



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Spring Conference

May 7, 2009

at

National Grid – Waltham, MA

**Data Sharing in Tough
Economic Times**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New England Chapter of GITA's 2009 Spring Conference.

Our conference theme this year is Sharing Data in Tough Economic Times. In the current economy, with companies reducing costs and budget cuts commonplace, sharing data is a solid approach to updating GIS. Benefits and costs can be shared between utilities, municipalities and other organizations.

The slate of speakers today will address data sharing from many viewpoints – we will hear about some of the legal considerations, an experienced project manager with vast data sharing experiences, and another speaker will talk about experience with collaborations involving state, federal and local government agencies. I would like to thank the board of the New England chapter for organizing the speakers today – I am sure you will enjoy these topics.

Through our educational conferences and corporate/vendor sponsorships we fund the NEGITA Scholarship Program. Over the years, with your support, NEGITA has awarded scholarships and internships to students with a demonstrated passion for GIS and the desire to contribute to the body of knowledge of GITA.

We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Eileen Ormond
National Grid



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

8:30 – 9:00

Registration and Breakfast

Sponsored by
InMaps

9:00 – 9:15

Welcome and President's remarks

9:15 – 10:00

Clarence Young
Senior Project Manager, James W. Sewall Company

Data Sharing Basics

Clarence will speak about some of the hurdles in establishing data sharing agreements and how to overcome them. He will also address:

- What you should know before using someone else's data
- Where to find it – sources that can save costs
- Tapping into history – archives that still have value
- Data that many users have in common

Clarence Young has amassed a vast experience with data sharing as a consultant working with utilities and emergency managers throughout the United States. During his fifteen years in geospatial services he has assisted companies like NSTAR, Providence Water Supply, and National Grid in establishing programs and use agreements that have helped promote data exchanges and cost saving programs with municipalities and other parties designed to encourage regional approaches to gathering common data sets.

David Nero

10:00 – 10:45

Director of Enterprise Applications, MIS Department, City of Boston, MA

Finding Common Ground:

Challenges and successes to data sharing at the City of Boston

Data sharing does not just happen. Data sharing needs to be supported by a common business need. Collaboration to achieve sustained data sharing does not happen unless there is leadership and direction to work through differences in policy and procedures. As the City of Boston deploys a city-wide Enterprise GIS Implementation, the evolution from departmental to Enterprise necessitates the building of data sharing partnerships. Challenges along the way have included data standards, metadata and data maintenance procedures which differ from department to department. The benefits of finding that common ground are multifold both for City of Boston personnel and its citizens.

10:45 – 11:00

Break

Sponsored by
UMass Boston GIS Lab

11:00 – 11:45

Rich Morrison
Associate General Counsel and Secretary , NSTAR

Legal Concerns Regarding Data Sharing

Rich will discuss the legal issues that come into play on a day-to-day basis as he practices in his capacity as internal counsel for a Massachusetts gas and electric utility. He will review his Company's procedures that govern the required pre-approval for the release of critical infrastructure information by its Sensitive Information Review Team, share confidentiality and other form agreements that his Company uses in its sensitive information protection procedures, discuss his views on to what extent companies can charge for the information it provides to governmental agencies and the public, and respond to questions that attendees might have on any of these subjects.

Rich Morrison is Associate General Counsel and Secretary of NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation, an electric and gas utility headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. At NSTAR, he is responsible for the corporate governance and corporate secretarial practice and also is responsible for the Company's corporate finance, SEC, litigation and human resources legal support. He also works closely with the Company's Operations and Security officials in helping to ensure that the flow of infrastructure data relating to the Company is performed in the most efficient, secure manner. Mr. Morrison is the current President of the Eastern New England Chapter of the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and serves on the Society's National Board of Directors. He is also a member and has served as Chapter Secretary and a Director of the Association of Corporate Counsel and is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association. He holds an A.B. from the University of Massachusetts – Boston and a J.D. from Suffolk University.

11:45 – 12:45

Lunch
Sponsored by
James W. Sewall Company

12:45 – 1:30

Neil MacGaffey, GISP
Assistant Director, MassGIS

State Perspectives on Shared Spatial Data Development

Over the past 12 years, MassGIS has successfully arranged many projects that involved collaborating on shared data development with many other organizations, public and private. Most of these collaborations have been with federal, state, or local government agencies. Two of them have involved significant public-private partnerships, including one that is on-going. Neil will briefly describe some of these projects, then drawing on these experiences, summarize what we know about the administrative, financial, technical, and political challenges to these projects and ask some challenging questions about the status quo.

Since 2000, Neil MacGaffey has been the Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (aka MassGIS). His responsibilities at MassGIS include implementing the arrangements needed for cost-sharing and other aspects of collaborating on data development. Prior to joining MassGIS, Neil worked for five years as the GIS Administrator for the City of Newton, Massachusetts. He has also held GIS related positions with Boston Gas Company (now part of National Grid), the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the GIS consulting firm PlanGraphics. He holds Masters and Bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

1:30 – 2:15

Langley Willauer
CTO, InMaps

Web Services

A web service is like a web site in that user requests yield specific content. However instead of the traditional hyper-text that makes up web pages, a web service returns self-describing data. In theory, this means that applications can automatically locate, validate, and translate sources of data out on the Internet. In practice, more intervention is necessary, but one can share data with others on the fly, as needed, in a way that requires minimal maintenance. With a web service, one really can share data.

This talk will give some examples of web services and in the process describe how they work in a non-technical way. Web services will then be compared with other ways of interfacing systems, highlighting benefits and weaknesses.

Langley Willauer has been an owner and CTO of InMaps for ten years. Throughout his career he has worked with many utility companies in North America deploying and integrating geospatial technology.

2:15 – 2:30

Break
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Intergraph Corporation

2:30 – 3:15

(Speaker to be announced)

3:15 – 3:30

Scholarship Recipients & Wrap-up

Registration for the Conference

Register on line at:

https://www.gita.org/forms/forms/Default/2009_New_England_Chapter_Spring_Conference.aspx

Please have your GITA membership number ready to include in the registration form.

GITA & URISA members	\$75.00	(\$85.00 at the door)
Non-members	\$90.00	(\$100.00 at the door)
Students	\$25.00	(same price at the door)

Directions

From Points South

1. Take I-95/128 North to Exit 27B, labeled "Winter St. / Wyman St. / Waltham".
2. Follow sign to the right labeled "Winter St.", and take a right onto the overpass.
3. Continue as described below in "From All Directions"

From Points North:

1. Take I-95/128 North to Exit 27B.
2. Continue as described below in "From All Directions"

From Boston:

1. Take the Mass Pike West to I-95/128 North.
2. Take I-95/128 North to Exit 27B, labeled "Winter St. / Wyman St. / Waltham".
3. Follow sign to the right labeled "Winter St.", and take a right onto the overpass.
4. Continue as described below in "From All Directions"

From All Directions

1. Follow sign to Second Avenue - this means staying in the middle lane.
2. Curve around to the left 180 degrees.
3. Take a right on to Second Avenue.
4. Take a left into the garage across the street from Cosco entrance.
5. Follow signs in garage to the right (KeySpan and #52).
6. Park on level P2, enter the building through the ground floor entrance, and sign in with security.

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