

# Moving MSGIC Forward: Building on Our Success

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# An Impressive History

- Established in 1992 by a coalition of MD state agencies
  - 2012 will be our 20th year!
- Original goal was coordination of GIS activity between state agencies
- Expanded to include all Maryland GIS stakeholders in 2000
- It has always been all-volunteer: no designated staff or budget



# Are We Reaching Our Potential?

- Mission has been less focused since moving to a inclusive organization
- GIO position did not exist when MSGIC was re-conceived
- Relationship with state government is undefined
- Relationships with other state organizations are not pursued
- Good ideas are often left to wither for lack of focused volunteer time
- Lack of any funding creates dependencies for basic operation



# Our Current Organization Status

- No longer sanctioned by the Governor specifically
  - The organization created in 1992 ceased to exist in 2000
  - Additionally, the GIO now is responsible for coordinating GIS between state agencies
- Current bylaws are not registered with any authoritative source
- No formal recognition by any national or state associations or organizations
- Our organization is vulnerable
- We should move quickly to establish MSGIC as a formal, recognized organization



# How Are Other States' Organized?

- There are many paths to become a formal organization...
  - State legislature/governor authorization
    - DE, NC, WV, CT, VT
  - State GIS office/GIO establishment
    - DC, NJ, VA?, OH, GA, MA, ME
  - Independent non-profit organization
    - NY
  - Coalition of member agencies
    - SC
- ...or not: PA, FL, RI, NH



# Advantages to becoming a NPC

- Formal recognition
  - Allows a relationship to be created between State and MSGIC
  - Allows partnerships to be built between MSGIC and other organizations
  - Allows for advocacy/recognized leadership
- Funding
  - Allows for grants, corporate donations, membership fees (?)
  - Could allow for interns, part-time staff, reassigned time?
- Limited liability for officers
- Process is relatively simple



# Disadvantages to becoming an NPC

- Cost
  - Filing fees, operating fees (i.e., website)
- Additional responsibilities
  - Treasurer
- More Restrictive
- Loss of "special relationship" with state agencies?



# Moving MSGIC Forward

- To begin to address the challenges of the GIS community for the next 20 years, we need a plan and dedicated resources
- In order to garner resources, create the necessary relationships, and advocate for the GIS industry in Maryland, the Executive Committee believes that MSGIC must become a formal organization, and that a non-profit corporation is the optimal structure





# What to do next?

- Redefine mission statement
- Reorganize structure/review by-laws
  - Revisit defined relationship with GIO
  - Revisit committee structure
  - Add a Treasurer position
- Ensure than new legal status will not jeopardize everyone's ability to participate
- Incorporate
  - IRS 557 and 1023 (\$400)
  - Register with State
- Seek sponsorships



# Going slow...

- Oct Executive Meeting
  - Vote to bring to membership
- Oct Quarterly Meeting
  - Present exploration to membership and gauge consensus
- November/December Executive Meetings
  - By-law review/troubleshooting
- January Executive Meeting
  - Formal vote on plan to move forward with reorg
- January Quarterly Meeting
  - Presentation of plan and vote by membership to move forward with plan to re-org
- June Quarterly Meeting
  - Vote to re-organize...or not!



# Reactions? Any Volunteers?

- Initial reactions?
- Volunteers to help?
  - By-laws update
  - Position paper, laying out the case to the membership
  - Paperwork and filing

