

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

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Meeting attendees: Julianna Aynes-Neville, Deirdre Bishop, Dana Caccamise, Josh Coutts, Emily Carlson, Emily Day, Erick Langer, Lidia Lopez, Roger Payne, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, Charlotte Smith, Patricia Solís, Tim Trainor, Eric van Praag, Evan Ward

1) Welcome

- Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned how fortunate she feels to have seen so many USNS members in person over the past few months at various events and conferences. She is pleased with how the USNS community continues to engage across the federal government, the private sector, and the academic sector. She thanked USNS members for being great ambassadors in our national and international communities.

2) PAIGH General Assembly Meeting

- Paul said that the 25th General Assembly will be held on November 19-21, 2024, in Santiago, Chile. Colleagues at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will host USNS members at their headquarters in Santiago.
- Members traveling to the assembly should plan to arrive in Santiago on Monday November 18 and depart on Friday November 22.
- Members interested in attending the meeting should let Paul and Deirdre know by August 31, 2024, so they can provide the delegation and observer memo to the State Department for their approval by September 3. The delegation and guest list will be provided to PAIGH by October 4.
- Patricia pointed out that SIRGAS is planning to hold their annual symposium the same week in Colombia. She said she would investigate what's going on with the date conflict and report back to the group.

3) 14th Session of the Committee of Experts Group on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Update

- The 14th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts Group was held in New York, NY August 5-9, 2024. The United States Delegation included 20 federal professionals from the Department of Commerce, Defense, Interior, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and NASA.
- The delegation submitted 10 interventions on behalf of the U.S. related to the future of geospatial information management within the UN community in relation to integrating geospatial and statistical data in support of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the Geodetic Framework, as well as others.
- There are two new Centers of Excellence this year, one focused on geodesy in Bonn, Germany, and one focused on global geospatial knowledge in innovation in China. There is another one focused on the future geospatial ecosystem slated to open in February 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Deirdre will share her trip report once it's finalized.
- Paul and Tim congratulated Deirdre for being nominated and confirmed as Co-Chair of the Experts Group. This is the second time in 10 years that a representative from the U.S. has served as Co-Chair.
- Tim recommended following up on discussions that took place at the meeting throughout the year, particularly in regard to the new Center of Excellence in China.
- The UN-GGIM High Level Forum will be held October 8-10, 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico (https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2024/7th_HLF_Mexico/). Deirdre recommended interested

members go ahead and register. The Americas Regional Committee meeting will start on Monday October 7, 2024.

- There will be a ceremony held at the PAIGH headquarters prior to the UN-GGIM High Level Forum meeting. Patricia clarified the reception is for the UN-GGIM Americas group but will check to see if other USNS/PAIGH members can attend.
- Eric van Praag will be involved in an informal presentation on Natural Disasters with a group in Chile. If anyone is interested in being involved in the presentation they should reach out to Eric.

4) Annual Report

- Work is underway on the 2024 USNS Annual Report. Emily Day invited interested USNS members to look over the 2023 Annual Report and provide any feedback on what they would like to add/remove for this year.
- **Action items: Commission leads should send their Commission Reports to Emily no later than August 31, 2024.**

5) USNS Website Update

- The USNS website has been reverted to 'Coming Soon' mode (not publicly available). Emily will be providing a website demo to Deirdre on August 26.
- The leadership pages have been updated with Deirdre's and Evan's biographies. Biographies are still needed for Paul and Julianna.
- Meeting notes from 2023 and 2024 have been uploaded to the website.
- Emily thanked Sergio for his assistance updating the website.
- There was a question whether the meeting notes should be made publicly available on the website. Deirdre asked Patricia about the possibility of using PAIGH headquarters as the repository for all meeting notes and USNS records.
- **Action items: Commission leads should send information on current members and projects their commissions have worked on for the website by August 31, 2024.**