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MINUTES
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL
February 7, 2007

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PRESENT

Chair, Dempsey Benton. Members: Bob Brinson, Mary Combs, John Correllus, John Cox (for Britt Cobb), Jim Dolan (for David McCoy), John Dorman (for Bryan Beatty), Bill Holman, Gayle Holder (for Elaine Marshall), Susan Johnson, Bliss Kite, Dan Madding (for Steve Troxler), Dr. Lee Mandell, Herb McKim, Joe McKinney, Steve Morris (for Dr. Hugh Devine), Anne Payne, Mark Prakke (for Carmen Hooker-Odom), Stephen Puckett, Colleen Sharpe, L.C. Smith (for Lyndo Tippett), Richard Taylor, and Ron York

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council was held in the Board Room of the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. Chair Dempsey Benton called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the November 8, 2006 meeting were approved. Mr. Benton introduced the new federal member, Mary Combs, the State Conservationist, from the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Raleigh. He introduced Colleen Sharpe, City of Raleigh GIS, who was elected chair of the Local Government Committee. He mentioned that some state agencies had new designees on the Council, including Jim Dolan from the Office of State Budget and Management, John Cox from the Department of Administration's State Property Office, and Dan Madding, now representing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Mr. Benton remarked that although he has left his position with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Governor Easley has asked him to continue as chair of the GICC until his term ends in February 2008. He noted that the new state ethics law provisions governing boards and commissions do not apply to members of this body under current rules. Dr. Lee Mandell said he is a registered lobbyist for the NC League of Municipalities and therefore he is covered by the rules.

Status and Discussion of Priorities Before Council

Priority #1—NC OneMap Implementation
Zsolt Nagy said that the appropriated position for NC OneMap database administrator has been filled at CGIA. He mentioned several short-term priorities, including a streamlined version of the NC OneMap viewer to increase the speed and make it more intuitive for users. Another priority is to add a "service tracker" that automatically checks county and city webmap service connections to make sure they are active, and not offline. Mr. Nagy said the NC OneMap program plans to develop and refine best practices for partners over the next few months. Building on the successful NC OneMap GIS inventory effort begun last year, this national inventory (formerly called RAMONA) has increased functionality and server speed. New options include the ability to update and publish metadata building blocks that can be harvested by the Geospatial One Stop

Portal, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) and the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) and other federal agencies. Each state can now customize specific questions for its respondents. He remarked that people need to be reminded to use the inventory as their first resource for data discovery.

Priority #2—Streambed Mapping Project Status Report
Joe Sewash said the Phase 1 Tuckasegee, Pigeon, Catawba and Upper New River production units in the western part of the state have passed quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC). The Upper French Broad and Upper Broad River production units will have QA/QC completed this spring. The project is on schedule for completion and final delivery in 2007. Mr. Sewash said a session on Streambed Mapping is planned for the March 1-2, 2007 NC GIS Conference. A briefing for local government partners will occur in late March. Mr. Benton asked if state agencies were being briefed on this resource. In response Mr. Sewash said CGIA was developing a web mapping site using a thin client that will be ready this spring (www.ncstreams.net). Mr. Benton asked if trout streams are so-indicated in this project. Mr. Sewash said that trout streams are designated by the same reach codes in both the streambed mapping project and Wildlife Resources trout mapping. Bill Holman said funding for Phase 2 streambed mapping has been proposed this legislative session.

Priority 3—Public/Private Partnership Working Group
Ms. Susan Johnson reported on behalf of her co-chair, Herb McKim. The group's first meeting focused on team formation and identification of private sector needs and current barriers to government data. Minutes of that meeting are in the member handouts. The group identified a number of barriers, which included lack of adherence to consistent standards in street naming/ addressing; inaccurate or inconsistent data; lack of a comprehensive funding stream; legal, confidentiality, and privacy barriers; and data access policies. Ms. Johnson said the private sector relies on local government contacts and web resources, but they are not fully utilizing the NC OneMap resource at this time. Invitations have been issued to new group members including NC Department of Transportation and NC Board of Realtors, several large developers, as well as county organizations. She mentioned that a pilot project might be considered, perhaps in Mecklenburg County. The second meeting will be scheduled in early spring.

Presentation: A Private Consulting Perspective on GIS
Herb McKim, a member of the GICC and the Executive Vice President of McKim and Creed, an engineering and design company, said his firm employs 465 people in four states. They have 1,000 projects underway in any given month and they provide surveying, engineering services, planning, GIS, and land development for both the public and private sectors. Their GIS group serves internal and external clients and is the gatekeeper for data on the website.

He said they use government data such as local orthophotography, streets and boundary changes as recorded in the annual Powell Bill survey, geocoded address points, height analysis for general aviation, and spatial realignment of utilities. For surveying tasks, his company uses local county data and the Internet to discover ownership and deed information. For example they can use parcel data from the local government tax office and find the corners of the property and verify with GPS. Mr. McKim said his firm uses GIS in planning and land development to site natural gas pipelines, for example, or to look for wetlands and property owners, and to contact neighbors. Field staff laptops are loaded with orthophotographs of an area, GIS and GPS to mark a site and make notes.

Storm water management, watershed delineation of drainage areas and waste water treatment plants, sewer alignment and site selection for wells are other projects that use GIS as part of the study and planning. For example, a Pender County sewer system project included GIS data on zoning, land use, and a 25-year population projection to find the most relevant areas for location of a future waste water treatment plant.

Mr. McKim said that GIS data modeling helps utility systems to manage infrastructure for breaks and maintenance as well as to arrive at specific charges for development costs. An accurate GIS database for excavators out in the field is essential to prevent damage to existing infrastructure. Bill Holman asked if this data collection for clients could be used in NC OneMap. Mr. McKim said it should be, but there is an issue about sharing information back to the state. As an example, he said when his firm does a subdivision, survey monuments are set by the private firm rather than NC Geodetic Survey. He asked why those monument placements could not become part of the state network. Mr. Ron York said the utility companies also would like to share data back to the state. Dan Madding asked if it was difficult for his firm to get GIS data from counties and cities. Mr. McKim said that it varied, depending on the county contact and volume of data. They always prefer to get online data first; then call the county.

Committee Reports

All Council committee representatives reported on their group's activities.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). Bill Holman reported that the Committee met on January 10 with 20 people attending. Mr. Holman said the Local/State Data Sharing *ad hoc* Committee has been formed and includes Richard Taylor (Wireless E911 Board), John Spurrell (NC League of Municipalities), Anne Payne (Wake County), Colleen Sharpe (City of Raleigh and Chair, LGC), Allan Sandoval (NC Department of Agriculture), John Farley (NC DOT), Jake Petrosky (Capital Area MPO), DeWayne Branch (NC State University), and Jim Dolan (Office of State Budget & Management).

Dr. Lee Mandell said the Local/State Data Sharing *ad hoc* Committee might have some overlap with the Public/Private task force created by the Council. Mary Combs suggested that a federal member should be added to this group. Mr. Holman said a federal member would be welcome.

> Action #1: The Federal Interagency Committee (FIC) will name a representative to serve on the Local/State Data Sharing *ad hoc* Committee.

Gary Thompson spoke for the Orthoimagery Planning group and said that the spreadsheet updating future flights for 100 counties will be posted. Twenty-one contracts providing cost share dollars to counties have been issued for NC OneMap flights. The color NAIP orthoimagery from the summer 2006 flights is being processed and delivered in blocks to NC Department of Agriculture and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The SMAC will be developing a white paper on use of digital cameras for digital orthophotography. He said there is no need to write new specifications for the orthophotography standard since the standard refers to the end product. However, there is need for language on the operation of digital cameras.

Working Group for Roads and Transportation. Mr. L.C. Smith said the grant application to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for funds through the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee was successful and $92,760 was awarded. The funds will be administered through the Governor's Highway Safety Program and involve NC DOT and CGIA, and others. The subcommittee will define the requirements and CGIA will do the work. The project will be completed in six months.

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Mutual Data Sharing. Mr. Zsolt Nagy of CGIA said members have a letter in their packets from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) that represents a policy shift for data sharing and collaboration under the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP). The letter indicates that the NGA's contractor, TechnigraphicS, Inc., will now return to state government partners the geospatial information it gathers, validates, and assembles on 100 data themes; such as highways, hospitals, correctional facilities, urgent care clinics, police and fire stations. Mr. Nagy said this effort conducted by the NGA contractor results in accurate data because they verify addresses, facility names and other attributes. He said the HSIP project is using data from the NC OneMap ftp site and the updated data set will be returned, with no restrictions for further sharing.

Mr. Nagy noted that NC OneMap is increasingly being used as a clearinghouse for data. As a result, it is important that data be updated and maintained for users. The SMAC will ask state and local data providers to post their most current data at the NC OneMap free ftp site by working with the NC OneMap database administrator, David Giordano, at CGIA. Mr. Nagy requested that a letter from the GICC be sent to appropriate North Carolina government agencies informing them of this data sharing strategy and advocating for their cooperation.

Mr. John Dorman said the Department of Homeland Security has had issues with public data after the 9/11 catastrophe. He said he applauded this change in the federal initiative. He asked if everything should be shared, and is this another instance of local and state agencies being asked to supply their data. Anne Payne asked if there is someone from the federal government on the SMAC. Mary Combs said that a FIC member should be involved. Dan Madding asked about the flow of data and if CGIA would be the coordinator for North Carolina.

Mr. Nagy said the NGA wants to work with each state's main coordination group. He stated that the best starting place for North Carolina is NC OneMap and that the NC OneMap database administrator should reach out to the partners. As local governments contribute to the ftp site, that data also becomes incorporated into NC OneMap. Mr. Madding said a single, accurate statewide source of hospitals, fire districts, etc., would benefit all first responders versus 100 unique county government data sets; this is a high priority for Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Dr. Mandell said the NGA distribution model would add a reverse data flow into NC OneMap. He asked how corrections would be incorporated into the base layer. Mr. Nagy said changes made by NGA would be provided to the data originator to reconcile.

Mr. Benton said that the NGA contractor tried to go it alone, and had no credibility with local governments. Mr. Nagy said that having the contractor use NC OneMap will help guarantee that it contains the most current data. Mr. Benton agreed that the data should be organized through NC OneMap and this provides a test of it as a data source and data management for North Carolina. Ms. Susan Johnson stated that this would be an opportunity for NGA to tackle two-way conflicting data. Mr. Nagy said the SMAC should work with NGA and the TechnigraphicS contractor on

behalf of the Council. Mr. Benton said CGIA should take the lead on this initiative and not hide our light. He also wondered why NGA could not contract with CGIA to accomplish this task. He said the Council needs to stay informed.

> Action #2: CGIA will prepare a letter for the GICC Chair's signature advocating the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's mutual data sharing and data validation program.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). John Correllus reported that the SGUC did not meet in January and members were encouraged to attend the 2007 NC GIS Conference.

Local Government Committee (LGC). Colleen Sharpe said the LGC members elected her Chair in January. The LGC is considering strategies for improving outreach to local government and promoting the work of the GICC. Since many of the LGC member organizations have newsletters, the LGC will write articles for their publications covering topics such as the role of the GICC and CGIA, the benefits of NC OneMap participation and use of the statewide data inventory. The LGC has planned several "Meet Your Local Government Committee" sessions at the GIS Café during the 2007 NC GIS Conference on March 1-2.

Dr. Mandell asked if any progress has been made with NC Board of Engineers and Surveyors (NC BELS) on the NCEES Model Law language that the LGC proposed in 2005 [Note: This law would amend G.S. Chapter 89C: Engineering and Land Surveying]. Gary Thompson, speaking on behalf of NC BELS, said the process to modify GIS rules is very structured. In addition, there is the proposed modification to the rules [Note: 21 NCAC 56.1608] that would specify accuracy standards and GIS surveys in urban or suburban areas where 0.5 meter accuracy is adequate. Mr. Thompson said that rule, which was temporary, will probably become final. The GICC proposals will be decided by the NC BELS Board, which begins consideration of proposed rules changes in early March. Mr. Steve Puckett said he was concerned with infrastructure accuracy. Mr. Benton asked if NC BELS could forward their proposed rules changes relating to these issues to GICC staff for dissemination to Council members and the Local Government Committee.

> Action #3: The North Carolina Board of Engineers and Surveyors (NC BELS) will forward the status and changes proposed by NCBELS on the NCEES Model Law to CGIA for further dissemination to GICC members.

Federal Interagency Committee (FIC). Mary Combs said she has met some of the members and the FIC will hold their next meeting at the March 1-2, NC GIS Conference in Winston-Salem. She introduced Matt Duval, the GIS specialist at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Mr. Benton suggested an item for the FIC to consider: North Carolina is a military-friendly state and there are issues, such as land-use planning, which could result in potential conflicts in jurisdictions surrounding military installations. He asked if the FIC could be helpful to the state, perhaps in identifying GIS gaps, for example, in the 9 counties surrounding Ft. Bragg and bring recommendations to the May meeting for possible funding consideration by the General Assembly.

> Action #4: The Federal Interagency Committee (FIC) with involvement from CGIA, is charged to investigate and develop recommendations on the use of collaborative planning in regions that are home to military bases.

GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GIS TAC). Susan Johnson said the GIS TAC working group met to develop a recommendation to reject or adopt a policy relative to the implementation of the National Grid. The working group was concerned about misconceptions about how the National Grid is used and not used. They will rely on input from the LGC and SMAC. The working group will take into consideration the education of emergency management personnel for emergency response in multiple agency jurisdictions. The next meeting will consider UTM/zone boundary collisions, the task of education, sense of priority for adoption of the National Grid, and ultimately a recommended policy for GICC consideration. Ms. Johnson said it is important for organizations to take a policy stance prior to any implementation. There are barriers to overcome. She said that CGIA has applied for a $25,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee which would be used to promote outreach.

Management and Operations Committee (M&O). Zsolt Nagy said there was no report.

Council Member Announcements

Floodplain Mapping Program. Mr. John Dorman said that six more counties have received their new floodplain maps for insurance purposes: Pender, Bladen, Sampson, Cumberland, Chatham, and Orange. That makes 71 whole or parts of counties completed. Martin, Richmond and Washington counties will be complete by May 2007.

NC Wireless E-911 Board. Mr. Richard Taylor said that Phase 2 is now 90 percent compliant for counties that have the ability to transmit lat/longs to Emergency Management from cell phones. E-911 fees collected in the wireless fund can pay for mapping products and orthophotography. Each E-911 center has hospital and school locations for each county. Ten counties still have not deployed mapping. A Request for Proposal to construct a statewide 911 network to share GIS and other data across the state has been delayed because of provisions in SB 991 concerning State Information Technology Services. Mr. Taylor mentioned that Telematics (On Star) needs a way to get into the information collected by E-911 centers to service their customers, but they can not have direct access to the E-911 centers. Ms. Johnson asked if this is a legal problem for the state. Dr. Mandell inquired as to how North Carolina's process compares to other states. Mr. Taylor replied that although some coastal and mountainous areas of the state are slow to get going, North Carolina is still ahead of other states.

One issue is that some of the counties are accumulating a large fund balance (one county has $500,000 available) through E-911 wireless fees that can be applied to various things, including new orthophotography. A county can use money from its fund for new orthophotography every four years, but some are not taking advantage of this. Mr. Thompson suggested that the GICC could make a fact sheet and provide technical service to help those counties get new orthophotography. Mr. Holman asked if it would make sense for the state to contract with aerial vendors to move the process forward. Mr. Taylor said the legislation would prohibit the state from taking that responsibility—the counties must receive the money. Ms. Johnson asked if orthophotography was the priority, or could counties purchase other equipment with those available funds. Mr. Taylor replied that items, such as radio towers, are not covered by the fund. She stated that base mapping using recent orthophotography is critical for the state, and how could the GICC help. Mr. Taylor said the county could choose oblique imagery instead of orthophotography.

Mr. Taylor said that the E-911 wireless fund is equitable: half is shared equally among the 100 counties, and half is shared based on population. Mr. Benton suggested that the Council could assist through its members representing the NC League of Municipalities (Dr. Lee Mandell) and the NC Association of County Commissioners (Rebecca Troutman). Mr. Benton suggested this item be referred to the Management and Operations Committee to come up with recommendations and to include Dr. Mandell and Ms. Troutman. Ms. Johnson asked if Mr. Taylor could supply a fund balance report by county so it can be merged with the SMAC's Orthophoto Planning Committee spreadsheet for the Management and Operations Committee meeting.

> Action #5: The Management and Operations Committee (M&O) augmented with the GICC members representing the NC ACC and NC League of Municipalities will analyze and develop recommendations for possible solutions concerning availability and application of Wireless E-911 funds for collection of updated aerial imagery for counties.

2007 North Carolina GIS Conference. Mr. Nagy reminded the Council that the Conference will be held on March 1-2, 2007 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. As of this date, there are 58 exhibitors and 197 speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be May 9, 2007 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Department of Public Instruction Board Room, Room 755, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh.

PowerPoint presentations and reports are on the Council Web site: www.ncgicc.org/, then click on "Meetings." Any presentations and documents presented during the meeting are available in a Zip file for easy download.