



## TIPS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2010  
09:30 – 10:30 AM CENTRAL TIME

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### ATTENDEES:

Lou Hamm, Karyn Evans, Robert Welsh, Ken Walker, Matthew Moore, Dianne Osborne, Mike Richmond, Tom Cunningham, Len Meier, Janine Ferarese, Bill Card, Chris Benson, Aldo Plascencia, Li Tai Bilbao, Stephanie Self

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**OSM Geospatial Plan** –The final report due date should be the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and its going to be posted to the TIPS website for the public to access. The OSM Geospatial Plan does meet one of the director's goals in terms of oversight and that is we are developing some kind of geospatial strategy and communicating it to the public and participating agencies.

Following that at the end of this month and the beginning of next month there is a meeting with the states in Pittsburgh and that meeting will get into more of the implementation of this plan. The first phase of this plan is to involve 4 states in Appalachia , Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Ultimately our goal is to have a website on OSM where a person can go to and see, in a geospatial format, the coal mines of the United States.

**TIPS Training Initiatives** – About 6 months ago we entered into a collaborative agreement with Adams State University. After we had visited with them we discovered that there were many ways for us to work together. Some of the things we are piloting this year are offering credit hours to our student for TIPS classes. Currently we offer continuing education units through George Mason University and the student pays 20 dollars directly to GMU for continuing education credits for TIPS and NTTIP classes. Now students will have the opportunity to pay 55 dollars per credit hour to Adams State College to receive full College credit hours. So far the Garmin class has been approved for credit hours; Intro to ArcGIS will be next, ArcPad, and then our CAD courses. We are also looking at the potential for offering certificate programs to students for our TIPS classes, so if students take 2 to 3 of a particular class they then get a portable credential that they can put on their resume.

Another thing we are working on is creating a virtual campus using a moodle platform. Moodle is kind of an updated version of blackboard for everyone's information. Our aim is to upload all of the TIPS courses up to this new e-learning platform. We are already loading different courses into this platform, making it so instructors can teach in a blended environment, we are

working with the CAD team to start the new blended teaching process and hopefully make it so any team can do this. All this should start happening around the December or January time frame.

One more thing, we are going to pilot open registration to TIPS courses beginning October 1, 2010. And we are also researching e-book readers such as the Kindle; we may eventually use something like a Kindle for our onsite classes. Finally, we are trying to set up lesson plans for all of our courses just in case an instructor has to drop a course someone else could come in and take over.

**Remote Sensing Pilot Project** – We are not getting a response from NGA to the level we would like. A lot of the imagery is not acceptable, when they do deliver imagery it's late and it's of poor quality. On June 22, 2010 we have a conference call with NGA to discuss these issues.

**NEXT MEETING:** July 20, 2010