

## CHARTER

### ***Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee***

The ***Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation*** is a committee of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee, which operates under the authority of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (the Council). The committee is not a permanent standing committee of the SMAC, but rather an *ad-hoc* working group that may be dissolved when it completes its assigned tasks.

The Working Group did not have a charter when it was authorized by the Council and began advising the SMAC. Given the evolution of orthoimagery acquisition in North Carolina and changes in geospatial data and technology since the group's formation in 2003, this charter is a formal statement of the group's purpose, topics, and tasks to guide its efforts.

#### **Background**

The Council organized the Digital Aerial Imagery Task Force in 2001 to evaluate and make recommendations for an organized and cost effective approach to maintenance of a statewide digital aerial imagery resource. The goal of the Task Force was to improve the availability of aerial imagery to support decision making at all levels of government. The group recognized that 1-foot resolution or better, as a statewide resource, would be beneficial for base mapping, including creation and maintenance of street centerlines, property boundaries, address points, structure outlines and other map features.

As recorded in the minutes of the Council's meeting on November 19, 2003, the Council authorized "the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee's orthophotography working group to coordinate with local governments and seek funding to acquire digital orthophotography. The working group should create a business plan."

Since that authorization, the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation has reported to and advised the SMAC on issues related to Orthoimagery, elevation and other remotely sensed data. The primary focus of the working group has been on true color, high resolution, leaf-off orthoimagery. The group also has reviewed and reported on issues related to other remotely sensed data, including National Agriculture Imagery Program's color and 4-band, leaf-on, 1-meter imagery, oblique imagery, and elevation data from Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), a surveying technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser light either airborne or on the ground.

Prior to the first statewide acquisition of orthoimagery in 2010, the Working Group was responsible for maintaining an inventory of the status of orthoimagery at the county level, including year of latest imagery and previous years of imagery. The group developed procedures for distribution of aerial imagery among state agencies and the US Geological Survey

representing federal agencies and offered advice on access to imagery and image services through the NC OneMap geospatial portal (<http://data.nconemap.gov>)

The group was charged initially with seeking sources of funding to assist counties and state agencies in acquiring high resolution imagery. In addition, the group has served as technical advisor for standards and imagery acquisition projects. Examples include technical specifications for digital orthoimagery from the Land Records Management Program in the NC Department of the Secretary of State (revised in 2014), the statewide acquisition of orthoimagery in 2010, the Statewide Orthoimagery Program (2012-present), the US Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), and the Secretary of State's specifications for LiDAR acquisition (adopted in 2013).

As directed, the group developed and submitted a Business Plan for Orthoimagery in North Carolina in 2010 to support the coordinated acquisition of a seamless statewide imagery dataset of standardized quality, resolution, age, and format. The plan was approved by SMAC and the Council, and was applied to acquisition beginning in 2012 by the Statewide Orthoimagery Program funded by the NC 911 Board.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the working group is to advise the SMAC on technical issues and opportunities relating to the following geospatial framework data themes and related datasets and technology:

1. Orthoimagery including acquisition and public access. Related imagery data may include NAIP imagery and oblique imagery.
2. Elevation data including acquisition, derived products, and public access.

### **Topics and Tasks**

Topics will be related to orthoimagery and elevation themes. The committee will advise the Statewide Orthoimagery Program on technical issues and specifications, identify opportunities and issues for consideration by the SMAC, develop recommended practices related to imagery and elevation to guide the geospatial community, report regularly to the SMAC and provide documentation of its findings and recommendations.

### **Appointment of the Chair**

The Chair of the working group will be appointed by the Chair of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee.

### **Committee Membership**

The working group may include appointments from the agencies/entities listed below. The chair may add additional members.

- Local Government Committee of the GICC
- State Government GIS Users Committee of the GICC
- Federal Interagency Committee of the GICC
- NC Department of Transportation, Photogrammetry Unit
- NC Geodetic Survey
- NC Division of Emergency Management
- NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- NC Department of Environmental Quality
- NC Department of Commerce
- NC Land Records Management Program
- US Geological Survey
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Center for Geographic Information and Analysis

**Approved by the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee, DATE**