

PAIGH U.S. National Section Monthly Meeting – July Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Meeting attendees: Deirdre Bishop, Bhumika Bakshi, Emily Carlson, Emily Day, Lynda Liptrap, Roger Payne, Ivan Ramirez, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, David Salisbury, Patricia Solís, Tom Sandoval, Fraser Taylor, Eric Van Praag, Patrick Wilkerson

1) Welcome

- Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned what a pleasure it was to see people at the Esri User Conference held in San Diego, CA July 10-14, 2023. She welcomed attendees to share their experiences from the Esri UC.

2) Highlights of the recent Authorities meeting in Guatemala City

- Patricia Solís recounted her experience attending the 99th Authorities meeting:
 - The meeting was held July 3-7, 2023 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. This was a historic gathering as it was the first time the meeting was held in Guatemala.
 - The External Committee convened for the first time to review finances and discuss financial reports, which should be made available to members and other National Sections in October-November 2023. Sitting on the committee were President Solís as well as representatives from Argentina and Bolivia.
 - A Centennial Committee was established for planning and launching activities leading up to the centennial celebration in 2028.
 - The authorities also heard reports from all four commissions and reviewed Technical Assistance Project (PAT) submissions. There were a historic number of submissions to the PAT this year.
 - There was discussion on the upcoming joint technical reunion of the four commissions that will occur in the days leading up to the General Assembly.
 - Patricia requested that the Pan American agenda be reviewed again at the General Assembly. The existing agenda has expired and has not yet been replaced.
 - There will be a member packet that is sent to all member countries approximately August 1, 2023 containing information about the upcoming General Assembly.
 - Patricia shared an active protocol from the authorities congratulating the United States on the 247th anniversary of the nation's independence from July 4, 2023.
 - Patricia brought students from Mexico and El Salvador as well as her managing director Marcelo Saballos to do training with the Youth Mappers at the University of San Carlos.

3) U.S. National Section Annual Report

- Lynda Liptrap mentioned the U.S. National Section Annual Report is due at the end of September 2023 and requested input from the U.S. Commission Leads to provide information to include in their sections of the report by August 4. She also requested that Commission Leads review the directory included in last year's report and provide necessary updates.
- Lynda also mentioned the first draft of the Annual Report, including Commission activities, will be provided to members on August 18, 2023 for initial review. Members will have until August 25, 2023 to review and provide feedback.

Action items: Commission Leads should provide updates on their Commission activities for the Annual Report and the member directory to Emily Day by COB Friday August 4, 2023.

4) PAIGH Secretariat Annual Report

- The Secretary General recently shared the Activity Report of the General Secretariat 2022, "Towards an Institutional Reengineering." An electronic copy of this report will be shared with all USNS members accompanying the July monthly meeting notes.

5) Update from the USNS Cartography Commission Lead

- Eric Van Praag met with Max Lobo, the President of the Cartography Commission, to discuss his priorities for the Commission and to see how the USNS members could support those priorities.
 - One of the topics discussed was the upcoming expiration of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PAIGH and Esri and whether it makes sense to extend/renew the agreement. Max was interested in improving the Integrated Map of the Americas and was also interested in the Latin American Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
 - Patricia Solís mentioned the MOU can be considered and renewed during the upcoming General Assembly. There is a resolution to consider and ratify all MOUs.
 - He is also interested in finding support for the PAIGH ArcGIS Online Esri account donated as part of the MOU. Eric suggested hosting the Central American Project Data to the ArcGIS Online account, but it was pointed out that would be redundant because the data is already hosted on Esri's Americas Geoportal prototype.
 - Eric established a plan to host quarterly calls with Max to continue to discuss how the USNS could support their work.
 - Roger Payne requested support for putting the Geographic Names course online. He will mention this in the upcoming Commission activities for the USNS Annual Report.
- Lynda Liptrap suggested using the Esri ArcGIS Online credits to create a story map to highlight an aspect or component of PAIGH as a promotional material.
 - Patricia Solís suggested a story map for the upcoming centennial celebration.
 - Deirdre informed the group of an Esri update that will allow the user to bring their story maps into the format that they are conducting a briefing in and suggested that may be something to consider (i.e. a user could embed a story map into a PowerPoint presentation).
 - Eric agreed to consider a story map and will discuss with Secretary General Campuzano. He suggested he could create a story map highlighting the Integrated Map of the Americas or SDI of the Americas and provide a link to the data.

6) Walk on items

- David Salisbury summarized his recent research in Acre, Brazil, and Ucayali, Peru:
 - David had students create maps for indigenous communities on climate change, forest change, land transformations, and deforestation.
 - David and his students met with the Secretariat of the Environment and Indigenous Peoples and showed them geo-dashboards and climate change maps. They also met with Comissão Pró-Índio (CPI) Acre and SERVIR-Amazônia to discuss areas where their work overlapped. He shared pictures of the various South American agencies and indigenous communities he and his team worked with.
 - Eric asked if David wanted to host the maps he and his team created on the PAIGH ArcGIS Online account. David suggested that while the community level maps shouldn't be shared publicly, a lot of their work is available on their website on a smaller scale.