

**Background, Overview and Update
of the
United States Virgin Islands
Geospatial Information Council (VIGIC)**

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Presentation

- How Did We Get Here?
- Definition - Geospatial
- Coordination Criteria
- Charter Sections
 - Purpose
 - Policy Finding
 - Structure and Operation

Definition

- **Geospatial (geographic) Data** is information relating to natural or manmade features (i.e. gutters or public roads) at a geographic location;

How Did We Get Here?

- **March 2005**

- Participants of the OLG 1st Annual GIS Conference Advocated for the Reestablishment of a Territorial GIS Council
- Demand for the Collection and Sharing of GIS Data Increased

- **April 2006**

- OLG invited Heads of Agencies to kick-off meeting
 - Coordination Criteria
 - Draft Executive Order
- 2nd Meeting - Representatives from Agencies
 - Committees and Co-Chairs
 - Links to Existing Council Charters

How Did We Get Here?

- **May 2006**
 - 3rd Meeting - Representatives from Agencies
 - Feedback on Review of Existing Council Charters
 - Charter Committee Organized a Draft Document
- **June 2006**
 - 4th Meeting – Representatives from Agencies
 - Reviewed Draft Charter
- **August 2006**
 - Governor's Executive Order No. 428 – 2006 Signed
 - "To Create The Governor's Geospatial Information Council"
 - Amended October 24, 2006
- **November 2006**
 - Kick off meeting appointing Interim Chair and Vice Chair

VIGIC

Governor

Lt. Governor

Interim **Chair** Appointed by the LG on 11/16/06

Interim **Vice-Chair** Appointed by the LG on 11/16/06

43 Members Designated by Executive Order

Election
Committee

VIGIC
Draft Charter
Official
Acceptance
By Chair and
Vice Chair

GIS Conference
Steering Committee

Partnerships

Program/Agenda Committee

Publishing/Exhibits Committee

Logistics Committee

Publicity Committee

Budget/Fund Raising Committee

Funding
Committee

Partnerships
GRANTS
Fund Raising
Dues

Data Clearinghouse
Committee

PSTAC
Private Sector
Technical
Advisory
Committee

How Did We Get Here?

- **January/February and April 2007**
 - Interim Chair and Interim Vice-Chair brought new stakeholders up to date
 - Plan Strategy
- **June 2007**
 - First VIGIC Meeting
 - Adaptation of the VIGIC Charter by Lead Delegates
 - Call for Nominations of a Election Committee Chair
 - Vote for a Election Committee Chair by Lead Delegates
- **September/October 2007**
 - Call for Nominations
 - Nominees accepted or declined
 - Vote for Chair and Chair-elect were sent out
- **November 2007**
 - Announcement of VIGIC Chair and Chair-elect

Coordination Criteria

1. Establish a Full-time Coordinator Position
2. Define authority for Territorial coordination
3. Establish a relationship between the VIGIC and the Governor's Office of Information Technology
4. Recognize the contribution of executive or legislative decision makers
5. Define responsibilities for integrating and managing geospatial data and technology

Adapted from the National States Geographic Information Council

Coordination Criteria

6. Establish the opportunity for local and federal government, academia and the private sector to collaborate
7. Identify sustainable funding sources to meet projected needs
8. Establish the authority for the VIGIC to enter into contracts, receive and expend funds
9. Establish that the federal government works through the VIGIC

Adapted from the National States Geographic Information Council

Policy Findings

- Geospatial Data is a Valuable Resource
- GIS Technology is a Proven Decision-Making Tool
- Collection of Geospatial Data is Uncoordinated
- Distribution of Geospatial Data is Inefficient

Purpose

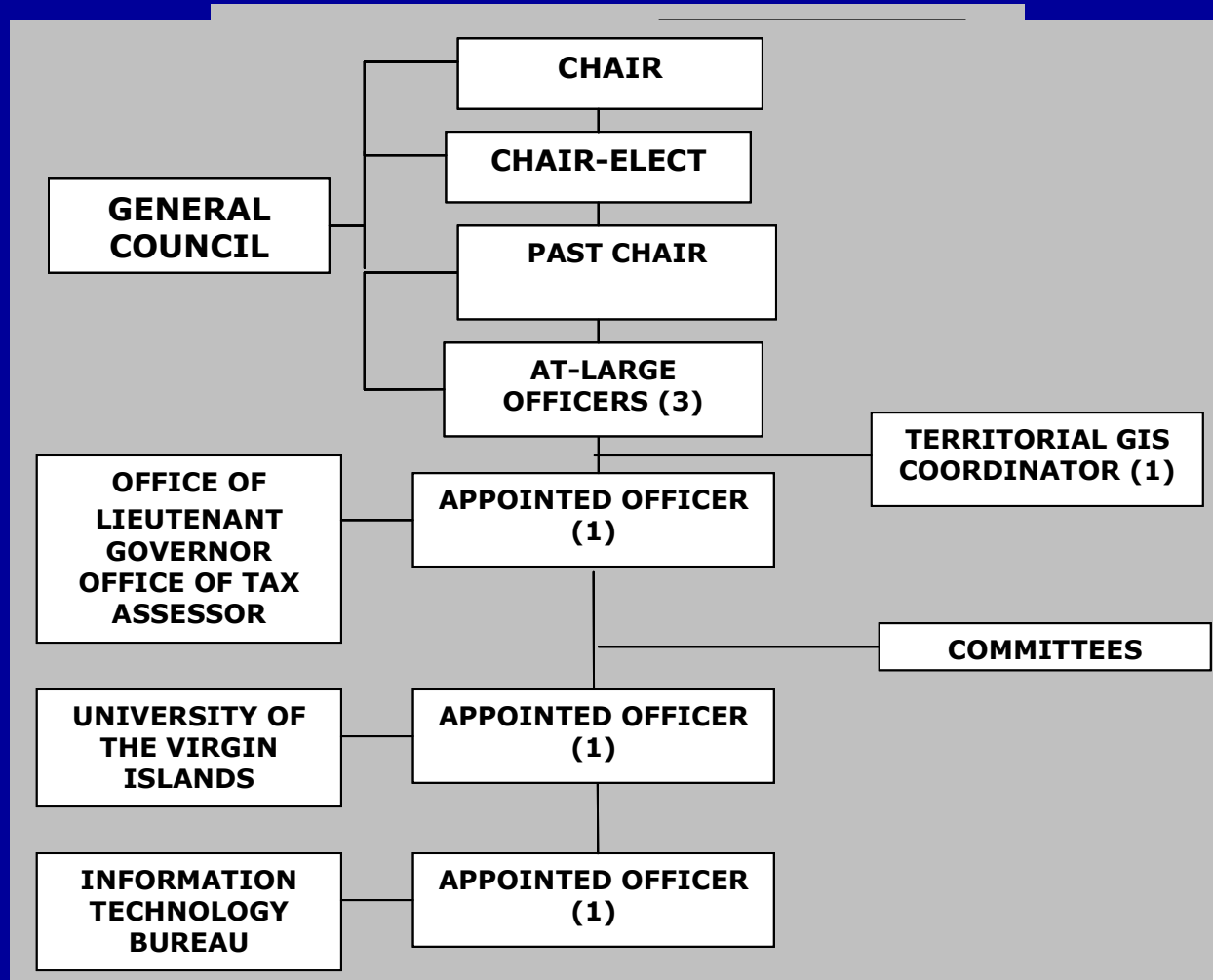
The purpose of the VIGIC is *"to encourage effective and efficient government through the coordinated development of geographic information and technologies to ensure that information may be integrated at all levels of government."*

Source: [National States Geographic Information Council](#)

Purpose

“Nothing in this charter alters or impedes the authorities of Federal and Territorial Government department and agencies to carry out their responsibilities under law.”

Structure and Operation



Benefits of Coordination

- Reduce the duplication of data collection
- Increase cost sharing and data sharing
- Collect data once and use it multiple time
- Build the capacity of local data users

SUBSEQUENTLY

- **Strategic Plan Draft**
 - Goals
 - Where will VIGIC be in three years?
 - Objectives to accomplish goals
 - Benchmarks
 - Timeline
 - Research
 - Activation of Committees
 - Etc.

Moving beyond

IDEAS 

coming together

to form a cohesive

FORUM for GIS Collaboration.