for the GIS education efforts of the Department of Education.

Senator Watkins asked Bob Rike if he could represent VAMLIS to the Advisory Board on this issue, and proceeded to ask about the VAMLIS letter. Mr. Rike

showed his support for efforts of the DOE, and said he would like to see the VGIN Board to support and perhaps help to reinvigorate the program. Senator Watkins asked the VGIN Coordinator if he had any recommendations as to what the Advisory Board should do with this request. Mr. Widner said he thought the letter was positive and that VAMLIS just want to highlight the issue for the Advisory Board, seek their support for the effort, and that VAMLIS was not requesting additional funds or resources be expended. Stan Hovey referred the Advisory Board to the letter to take issue with the sentence that read “*Unfortunately the initial momentum of the program faded after the first year*”. Mr. Hovey stated to the Board that there was much activity in the first couple of years and cited examples. Mr. Marzolf addressed the Board and said that he had just received an email from the Department of Education about doing a presentation at the Virginia Educational Technology Conference later this month. Several Advisory Board members addressed the Board and said they would like to go on record to say that they are in support of both VAMLIS and the Department of Education working with VGIN to show support for this project. Senator Watkins made a suggestion that the Advisory Board through its Coordinator, Dan Widner, send a letter to VAMLIS and the Department of Education stating the Board’s support of the program to continue the program to provide GIS education in the schools. W. Page Cockrell made a motion that this be adopted, and Stanford Hovey 2nd the motion. All approved the motion to send a letter of support; **12-0-0**.

2. VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GIS EDUCATION GRANT

John McGee of Virginia Tech and Chris Carter of the Virginia Space Grant Consortium gave an overview of the Virginia Community College GIS Educational System. Mr. McGee and Mr. Carter said that they have been working on this effort since 2003. With this grant they now the financial assistance to implement the strategies laid out in their grant proposal, starting with a series of workshops for educators. Senator Watkins asked about when the workshops will be held. Mr. Carter said next summer. Senator Watkins asked that they keep the Advisory Board informed of the status and about the schedule of the upcoming seminars.

3. GIS STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Widner addressed the Advisory Board and said that the VGIN GIS Strategic Planning effort is well underway. Mr. Widner stated that common themes are beginning to emerge and that these themes will be presented today to the Board in the form of a working session with the Advisory Board. Mr. Widner refreshed the Board’s memory and said that Touchstone had been hired to assist with the Strategic Planning effort. Mr. Widner said that individual stakeholder interviews, an online survey, and four “Town Hall” meetings had been held to gather input for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Widner introduced the Touchstone consultants to the Advisory Board and said they will give a brief presentation on what has been found thus far. Ms. Laura Kriv addressed the Advisory Board and introduced her colleagues with Touchstone.

Ms. Kriv said that Touchstone will describe the process for developing the Strategic Plan to the Board. Mr. Mike Larcher addressed the Board and discussed the data collection process, which in addition to the Town Hall meetings, include approximately 30 stakeholder interviews and an online survey with 164 respondents from the GIS Community. Mr. Larcher said that at today's Advisory Board meeting VGIN seeks the Board's guidance and feedback on the findings thus far and any additional guidance that the Board would like to provide. Mr. Larcher said that a "Draft Strategic Plan" will be available for comment by November – December 2009, with the final Strategic Plan available in the December 2009 – January 2010 time frame. Formal endorsement by the Board will be sought at the January 2010 VGIN Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Larcher discussed the feedback from the stakeholder interviews, Town Hall meetings and online survey, including VGIN's strengths and shortcomings. Mr. Larcher said the feedback from the stakeholders is that VGIN should continue its core services such as providing state of the art orthoimagery and coordination or maintenance of the statewide road centerline. But also importantly, develop and maintain geospatial standards; oversee the development of a Commonwealth-wide geospatial data clearinghouse that spans all levels of government; provide marketing and advocacy for GIS by acting as the primary champion of GIS in Virginia; and provide education and training opportunities to state agencies and localities. Touchstone then discussed the similarities and differences between the regions' priorities.

Laura Kriv addressed the Advisory Board again and talked about where VGIN goes from this point. She asked "what, if anything, should the Advisory Board be doing differently from what it is doing now?"

Charles Donato commented to the Advisory Board that maybe a "Speaker's Bureau" could be formed. Senator Watkins said he does not necessarily recommend a "Speaker's Bureau"; rather, he stated you have an Advisory Board here that could speak to the issues the "Speaker's Bureau" would address if properly equipped with the right tools and information. Mr. Stan Hovey suggested a temporary task force composed of Board members for consideration. Mr. Page Cockrell and Mr. James Wilson made comments about cooperation and sharing of information across state and local areas. They both said that this is the nuts and bolts of where data and information is being used. Ms. Connie Brennan recommended an ad hoc or standing outreach committee be formed.

Laura Kriv informed the Board of the next steps for going forward, and said that the final Strategic Plan Report will be done by the end of the year, or early next year.

4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON OCTOBER COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Widner addressed the Advisory Board and said he wanted to introduce two new

items that were not included in the Coordinator's Report. Mr. Widner introduced John Scrivani from the Department of Forestry, and April Branton from the Regional 2000 Planning District who have recently joined the VGIN Staff. Mr. Widner also informed the Advisory Board of Stuart Blankenship's plan to leave VGIN at the end of the month to take a job in the private sector. Mr. Widner also informed the Advisory Board that he is no longer on the Board of Directors for NSGIC; however, he is now the liaison for NSGIC to NASCIO (National Association of State Chief Information Officers).

Mr. Widner asked the Advisory Board if they had any questions or comments for the Coordinator's Report, and there were none.

5. **NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION**

Senator Watkins asked for any new business that needed to be addressed and come before the Advisory Board? Senator Watkins informed the Advisory Board that there is a legislative issue coming forth to the General Assembly concerning telecommunications. Senator Watkins and Steve Marzolf informed the Advisory Board that this issue may impact funding for GIS and 911. Senator Watkins said that the issue deals with prepaid wireless not being subject to the 911 user fee yet it is consuming more and more 911 and GIS services. Senator Watkins also stated that he and Mr. Steve Marzolf will keep the Advisory Board informed.

Senator Watkins asked for any other new business and there was none.

Senator Watkins asked for questions and comments, and there were none. He then thanked everyone for coming.

The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

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Terry D. Mayo

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Date