



**2010 IMAGIN Annual Conference and Expo
Tuesday, May 4, 2010 Keynote Speaker**

**Commissioner Jim Sparks
State of Indiana Geographic Information Officer**

Jim Sparks has spent most of his career working with geospatial information. His experience has come through positions as construction surveyor, cartographer, parcel mapper, and consultant, and in capacities as technician, supervisor, team leader, project manager, and director.



Of note among the 40-plus significant GIS projects that Jim has led, is the 200,000 person-hour IMAGIS (Indianapolis Mapping and Geographic Infrastructure System) data conversion project, which was completed between July 1987 and July 1989. While most of his experience has been in the private sector, he has also worked in county and state government and the university environment.

He is a founding member of the Indiana GIS Initiative, and has served as co-chair of INGISI's Data Standards and Data Sharing committees and as vice-president of the [Indiana Geographic Information Council](#) Board of Directors. Jim has also contributed to the local GIS community as a frequent presenter of topics that have included "GIS for Librarians", "An Introduction to GIS", "GIS Legal Issues", "Implementing a County GIS" and "For Fee or Free? Access to Government Spatial Data". His published papers/articles include "Getting a GIS in 'Bits and Pieces'", American City and County Magazine; "The Indianapolis Pavement Management Project", AM/FM International; "Controlling Quality during the Data Conversion Process", GIS/LIS, and "Creation of State Officer Reconfirms Value of GIS", Indiana Business Journal.

Jim has a B.A. in Business Administration and a M.S. in Management.

In October 2007, Jim was appointed as Indiana's first [Geographic Information Officer](#) with a mission to facilitate the development, maintenance, and distribution of comprehensive statewide geographic data.