

Washington State URISA



Winter 1998 Newsletter of the Washington State Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, formerly known as the Northwest Computer Aided Mapping Association

The statewide GIS event not miss!

Your WAURISA / GIC Annual Conference

May 11-12
Embassy Suites Hotel
Southcenter, Seattle



See inside for details and registration information.

Upcoming GIS Events

WA Hydro Framework Technical Workgroup: WA Dept. of Ecology, March 12, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

WAGIC Standards Working Group: WA Dept of Ecology HQ, Lacey, March 25, April 29, June 24, 1:30 p.m.

ASPRS-RTI: Tampa Convention Center, Tampa FL; Mar. 30-Apr. 3.

WAGIC Meetings: statewide WIT videoconferencing sites, April 16 and May 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

AM/FM Int'l: San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA; Apr. 26-29.

GIS & CAMA: Sponsored by URISA; Hyatt, Albuquerque, NM; April 27-28.

WAURISA/GIC Conference: Embassy Suites Hotel, Renton, WA; May 11-12.

URISA National Conference & Exposition: Charlotte, NC; July 18-22

ESRI User Conference: San Diego Convention Center, CA; Jul. 27-31.

NW Arc/Info User Conference: Sun Valley, ID; October, 1998

Letter From the President

Your new Washington State URISA Board would like to thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of assuring that our new chapter serves you well and continues to prosper. We are taking our charge seriously. We also wish to thank the last Board and our ongoing sponsors, who have been contributing so much and have brought our organization so far to date.

Every year GIS and related technologies significantly improve in their ability to provide functionality and automated capabilities, and more and better digital data becomes available at less cost. We are all beginning to see GIS become more integrated with other computer information systems within our organizations, with other software on our desktop personal computers and even across the Internet. Our abilities to effectively use and deploy all of these tools to manage our environment, our public resources and our investment in public infrastructure are needed more than ever before. Washington's economy and population continues to grow; and our state and local government organizations face ever greater demands for services with limited revenues.

Our new URISA chapter hopes to provide excellent opportunities for you to share your knowledge and experience, cultivate professional relationships and business opportunities, and grow your capabilities or skill sets in this dynamic environment. During the coming months, the URISA board will share some ideas with you on how we might further achieve these goals. There are many opportunities for you to become involved in shaping our chapter's direction, and we hope to hear from you. Please call us.

Finally, we are looking forward to a terrific spring conference packed with excellent presentations and panel discussions. You will make many contacts and find information to apply at your job throughout the year by attending the conference. Be sure to return your registration early. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Don Eginton

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WAGIC & WAURISA: Serving You!

For the past two years it has been my pleasure to chair the Washington State Geographic Information Council. The Council sponsors a number of useful activities that support state, local, federal, and tribal GIS efforts and initiatives. Sponsored by the State Department of Information Services, it is a great place to develop cooperative projects, learn and participate in the statewide "Framework" initiatives, and keep up with how other governments are tackling GIS challenges, serving their customers, and evaluating new products.

Bimonthly video conferencing from 6 remote sites throughout the State is the primary communication media of the Council. We provide a mix of professional updates on on-going projects, briefings on proposed and new legislation, and reports on the Council's clearinghouse and web site development activities, coupled with presentations by a variety of vendors, presenting new technology and answering questions from our members throughout the state. We also have brief showcases and on-line demos of successful user-based applications that we can all learn from. Visit the WAGIC website at www.wa.gov/gic/ if you would like to learn more about what the council has to offer you, and where you can go to participate in the next state wide video conference.

Finally, I am very excited to see the continuing partnership that is evolving between WAGIC and the Washington State URISA chapter. Co-hosting the Spring Conference, and possibly a local government workshop, seem to be smart ways we can combine our respective resources, talents, and members into one effective and productive event. Hope to see you there.

Tom Nolan
Corporate GIS Manager
City of Seattle
1997-98 Washington State Geographic Information Council
Chairperson

Nancy Tosta Nominated for National Office

Some of you might know that I've been nominated for the presidency of URISA. Don offered me some editorial space to explain my views or talk about an issue, but instead I thought I'd provide a little bit of history on the connection between URISA and the Pacific Northwest. The late Ed(gar) Horwood was the founder of URISA. In 1962, when he brought the first workshop of people together that became the core of URISA, he was a professor at the Urban Data Center at the University of Washington. The following quote is from an article that he originally wrote in 1977 and reprinted in the 1992 URISA Proceedings.

The concept of URISA got its start unbeknowningly in the fall of 1961 with the attempt of a few people to get information from the then new tape technology of the U.S. Census Bureau regarding the Census of Population and Housing of 1960. If I [Ed Horwood] could point to one single incident, it would be a telephone discussion I had with Jack Beresford, a subsequent URISA president, who was then a member of the staff of the U.S. Bureau of the Census involved in handling requests regarding access to Census data. The conversation went something like this:

Ed Horwood - *Jack, how can I get Seattle's block data without waiting for its hard copy publication in a couple of years?*

Jack Beresford - *Well, you can't Ed, that information is only yet on computer tape.*

Ed Horwood - *Well, why don't you send us a copy of the tape and a write-up of what's on it?*

Jack Beresford - *Well, there's nothing I know of that tells me I can't. Providing there is appropriate suppression to avoid disclosure on small entries. I'll send it on out to you at cost.*

Ed ultimately acquired the tape, and with assistance from Boeing (who had more computer experience than most at that time), he was able to make use of the census data, including using a digitizer that could capture block centroids. This application resulted in what was likely the first application of census data in a digital geographic format. In 1962, finding that several other people in the nation were interested in making similar use of census data, Ed agreed to sponsor a two week workshop. This covered the basic elements of computer processing and general computer programming (FORTRAN) - remember this was the early 1960's and few people knew how to use computers - as well as the basics of census data processing and geocoding.

Out of this meeting, a camaraderie developed among the participants, resulting in subsequent workshops and ultimately the formal formation of URISA in 1967. In 1977, Horwood attributed the interest in and success of URISA to the fact that it provided a synergistic and holistic environment. URISA offered the opportunity to interact with and learn about digital spatial data technologies from professionals with backgrounds in very different disciplines. These opportunities continue to this day. I would like to help make URISA even more successful in this regard. Please vote for me. Thanks.

Nancy Tosta

(Editor's Note: Nancy is Director of Forecasting and Growth Strategy at the Puget Sound Regional Council. Previously she held positions in Washington, DC as staff director to the Federal Geographic Data Committee and in California state government in a variety of management, policy, and GIS positions.)

Announcing the 1998 Washington State URISA Chapter Conference!

Mapping Pathways to Livable Communities

Presented in cooperation with Washington State Geographic Information Council

May 11-12, 1998

Embassy Suites Hotel
15920 West Valley Highway
Seattle, WA (206)227-9567

From the Conference Chair:

*Citizens and policy makers are increasingly concerned with sustaining the accessibility, environmental quality, and natural resources that make Washington communities so livable. How can urban and regional information systems be used to answer the difficult questions that face us as we plan for continued growth? **Mapping Pathways to Livable Communities** is organized around this central question.*

This conference is designed to help you:

- *Understand the application of information systems to decision making about:*
 - *managing growth*
 - *planning for neighborhoods*
 - *managing watersheds*
 - *enhancing urban mobility*
- *Find out how spatial information analysis is being used to monitor and model urban development.*
- *Discover how infrastructure managers are using information systems to optimize capital and maintenance investments.*
- *Learn about getting (and providing) access to spatial information that is in the public domain.*
- *Explore new data collection technologies that lower the cost of building a geographic information system.*

To learn more about the details of this year's conference, look inside. We look forward to seeing you on May 11th and 12th!

Gregg Selby
Conference Chair
Senior Project Manager
Roy F. Weston, Inc.

Preliminary Conference Program

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tom Poiker, Professor of Geography, Simon Fraser University.

During his thirty-plus year career in research and higher education, Professor Poiker has made tremendous contributions to the science and application of GIS. In 1972 he authored the first popular text on the subject, *Computer Cartography*, published by the American Association of Geographers. He was responsible for much of the fundamental work on terrain representation and analysis, leading the development of triangular irregular networks (TINs) and contour automation algorithms. He and Nick Chrisman's 1975 paper on topological data structures was pivotal in the development of vector-based GIS. In recent years he has focused on the social, political, and economic issues of GIS along with innovations in GIS education.

Opening Plenary Panel: How do We Manage Sprawl in an Era of Growth?

Moderator: Nancy Tosta, Director Forecasting and Growth Strategy, Puget Sound Regional Council

In 1990, Washington passed a Growth Management Act (GMA) designed to address the concerns that "uncoordinated and unplanned growth ... poses a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of the state". The GMA has created a need for more accurate and timely data, as well as analytical tools that display patterns of population, employment, and transportation, based on various adopted policies. This panel will explore the issue of growth management from several perspectives including technologists, strategists, and policy makers.

Session: Monitoring and Modeling Urban Development

Moderator: Dr. Paul Waddell, Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Urban Design & Planning, University of Washington

The challenge of managing sprawl in an era of growth requires that we develop a capacity to understand, monitor, and predict patterns and impacts of land urbanization. In formulating plans and policies to make urban development more environmentally sound, we need to monitor land use and land development at the parcel level. In addition, we need analytical models that use these data to evaluate alternative growth management strategies on land market, transportation, and environmental outcomes. This session will explore the context of growth management within the State of Washington, the implications for current planning models, and emerging technical approaches to addressing these challenges.

Session: Applying New Data Collection Technologies to GIS

Moderator: Dave Ward, Regional Manager, Space Imaging EOSAT

The choice of technologies for supplementing and in some cases replacing more traditional photogrammetric and field inventory techniques for GIS data collection continues to grow at a rapid pace. This session highlights two proven technologies that are reducing data collection schedules and budgets. Find out how an aircraft mounted LIDAR system is being used to collect very accurate and dense elevation models, even through forest cover. Also learn about results from WSDOT's pilot program to collect roadway inventory data using vehicle-mounted sensors and a laser range finder.

Session: Infrastructure Planning and Management Systems

Moderator: Gregg Selby, AICP, Senior Project Manager, Roy F. Weston, Inc.

Identifying and setting priorities for capital improvements requires balancing demands for new service with the need to rehabilitate existing infrastructure. Learn how GIS is being applied to this planning process. Discover how to successfully implement an infrastructure management system for optimizing maintenance investments and gathering the data necessary for replacement and rehabilitation analysis.

Panel: Managing our Resources - A Watershed Approach

Moderator: Elizabeth Marshall, President, Marshall and Associates, Inc.

Watersheds are the fundamental resource management unit. This panel discussion on managing Washington State resources with a watershed perspective will include experts with water supply, hydrogeology, timber, and environmental backgrounds. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of GIS in supporting watershed management.

Session: Urban Mobility and Station Area Planning

Moderator: Ned Conroy, Senior Planner, Puget Sound Regional Council

Passage of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in the fall of 1996 is creating many opportunities to rethink transportation and land use in the central Puget Sound Region. Issues of where transit stations should be located, how they will connect with other modes of transportation, and what types of development in station areas will support transit ridership are all being addressed. This session explores the questions of most importance, the types of geographic information needed to answer those questions, and the roles and responsibilities of various organizations in providing data, analysis and answers.

Conference Schedule at a Glance

Monday, May 11

8:00 - 9:00	9:00 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 1:00	1:00 - 2:30	2:00 - 2:30	3:00 - 4:30
Register	Keynote Speaker	Break & Events	How Do We Manage Sprawl in an Era of Growth?	Lunch & Exhibits	Session: Monitoring and Modeling Urban Development	Break & Exhibits	Panel: Managing Our Resources - A Watershed Approach
					Tract: Information Clearinghouse for Washington State		Track: Creation of Statewide Spatial Data Themes

Tuesday, May 12

7:30 - 8:30	8:30 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 2:30
Register & Exhibits	Session: Infrastructure Planning & Management Systems	Break & Exhibits	Session: Applying New Data Collection Technologies	Exhibits	Luncheon & Closing Panel: Challenges in Mapping Pathways to Livable Communities
	Track: Neighborhood Planning, Spatial Information & GIS		Session: Urban Mobility & Station Area Planning		

Preliminary Program (continued)

Track: Access to Spatial Information

Organizer: Jeff Holm, Washington Geographic Information Council Coordinator

Access to spatial information is the key to effective use of GIS to meet the challenges presented by growth management and sustaining the quality of life in our communities. This track focuses on the initiatives that are currently underway in Washington State to improve access to spatial information. Learn about the initiatives that are aimed at providing access infrastructure and the creation of statewide spatial data. This information-packed track is composed of three panel sessions:

- **Spatial Information Clearinghouse for Washington State** - An Internet-based spatial information resource partnership involving Washington State Department of Information Services and University of Washington Libraries provides users with descriptive information about the state's spatial data. Through this registered node on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure's (NSDI) global network, users are able to query the entire network for spatial information. In the near future the clearinghouse will provide direct links to a number of the underlying spatial data sets. Find out how to make use of this resource as a data contributor or as a data user.

- **Creation of Statewide Spatial Data Themes** - Learn how your organization can benefit from and contribute to this standards-based approach to creating fundamental statewide data themes from the best available state, local, and regional sources. This NSDI Framework approach promises to provide lower cost, more accessible spatial information through the state and national network of clearinghouses. Discover how your organization can become a part of the initiative and meet many of your spatial information needs.

- **Neighborhood Planning, Spatial Information and GIS** - This panel focuses on the interplay between neighborhood planning, spatial information access and the innovative use of GIS to manage and understand urban neighborhood environments. It brings together the perspectives of a Community Activist, a Neighborhood Planner and a GIS Professional.

Closing Plenary Panel: Challenges in Mapping Pathways to Livable Communities

Moderator: Don Eginton, GIS Manager, Snohomish County

Panelists will address challenges faced by the decision makers and analysts who apply spatial information analysis to policy and management questions.

REGISTRATION FORM - 1998 Washington State URISA Chapter Conference

Name: _____

Last

First

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Province/Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Badge Name: _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Full and student registrations include Washington State URISA membership from July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999.

	Early (by April 20, 1998)	Regular (after April 21, 1998)
Full registration:	\$150	\$185
One day - M T (circle day)	\$100	\$125
Student (one day, \$40)	\$80	\$80

Make Check or Purchase Order out to: WA State URISA

Mail registration form and payment to: WAURISA, 7534 NE Emerald Way, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110

Please fee free to copy this form and pass it on to colleagues!

Contact UAURISA (425) 453-5337

e-mail: waurisa@waurisa.org

WWW - <http://www.waurisa.org>



WA-URISA 1998 Officers

President, Don W. Eginton
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(425) 388-3682

Vice President, Greg Cioc
Puget Sound Regional Council
(206) 464-6179

Secretary, Dick Thomas
King Co. Wastewater
Treatment
(206) 689-3162

Treasurer, George Horning
King Co. Dept of Development
& Environmental Services
(206) 296-6709

Legislative Update

House Bill 2880 - Creates task group force headed by OFM on creating performance measures for professional services contracts. *On the third reading calendar.*

House Bill 2483; Senate Bill 6251 - Similar bills regarding exemption of government authored software as public records. The Senate Bill specifically would have exempted local governments from this definition. *Killed in Committee.*

AGO 1998 #2 - Relating to definition of commercial use of information. Previous definition was very narrow. The ruling broadens the definition of what is commercial use.



Paul Taylor WA DIS
(360) 902 - 2983;
paulp@dis.wa.gov) has been providing updates on activities in Olympia to WAGIC and to WAURISA.

Get Involved!

WAURISA is seeking members to help lead organizational activities and serve on committees, including Newsletter Editor and/or Webmaster! Are you interested in organizing conferences, workshops, an award committee or other activities of interest to our members? Call a member of the URISA Board and volunteer!

Business News

WESTON is pleased to announce the addition of Tiffany Perrin as GIS Analyst in its Knowledge Solutions & Systems group. Tiffany was formerly with Rust Environment and Infrastructure. She has eight years of GIS experience, including two and one-half years with Walker and Associates, in Seattle.

WESTON is assisting the City of Bellevue Transportation Dept. in the selection of a maintenance management system for traffic signals and street lighting. WESTON is also assisting the City of Bellevue with land information system consulting services. WESTON was selected by a confidential nation-wide healthcare corporation to develop an extranet application.

MARSHALL & ASSOC. has recently expanded to provide its customers with a more complete suite of GIS and remote sensing solutions. The firm has added several new staff and is now an authorized value-added reseller of ESRI software.

NIES MAPPING GROUP is currently working on a USGS project to create one meter black and white orthophotos from 1996 photography for 340 grids in eastern Washington. Call Tracie Luthi at Nies Mapping Group for more information.

THE BRODIE GROUP of Bellevue, Washington and Guilford, CT is implementing a city-wide GIS for New Haven, Connecticut. The ESRI-based program includes new photogrammetric base maps, parcel data and GIS applications including permit/complaint management and maintenance management.

For the Eugene (Oregon) Water and Electric Board, THE BRODIE GROUP is implementing a water facilities management system integrating AutoCAD Map with the utility's SYBASE corporate data bases. Contact Bill Brodie for more information.

WAURISA on the Internet:
<http://www.waurisa.org>

More Information on Sustainable Development

The American Planning Association (APA), 122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60603-6107 (312) 431-9100, is the professional organization for urban and regional planners.

APA recently published Planning Advisory Service Report #467 entitled "Planner's Guide to Sustainable Development" (\$32 plus \$6 shipping). This and other publications, including "Sustainable Communities" by Sim VanderRyn and Peter Calthrope (\$25 paperback) are available from Planners Bookstore (312) 786-6344.

WAURISA Sponsors - Your Washington GIS Solution Providers

The Brodie Group,
Bill Brodie, (425) 869-4464

Cascadia Project & Design
Leslie Ragan, (360) 705-2082

**Environmental Systems
Research Institute, (ESRI),**
Marty Balikov, (360) 754-4727

Marshall & Associates, Inc.,
Elizabeth Marshall, (360) 352-1279

Nies Mapping Group, Inc.,
John R. Mead, (425) 869-4020

Photogrammetric Data Services Inc.,
Bret Hazell, (800) 864-1651

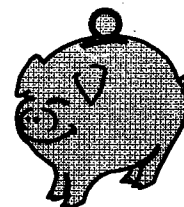
Power Engineers,
David Spencer, (208) 378-0022

Schlosser Geographic Systems,
John Schlosser, (206) 224-0800

Triathlon Mapping,
Bryan Foley, (604) 294-8861

Walker & Associates,
Jeff Kenner, (206) 244-2300

Roy F. Weston, Inc.,
Gregg Selby, (206) 521-7600



Renew your membership

The Washington State URISA (formerly NWCAMA) is a non-profit organization providing a forum for users and vendors of computer aided mapping and geographic information systems (GIS). Through regular meetings, seminars and this newsletter, Washington State URISA members keep pace with developments in the field, including local mapping, GIS applications, new and pending system acquisitions, latest products and services, and relevant issues such as digital data standards and sharing of data bases. Washington State URISA is open to all interested parties; membership is tax deductible.

Washington State



Urban & Regional Information Systems
Association

CATEGORY RATES AND BENEFITS

Sponsor	\$250/year Corporate membership in Washington State URISA Early registration for exhibit space at Spring Conference Receives copy of mailing list and meeting attendance Opportunity to distribute literature at all meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription Opportunity to provide company profile or milestone information in newsletter One representative member (one vote) Unlimited number of employees receive Membership discount at meetings
Individual	\$20/year Member discount at meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription One representative member (one vote)
Student	\$10/year Member discount at meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription No vote

Washington State URISA membership form (formerly known as NWCAMA)

Member name _____
Organization name _____
Mailing address _____
City, state, ZIP _____
Phone _____ e-mail _____

Member of: (circle if appropriate)

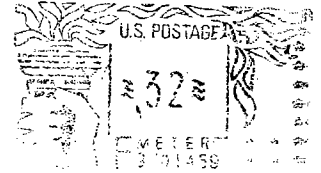
ACSM AM/FM International ASPRS URISA

Interest group: (please check one only)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government | <input type="checkbox"/> State government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional government | <input type="checkbox"/> County government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City government | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor |

Please mail this completed form with your membership dues to:
Washington State URISA, PO Box 40296, Bellevue, WA 98015

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