

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Meeting attendees: Julianna Aynes-Neville, Dana Caccamise, Emily Carlson, Josh Coutts, Emily Day, Len Kne, Erick Langer, Lidia Lopez, Anthony Nguy-Robertson, Miriam Olivares, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, Jennifer Runyon, David Salisbury, Charlotte Smith, Eric van Praag, Evan Ward, S. Zahniser

1) Welcome

- Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, mentioning how exciting it was to see so many people (including new faces) joining the meeting this month. Deirdre was unable to attend this month's meeting.

2) PAIGH General Assembly Meeting Update

- The upcoming 25th General Assembly will be held November 19-21, 2024, in Santiago, Chile. Currently, four USNS members planning to attend: Deirdre, Evan, Paul, and Lidia. Patricia Solís will also be in attendance serving as PAIGH President.
- Paul and Deirdre, along with State Department colleagues, have reviewed nearly all proposed draft resolutions, providing feedback and comments to the PAIGH Secretariat. A new published resolution, Resolution 7, is currently under review. Paul and Deirdre will share this with Julianna for her review before sending to the Secretariat.
- At this year's General Assembly, there will likely be informal discussions regarding next year's PAIGH Secretariat elections.
 - Secretary General Campuzano is up for reelection and both the President and Vice President positions will be open.
 - The U.S., however, is ineligible to hold the Presidency again until another Member has served.
 - There will also be vacancies for the PAIGH Cartography Commission Lead and Geophysics Commission Lead positions. If any USNS member is interested in being nominated for either position, they should reach out to Paul and Deirdre as soon as possible.
 - All available positions have a detailed list of responsibilities; if USNS members are interested, Paul and Deirdre can forward those responsibilities.
- Paul also gave an update on the UN-GGIM: Americas meeting and High-Level Forum that was held in October in Mexico City, Mexico.
 - Following the UN-GGIM: Americas regional committee meeting on October 7, the Secretary General hosted a reception at the PAIGH Palace Headquarters. There was music and dancing as well as a tour of the recently renovated palace.
 - Deirdre, Paul, Emily Carlson, Tim Trainor, Patricia, Charlotte, and Lidia were all in attendance. All attendees had a wonderful time and were very impressed by the PAIGH Headquarters, especially the historical artifacts on display.

3) Updates to the USNS Website

- While there are no immediate updates to the USNS website, Paul and Emily are actively working on compiling historical USNS documentation for future posting. Paul has extracted historical documents (e.g. monthly and annual meeting notes, meeting agendas, and annual reports) from a USNS hard drive and Emily is currently organizing these documents on the USNS Google Drive with plans to upload them to the USNS website soon.
- The USNS is eager to build a history of the USNS. Alongside documents, Paul also discovered many photos of USNS members from previous years. He suggested creating a dedicated section of the USNS website for historical information and photos.

- Erick Langer suggested meeting with Paul and Evan to discuss organizing a presentation for the upcoming 100th Anniversary of PAIGH, which could also be featured on the USNS website.
- The USNS website content is changing regularly, and Paul encourages USNS members to check the website periodically for updates.

4) Presentation on Developing Decision Support Tools and Data for Addressing Water Security

- Lidia introduced Dr. Anthony Nguy-Robertson, a Research and Development Scientist with the NGA's Research Directorate. Lidia and Anthony were connected through a project that collected aerial imagery in Ecuador last year and she invited him to present on the NGA's Water Security Program.
 - The Water Security Program ran from 2017-2022; with Anthony taking over in 2019. Its goal was to support policymakers and the military in addressing water security concerns through the development of tools and datasets. The project was informed through prior experience in operations, scoping activities, and engaging stakeholders.
 - The program's initial phase involved assessing customer needs through interviews with internal stakeholders, such as data managers, software owners, and analysts, as well as with external stakeholders and experts to understand their use NGA products and services.
 - Through scoping activities, the team identified funding opportunities, including a program at NGA for visiting scientists to come and contribute to projects. They also funded another academic effort that was looking at subsidence on a global scale.
 - The group developed tools to help model and visualize their data, including:
 - A tool illustrating the impact of irrigation on evapotranspiration.
 - A model generating time series of a large lake surface area from satellite imagery, enabling users to visualize remote sensing data without knowing how to process imagery.
 - A water quality model, summarizing from remotely sensed observations.
 - A predictive model for pandemics based on environmental and climatic indicators.
 - Anthony clarified that these are prototypes, and their effectiveness depends on the availability of relevant datasets.
- For follow-up, Anthony invited attendees to contact him with any questions. Alternatively, members can reach out to Lidia for an introduction. He will also be attending the American Geophysical Union meeting in December in Washington, DC, for those interested in meeting in person.

5) Commission Updates

- Erick Langer had to leave early, so Paul provided a Historical Commission update on his behalf. The PAIGH History Commission is offering scholarships for 2024 and 2025 for a specific online diploma course on the History of America that's being taught by the Center for Research on Latin American and the Caribbean.
 - The course starts in late November 2024 and runs through November 2025.
 - There are 10 scholarships available across 21 PAIGH member states.
 - If anyone is interested, please reach out to Eric or Paul as soon as possible.

- David Salisbury did not have any Geography Commission updates. Members of the Commission have been hard at work and while there hasn't been much recent communication among the group, he is excited to hear about member's research when it is available to share.
- Lidia thanked Anthony again for his presentation and encouraged the group to let her know if they have any additional ideas for future presentations. She also mentioned that Chris Hanson, from the Geographic Names Group, will be assisting the Dominican Republic in their geographic names workshop presentation on November 26, 2024, 10:30-12p EST. During the presentation, they will be talking about international standards and how they use them within geographic names.

6) Walk on Topics

- Miriam introduced herself as a new member of the USNS Geography Commission. Paul welcomed her to the USNS and encouraged her and/or Len to give an update on GeoForce 5, which was presented on during the USNS Annual Meeting.

7) Next Meeting: December 10, 2024