



## MINUTES: GIS Interest Group Meeting, Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Group Chair: John Cunningham

Recorder: John Cunningham

DISCUSSION	
1.0	<p><b>Welcome:</b></p> <p>Present: Ainslie Butler - SMDHU, David Guillette - PPH, James McKeown – GBPH, John Cunningham - LGLDHU, Lori McKinnon – PHO, Ryan Waterhouse – NRPHD, Shanshan Zhao-NBPSPHU</p>
2.0	<p><b>Volunteer to take minutes:</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
3.0	<p><b>Additions to &amp; Approval of Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additions: No additions to the agenda.</li><li>• Approval: David Guillette approved the agenda.</li></ul>
4.0	<p><b>Business arising and action item review:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action items from previous minutes reviewed (Sep 20, 2024)</li><li>• <b>ACTION carry-over: John to follow-up with GIS best practices lit search contacts around any info that they can provide.</b></li></ul>
5.0	<p><b>Items for decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion around group chair position. John C has been chair since 2019 (meetings postponed during pandemic) hosting quarterly meetings since June 2023. TOR states that chair is a revolving position up for renewal each year. John is willing to keep the chair position until June 2025 but will be stepping down at that point. Please come forward if you are interested in being the next GIS-IG chair. Will revisit this topic at next meeting.</li></ul>
6.0	<p><b>Items for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing group membership: Discussion around strategies for increasing GIS-IG membership. We currently stand at 20 members. However, about a dozen typically attend meetings. Some strategies discussed were:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Create advertisements using the general membership APHEO listserv. <b>ACTION: John to discuss with APHEO president.</b></li></ul></li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a membership pitch for the upcoming May 2025 APHEO conference outlining our work, educational component, non-need for GIS experience, multi-disciplined membership, etc. <b>ACTION: John to discuss with APHEO president and conference organizer team.</b></li> </ul>
7.0	<p><b>Standing agenda items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reviewed GIS-IG pages on our website for content and design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ryan suggested that perhaps tables on the pages would be a better way to organize the items and links as the pages will become quite long as more content is added to them. <b>ACTION: John will investigate the use and formatting of tables on the webpages.</b></li> <li>○ Ainslie volunteered to lead the Ontario Geography sub-group in 2025 to replace the current page that exists. Will develop the project more in the New Year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Need for educational topics for upcoming meetings in 2025. Any GIS work that you are doing or work that others are doing is great. Friends or contacts in academia or the private sector as well. Presentations do not need to be on in-depth topics. Some ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GIS-related software or coding that you are using (e.g. spatial analysis in R, Tableau, Power BI or GEODA).</li> <li>○ Public health-related analysis or research being done at your health unit or by the municipality(s) you serve.</li> <li>○ Public health-related analysis or research being done at an academic institution in your jurisdiction or an institution that you are associated with.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Get in touch with John C with your presentation offers (-;-)</li> </ul>
8.0	<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No presentation at this meeting.</li> </ul>
9.0	<p><b>Next meeting date, time and location:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Doodle Poll to be circulated in early 2025.</li> </ul>
10.0	<p><b>Adjournment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final thoughts for the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please note that the GIS-IG is a multi-disciplinary group including analysts, epis, programmers, technicians, nerds, dweebs, etc. This is not just a forum for public health epis. All members are valued for their GIS-related talents and contributions to the group. Please remember that our focus is on the use of the spatial data sciences in public health and not necessarily epidemiology. This is an open forum for all of us. Thanks to all for your contributions this year.</li> <li>○ I wish you all a restful and joyous holiday season however you celebrate it. Best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in 2025!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>