

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

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Meeting attendees: Dana Caccamise, Emily Carlson, Emily Day, Norberto Garcia, Christina Heifferon, Lynda Liptrap, Julia Lopez, Lidia Lopez, Gustavo Maldonado Davila, Aaron Malone, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, Dan Roman, Thomas Sandoval, Claudia Ulloa

1) Welcome

- Lynda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Norberto and Claudia as well as Dan Roman, and a representative from the U.S. National Geodetic Survey. She also introduced Christina Heifferon from the State Department, who is a returning member to PAIGH.

2) Consultation for the 2023/2024 Technical Assistance Program

- Dan Roman introduced himself as the senior advisor for geodesy at NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. He is working with the International Federation of Surveyors to develop an Americas capacity development network (CDN), focusing on Caribbean small island developing states. He is interested in seeing if Technical Assistance Program (PAT) funds could be used to support this project.
 - Dan asked if PAT funds were only available to PAIGH member states. Claudia and Norberto confirmed this was correct.
 - Dan asked when the funding would take place. Claudia and Norberto confirmed funds would be dispersed in March 2024 and project leads would have approximately 12 months to execute the funds unless under exceptional circumstances.
 - Dan asked if PAIGH approved a project and then a country joined PAIGH this year if that country could then join the approved project. Claudia and Norberto confirmed the answer was no since they were not included in the original project proposal. They could however participate in the 2024-2025 PAT. Paul clarified that the process [for a nation] to join PAIGH is complex and that his colleagues could explain the process further if he is interested.
 - Dan asked if it was possible to fund an in-person meeting if the UN provides funding for the states that are not members of PAIGH. Claudia noted that while PAIGH cannot compensate for non-member states, it is possible for PAIGH to fund the member states to support this meeting.
 - Dan mentioned apprehension about non-member states being excluded from PAT projects. He does not want member states and non-member states meeting separately but working collaboratively. Paul mentioned that though they may not be members of PAIGH, the Caribbean member states are involved and participating in the Joint Action Plan. Paul also suggested an offline discussion to discuss participation across different UN initiatives.
 - Dan also proposed a training course for those working at mapping/geodetic agencies. He has a suite of Opus tools that focuses on practical applications, and he proposes setting up an in-person training in Fredericksburg, VA. The training would focus on how to collect data and then process that data through a specific software/application and understand the results.

- The secretariat advised that project leads with more technical projects should look to Commission Presidents for guidance on presenting the technical aspects of the projects. The secretariat can help with more administrative questions. Claudia mentioned that multi-disciplinary cross-commission projects usually have a better chance of funding.
- Dan asked if travel was an appropriate use of PAT funds. Claudia mentioned that PAIGH funds are very limited, and they would likely have to go to the co-sponsoring institution for help with airfare/lodging, but those costs could be included in the project proposal.
- Tom Sandoval asked for all future discussions regarding this project to include the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).
- Aaron Malone has a research proposal involving migration and rural development in Peru. He wanted to know if there would be an issue with his colleague being housed in an economics department as opposed to geography, history, or cartography. He also wanted to know what the typical budgetary range is for a research project.
 - Claudia confirmed there is no issue with his colleague being housed in an economics department and that the budgetary range was \$5,519-\$20,000. If two or more commissions fund the project, the amount would increase up to \$20,000. The average for a project approved by one commission is around \$8,000.
- Lynda mentioned advice from the PAIGH President Patricia Solís that says to consider how to bring in other funding sources for PAT projects. If there are other funding sources that could be combined for events that is permissible.

Action item:

- **Set up a meeting to discuss how to strengthen relationships with and potentially recruit for more participation from Caribbean states.**
- **Introduce Dan Roman to the appropriate Commission President for his PAT project proposal.**

3) Walk on items

- N/A