



Announcing the VAMLIS FY-2023 Executive Board

Voting was held for annual elected positions at the Virginia GIS conference on March 29th & 30th and by-proxy voting was made available to members via email link. The following executive officers will begin their term on July 1, 2022.

President: Eric A. Schmidt

Eric Schmidt has been professionally engaged in cartography, mapping, and GIS for thirty years. He has worked in both the public and private sectors and has spent the last ten years as a county GIS Coordinator; formerly in Nevada and now Franklin County, Virginia. He has substantial experience serving on state-wide professional organizations. He has worked on multiple state GIS conference committees in both South Carolina and Nevada. He has also served two terms as Vice President, and four years as an at-large member of the Board of Directors of the Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS). Closer to home, Eric currently serves on the Southwestern Virginia Type-III Incident Management Team. He has extensive experience in Emergency Management and community preparedness, and also serves on the Franklin County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Eric is a certified GIS Professional and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree from Appalachian State University. Eric spent 2 years as the VAMLIS President-Elect and was very involved with planning GeoCon2022.

President Elect: Jennifer Ciminelli

Jen Ciminelli is an environmental scientist and educator. She is an assistant professor in the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Jennifer develops and teaches courses at the Center, and has worked to build the geospatial program. She has worked on a variety of client driven and grant funded projects throughout her career. Her work focuses on the use of spatial technology in the creation of models that inform conservation and watershed management planning.

Jennifer has been a member of VAMLIS and an active participant in the Virginia GIS Conferences for many years. She has served on the VAMLIS Nominating Committee and Conference planning committee.

Vice President: Russell Vrhovac

Russell Vrhovac has a Degree in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University and a certificate in GIS from Old Dominion University. He has been involved in the GIS field since 2001. Russell has also been involved in VAMLIS for many years and has held the VAMLIS President, Past President and President Elect roles in the past. Russell is a technical sales consultant for Duncan Parnell where he specializes in delivering GIS and GNSS solutions for customers in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

Secretary: Shonia Holloway

Shonia has served in many roles during her 20-year career including GIS technician, GIS analyst, GIS developer, GIS project manager, and solutions design, and implementation lead for spatial and non-spatial systems and processes. She is a technical expert in the design, development, implementation, and support of standard and customized geospatial applications and has extensive experience with ESRI ArcGIS Desktop, Server, and Microsoft SQL Server technologies, implementations, and solutions. Shonia's ability to consistently initiate work flow improvements to streamline business processes and increase staff productivity will be a great asset to the VAMLIS organization. Shonia has served as the VAMLIS Treasurer Secretary since FY2020.

Treasurer: Brian Kingery

Brian Kingery, GISP, has continually served as the VAMLIS Treasurer since July 2019 at the start of FY 2020 Executive Board. Brian also previously served as the Vice President of the 2017 VAMLIS Executive Board. He has experience with the Virginia Department of Transportation and holds a GIS Professional (GISP) certification. Currently, Brian is a GIS consultant and project manager with Timmons Group working on all types of GIS projects across various industries at universities, local governments, and state governments across the United States. Using his experience from his time at the Virginia Department of Transportation, one of the largest department of transportations in the country, he hopes to build on the creativity and passion for GIS that he promoted every day bringing that same passion to VAMLIS and the GIS user community.

Brian has attended and presented at multiple regional outreach events and VAMLIS conferences over the years. He recognizes the value these events offer to the GIS community in Virginia regarding networking and learning from GIS professionals from all over the Commonwealth. Brian is excited about this continued opportunity and looking forward to furthering GIS in Virginia over the next few years and beyond.



Past-President: Stuart Blankenship

Stu has served on the VAMLIS Executive Board since FY 2020 as President-Elect, President, and now Past-President. Experienced in product management and development using a working and educational background in geography and planning, Stuart has successfully overseen multimillion dollar statewide aerial photography projects as well as numerous data and application development projects. He is the Vice President of GeoDecisions; former Senior Director of WorldView Solutions Inc.; former GIS Projects Manager for VGIN (VA Geographic Information Network); and former GIS Manager for VA Economic Development Partnership, all based in Richmond, VA. Specializations include geographic information system (GIS) applications, spatial analysis, cartographic design, implementation planning, and product/project management. Software skills encompass ArcGIS Server, ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Online, ArcSDE, ERDAS Imagine, LizardTech GeoExpress, and AutoCAD. Proficient in computer languages including VB Script, Avenue, Python, ModelBuilder, and HTML.