

New Jersey Geospatial Forum

Executive Meeting Minutes



DATE: Nov 7, 2024

TIME: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

LOCATION: Teleconference meeting via Teams

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Matt Duffy called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Brian Embley (Geographic Information Officer)
Maya Thomas (NJGF administrator)

Matthew Duffy (Committee Chair, County)
Mark Gatti (Committee Vice Chair, Regional Authority / MPO)
Calen Daugherty (Secretary, Private Sector)
Scott Costello (State Government)
Steve Cauller (Federal Government)
Ken Fung (Non-government Organization)
Ambrose Gmeiner (Land Surveyor)

Absent:

Zachary Christman (University / College / K-12)
John Hainsworth (Municipal)

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Meeting Minutes Adoption

September 5 Executive Meeting Minutes Adoption

	Moved	Seconded	Yea	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Embley			X			
Duffy					X	
Gatti	X					
Daugherty			X			
Christman						X
Costello			X			
Hainsworth						X
Cauller		X				
Gmeiner			X			
Fung			X			

October 18 General Meeting Minutes Adoption

	Moved	Seconded	Yea	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Embley			X			
Duffy			X			
Gatti					X	
Daugherty			X			
Christman						X
Costello	X					
Hainsworth						X
Cauller		X				
Gmeiner			X			
Fung			X			

Upcoming presentations

Dec 2024 – David Kraiker from the US Census will present on census related topics

March 2025 – Nothing confirmed yet. Committee had previously John Hasse from Rowan potentially presenting on NJ MAP, though due to lack of response the committee decided to no longer consider this presentation as an option at this time.

A previously discussed topic was the NJDOT dredging management system. The system integrates monitoring of the silting of channels, dredging operations, and a marketplace for dredged material. The most likely presenter would be Dan Barrone, who built the system as a consultant, but now works at Rutgers. He has expressed interest in presenting, but it must work with his academic schedule. Chairman Duffy brought up the possibility of a recorded presentation, but GIO Embley and others agreed a recorded presentation may not be right for the in person forum setting. GIO Embley also brought up that it was be good to have someone from NJDOT co-present as well so that the presentation would be both the consultant and the end user. Scott Costello will report back to the committee at the January 9th meeting on the status of the presentation for the March general meeting.

June 2025 – The June meeting is when the lightning talks are traditionally held. GIO Embley noted that the June 2024 lightning talks had record attendance, and he wants to continue that momentum.

Meeting Locations

GIO Embley noted that Brian Wlodawski (GIS Specialist III with Meadowlands Research & Restoration Institute) approached him about potentially holding a future NJGF general meeting at the Meadowlands Research & Restoration Institute in Lyndhurst. MRRI has a 200 seat auditorium and an 80 seat meeting room. A June meeting may be a good candidate, as MRRI could offer free pontoon boat tours after the meeting (approximately 30 people could take the tour).

The committee agreed there are benefits to holding a future meeting at MRRI or other alternate locations in NJ. A meeting at MRRI may make it easier to attend in person for NJGF members that live/work in far Northern NJ. The committee also agreed that logistical considerations (AV capabilities, recording, WiFi, etc.) need to be worked out well beforehand so that the NJGF can still offer a virtual option. While MRRI indicated June may be a good time due to the added activity of the pontoon boat tours, NJGF typically holds Lightning Talks in June, so maybe MACURISA off-year October is a better time for a meeting at MRRI.

In summary, the committee agreed that alternate meeting locations like MRRI are a worthwhile consideration, though logistics need to be worked out so that a quality remote meeting option can still be offered, and that presenters/attendees/support staff are informed of the venue well ahead of time.

General discussion of elections

The committee held a general discussion of NJGF election challenges. Administrator Thomas brought up that in this year’s elections, no groups featured more than a single nominee. The committee agreed this is not a sign of a healthy election system. The committee discussed potential ways to increase election engagement and attract more candidates.

Vice Chair Gatti brought up potentially changing eligibility requirements to something based on someone’s organization attending the meeting rather than the individual. However, the committee agreed that the current requirement to be eligible for the executive committee is already fairly easy to attain.

Various committee members expressed that we should increase promotion and messaging on the benefits of joining the executive committee, and communicate that it is not a huge time commitment. Administrator Thomas expressed that we should continue to remind members at meetings to think about serving on the executive committee, and that we also need to encourage people to sign in for tracking purposes. Administrator Thomas also sent out updated constituent lists to everyone.

GIO Embley reiterated to everyone to continue to communicate the benefits of meetings (networking, presentations, staying up to date on GIS information), and to also continue engaging with constituents to get more topics and concerns from the community.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

	Moved	Seconded	Yea	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Embley	X					
Duffy			X			
Gatti			X			
Daugherty			X			
Christman						X
Costello			X			
Hainsworth						X

Cauler			X			
Gmeiner			X			
Fung		X				

End 2:00pm