

Issue 1

Spring 2016

Issued Quarterly

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, serving Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico

President's Message

Dear Rocky Mountain Region Members of ASPRS,

This is an exciting time to be a member of ASPRS! Geographic information science and technology is a vibrant and growing field, and our leaders in the national office are developing and implementing many strategies for better serving its increasingly diverse membership. Among other things, ASPRS recently launched a completely overhauled website, approved new bylaws that reflect the Society's restructured organization, and took a number of measures for adding value to the Society (e.g., new certifications, trainings, and professional development opportunities). In the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, we are working on strengthening the Society in similar ways. We will keep you posted on our progress in the coming months. In the meantime, please let us know how we can better serve you — we value your input and appreciate your feedback.

Our new Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS Board is composed of a large number of dedicated volunteers (<http://rmr.asprs.org/officers/>). Some have supported the Board for years while others joined only recently, but all are extremely dynamic and engaged. **Michael Tuffly** (ERIA Consultants, LLC, CO) served as our President during the last two years and is continuing to serve as our Vice President this year. **Ahmed Elaksher** (New Mexico State University, NM) and **Mike Vessel** (DigitalGlobe, CO) are our Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. **Jeff Young** (LizardTech, CO) has been our National Director for many years. Our Regional Directors are responsible for tasks ranging from communications to conference planning and include **Harold Schuch** (GeoCounsel, Inc., CO), **Cerian Gibbes** (University of Colorado, CO), **Mike Garner** (Michael Baker International, CO), **Catherine Maynard** (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, MT), and **Chris Lippitt** (University of New

Mexico, NM). Finally, Communications Coordinator, **Sheila Pelczarski** (Denver Water, CO), has been the most important person in our group since I joined the Board in 2011 and long before then. Sheila runs our website, communicates with you via email, helps Mike Garner publish the newsletter, and handles too many other miscellaneous jobs to list here. If you are interested in supporting us, please let us know — we welcome new members and volunteers.

We also hope to see you at some or all of the following upcoming events. On 21 May 2016, we invite you to join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting at the Burns Pub and Restaurant in Broomfield, CO. This will be a fun event with outstanding opportunities for catching up with old friends and making new ones, recognition of our scholarship winners, and a keynote by **Brant Howard**, Co-founder and CEO of CompassData, Inc. The **GIS in the Rockies Conference** will be held at the Cable Center in Denver, CO, 21-22 September 2016. This is the premier meeting for geospatial students and professionals in the Rocky Mountain West and offers workshops, presentations, exhibits, social events, and more. If you are interested in presenting, consider submitting an abstract for the ASPRS track.

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Finally, like us on Facebook where we post breaking news, information about exciting events, and more, and send us your news so that we can share them with other members and friends of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS.

With best wishes,

Dr. Michaela Buenemann
ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region President

National Director's Report

Changes to Our Organization – Minutes from the National ASPRS Board of Directors Meeting

The following was excerpted from the Draft Minutes of the most recent National ASPRS [Board of Directors] (BOD) meeting prepared by **Bobbi Lenczowski**, the Secretary. Several significant changes to our Society were discussed and ratified during that meeting. Also, this was the last meeting for the Executive Committee, which I have served on for the last several years. These changes in our Bylaws, Membership structure, BOD membership and functions of Councils are essential to sustain ASPRS. Please embrace these changes.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND
 REMOTE SENSING (ASPRS) - 11 April 2016

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer **Don Lauer** quickly drew attention to the documents found in the SharePoint read-ahead files. Currently, reserves are at approximately \$920,000 at the end of the 1st quarter of 2016. He reminded the Board that ASPRS is still on track with the interim investment policy, approved in November 2014, reviewed in December 2015, and expected to be in place until December 2017.

The investment portfolio provided by **Gretchen Bolton**, the ASPRS investment counselor, was also discussed by Don, who found nothing out of order or notable in the performance of ASPRS reserve funds.

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NEW BYLAWS APPROVAL

[ASPRS Executive Director] **Michael Hauck** noted that the proposed new Bylaws had been submitted to **Benjamin Takis** for an attorney's review. As the response (available to all Board members prior to this Board meeting) notes: "Specifically, you asked that I comment on this draft's (1) internal consistency and legal sufficiency; (2) conformance with Virginia law and federal rules applicable to 501(c)(3) organizations; and (3) best practices for learned societies." His legal opinion was "ASPRS can move forward with the amendment to the Bylaws (subject to my suggestions and comments in this memorandum), but should follow up shortly thereafter with amendments to the Articles of Incorporation to ensure that the governance structure is legally valid and will withstand challenge in the event of a conflict."

Bill Hazelton made the motion that the ASPRS Board approve the new ASPRS Bylaws, which had been released to all members, in compliance with the existing Bylaws, for questions or comments. If approved, those Bylaws would become effective with the swearing in of the new officers at the Annual Members Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. **Al Mikuni** seconded the motion. President **[Lynn] Usery** requested discussion.

Jeff Young (RMR) took this opportunity to thank Lynn [Usery] for his work drafting the Bylaws in conformance to the May 2015 Board-approved recommendations from the Streamlining Task Force. He also commended Lynn for sustaining the energy to reach this point in the process. Lynn noted that much credit goes to **Stewart Walker**, who was not able to attend the meeting for in-person recognition. **Becky Morton** asked Michael to say more about the opinions provided by the lawyer who reviewed the Bylaws. Michael noted that the lawyer provided some recommendations to clarify possible ambiguities but found nothing inconsistent with our 501(c)(3) status. However, there are changes needed to the articles of incorporation. Those changes will require a membership vote. They were published in the Newsletter and *PE&RS* [journal] and will be voted on during the Annual Members Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

Marcus Glass asked whether the Regions' Bylaws will require amendment. In response, all current

National Directors from the Regions were advised to have their Boards review existing Bylaws. Many may have provisions describing the National Director position and the election or selection process to fill that position. Since the new ASPRS Bylaws do not include National Directors representing each Region on the National Board but rather representatives to the [new] "Region Officers Council," **amendments to Region Bylaws may be needed for compliance with [revised] National Bylaws.**

Greg Brunner expressed his concern about the smaller Board diminishing the impact of the seventeen active participants to a National Board. Comments from others note that the *individuals currently representing the Region on the National Board could still be the Regions' representatives to the Region Officers Council.* As Jeff Young made sure was noted, *the language of the new Bylaws leaves selection of the Region's representatives to the discretion of the Region.*

Michael [Hauck] emphasized that all participants at the Board meeting, whether Board members or guests, need to understand the importance of the Councils within the overall governance plan. He noted that he was prepared with a briefing after the vote on the motion to talk more about the Councils.

Discussion subsided and President Utery called the question. With no objection to that action, President Utery then called for the vote on the motion to approve the new Bylaws. He declared the motion passed with no nays and no abstentions.

MEMBER BENEFITS / FEES APPROVAL and PRESENTATION ON HOW TO ALIGN THE BUSINESS MODEL WITH THE MEMBER VALUE PROPOSITION

Michael requested an opportunity to discuss what he believes is still a work in process. He used the following graphic to initiate a discussion about possible membership dues models.

The first premise he established was that individual members need something different from corporate members, because the benefits for each type of member vary.

The proposed ladder of individual rates would be:

- Legacy Honorary and Legacy Emeritus: \$0
- Student: \$50
- Unemployed: \$50
- Professional: \$150

- Exec/Senior-level Professional: \$250
- Retired [Professional]: \$50

An honor system would be used, since members would self-identify. In addition, there would be a 20% reduction for individuals who are affiliated with a Corporate Member.

The proposed ladder of corporate rates would be:

- T1 (Bronze): \$1,000
- T2 (Silver): \$2,500
- T3 (Gold): \$5,000
- T4 (Platinum): \$10,000

Again, the designation of level would be by the corporate member. Its employees and students would receive a 20% reduction for their individual membership.

A question was raised about whether government agencies would be corporate members. The answer was yes. Another question/suggestion asked if any consideration had been made for a 10-year membership or lifetime membership?

INFORMATION: DISCUSS MECHANISM FOR FORMATION OF THE NEW COUNCILS

Michael [Hauck] presented some slides on the key points for "Standing up the New Governance" that would be required given that the Bylaws are approved: Establish (or Repair) the Councils; Charter them; Establish Goals; Establish Schedules. He pointed to the Student Advisory Council as an exemplar of running well with regularly scheduled teleconferences and a plan of action.

Since the Region Officers Council is new, it will need to establish goals and a plan of action that should include coordinating an event calendar, assessing the health of the Regions, and working with the SAC for all student chapters.

Similarly, the "Technical Divisions Council" is new and among its responsibilities will be ensuring that Divisions have refreshed charters, plans to expand the existing applications domains, and consideration of some committees as interest groups. The Corporate Members Council will need to decide what [will be] the expectation of members from ASPRS; what is its relationship with other organizations; and what is the role of the Council at ASPRS meetings.

The "Early-Career Professionals Council" has been struggling since its inception as the "Young

Professionals Council” and should revisit the mentor program, help members with student status transition to members with early-career professional status.

Amanda [Aragon] explained why the Student Advisory Council has been successful: [They] meet regularly by conference call; use Google drive [for sharing and storing information]; have good teamwork; invite guests to conference calls; [have] identified goals and agendas; and sponsored GeoLeague as a good success story this year. She asked for assistance from the Region[s] in identifying all the Student Chapters.

Brittany Mabry asked if the new database will help the Regions. Michael answered that it should since there will be access to good membership data. She then questioned if there would be a training plan in place to train people how to use its capabilities. Michael noted that individuals will have the option to decide how open or closed they choose to be about their information.

ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISH A QUARTERLY MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

Before the meeting concluded, Michael sought to establish a calendar for the upcoming year that would identify at least quarterly meetings for both the Councils and the Board. Since most meetings will be virtual, consideration must be made to include all time zones.

A full calendar was not completed but it was agreed that the Board would meet on Friday, June 10; during the September UAS Mapping meeting; in the December or January period; and at the IGTF in March 2017. The first meeting of the [new] Region Officers Council will be May 13, 2016. The first meeting of the Technical Divisions will be May 20, 2016. Michael will arrange for the virtual meeting sessions.

Your comments are welcome,
Jeffrey M. Young, RMR National Director
jyoung@lizardtech.com

Stay tuned for upcoming Technical Tours and Social Events! Check out new professional opportunities and upcoming events on the Rocky Mountain Region [Website](#) ...

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2016 Region Election Results

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers!

President:
Michaela Buenemann

Vice-President:
Mike Tuffly

Treasurer:
Mike Vessel

Secretary:
Ahmed Elaksher

Regional Director (General / Montana):
Catherine Maynard

Regional Director (“GIS in the Rockies” Committee):
Cerian Gibbes

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Welcome back to our continuing Officers!

National Director (3-year term, 2 years remaining):
Jeff Young

Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter – 2-year term, 1 year remaining):
Mike Garner

Regional Director (“GIS in the Rockies” Committee – 2-year term, 1 year remaining):
Harold Schuch

Regional Director (At-large / New Mexico – 2-year term, 1 year remaining):
Chris Lippitt

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Board member, Cerian Gibbes.

At the same time, we offer heartfelt thanks to our outgoing officer for their dedicated service to the Region and the Society:

** **Mark Bowersox** – Regional Director (“GIS in the Rockies” Committee).*

Mark, your continued involvement in Region activities is always welcome, and we hope to see you very soon!!

Region Scholarship Winners

Many thanks to all the students who applied to the 2015-16 ASPRS-RMR Student Scholarship Program. This year we had several well-qualified applicants. Applications were evaluated in several areas, such as: appropriateness of field of study, quality of narrative, communication, letter of recommendation, enthusiasm, extracurricular activity, quality of research, and scholastic ability. The Board of Directors of ASPRS-RMR wishes all the applicants the best of luck in their future academic and professional pursuits. In addition, please consider applying next year and let other students know about this great program.

Congratulations to the scholarship award winners, all of whom are invited to speak about their research interests at our Annual Dinner Meeting.

1st place Scholarship winners:

Undergraduate: **Emma Bode** – Montana State University
Major: Environmental Science
Career Choice: GIS Professional
Research Focus: Spatial and temporal robustness of proposed models to estimate tree mortality using Landsat imagery with NAIP reference data
(Award = \$500)

Master’s Candidate: **Will Brewer** – University of New Mexico
Major: Geography
Career Choice: Remote Sensing Research Scientist and Professor
Research Focus: Assessing drought in a semi-arid woodland: A multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis approach
(Award = \$750)

Doctoral Candidate: **Su Zhang** – University of New Mexico
Major: Civil Engineering, Geographic Information Science
Career Choice: Academia
Research Focus: Estimating road pavement surface condition based on inferential geospatial modeling
(Award = \$1,500)

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2st place Scholarship winner:

Doctoral Candidate: **Matt Cross** – University of Colorado - Denver
Major: Civil Engineering Systems
Career Choice: Research/Teaching at a Major University
Research Focus: Developing an improved process for the identification of tree types from satellite imagery for cost-effective assessments of the effect of tropical forests on the global climate
(Award = \$1,250)

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3rd place Scholarship winner:

Doctoral Candidate: **Hamid Zoraghein** – University of Colorado - Boulder
Major: Geography
Career Choice: Geographic Information Systems Professional
Research Focus: Using spatial refinement approaches to implement advanced demographic estimation methods for population geography, demography and urban studies
(Award = \$1,000)

Upcoming ASPRS Webinars

Registration and additional information can be found on the [ASPRS website](#). For those seeking ASPRS Certification: ASPRS Training Webinars are a great way to gain Professional Development Hours!

Student Rebate Offer

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region will reimburse \$25 of the \$50 cost of student membership, so your net cost is only \$25 for all the benefits of membership in the Society!

Download the Student Membership Rebate Form at <http://www.asprs-rmr.org> (on the News & Events page). Here’s the best part: ***This offer from the Region is good for every year you are a full-time student!***

Welcome New Members!

Elisa Abeyta
 Vanessa Baez
 Emma Bode
 Lisa Godwin
 Jeremiah Greif
 Renee Haley
 Michelle-Elyse Lacerda
 Daniel Montoya
 Scott Phelps
 Sagert Sheetz
 Jesse Sprague
 Michael Sutherland
 M. Lorraine Tighe
 Katrina Waechter
 Holly Wilkie
 Hamidreza Zoraghein

OGC Arctic Spatial Data Pilot RFQ

The [OGC Arctic Spatial Data Pilot RFQ](#) (Request for Quotation / Request for Participation) has been released! The RFQ closes on June 17, 2016.

The Arctic Spatial Data Pilot is sponsored by US Geological Survey, Federal Geographic Data Committee and Natural Resources Canada, in collaboration with the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) Participants.

This pilot will demonstrate the value of standards in an environment that is principally built as a system of systems, i.e. an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure that integrates a number of existing systems as well as individual services and data repositories. Additionally, the results of this pilot will inform the Data and Technical Interoperability Objective of the [Arctic SDI Strategic Plan 2015-2020](#).

For additional information, please visit the Arctic SDI website and the Open Geospatial Consortium [website](#).

Stay tuned for upcoming Technical Tours and Social Events! Check out new professional opportunities and upcoming events on the [Rocky Mountain Region Website](#) ...

IGTF 2016 Wrap-up

Unless you were one of the many who attended, then you'll have to wait until next year to experience the ASPRS Annual Meeting. See what people said about it:

- Twitter [#IGTF2016](#)
- Twitter [#IGTF16](#)
- Twitter [@ASPRSorg](#)
- The world's funniest [bad jokes](#) for geospatial geeks

People said they especially liked:

- The large number of free professional development workshops
- The variety and quality of the keynote presentations
- The technical exchanges and
- The refreshments with sponsors in the exhibit area
- The quality of the leads that were generated
- The student-sponsored sessions
- The night life in Fort Worth
- Giving back with STEM outreach
- Reaching out to new markets on Frontier Day

Can't get enough ASPRS technical exchange? Get ready for:

- [ISPRS Congress 2016](#), July 12-19 in Prague, Czech Republic
- [UAS Mapping 2016](#), September 12-14 in Palm Springs, CA
- ASPRS Annual Meeting 2017, March 10-16 in Baltimore, MD

The proceedings for the IGTF 2016 Conference are [now online here](#). Please note that only full papers that were submitted are displayed.

If you presented at the conference and would like your full paper, slides, or poster included in the presentation, please submit them to [Matthew Austin](#).