

MINUTES  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL  
May 9, 2007

PRESENT

Chair, Dempsey Benton. Members: Bryan Beatty, Mary Combs, John Correllus, John Cox (for Britt Cobb), Dr. Hugh Devine, Dianne Enright, Derek Graham, Tom Gray, Reggie Hinton, Bill Holman, Bliss Kite, Dan Madding (for Steve Troxler), Dr. Lee Mandell, Herb McKim, Joe McKinney, Rex Minneman (for Elaine Marshall), Mark Prakke (for Carmen Hooker-Odom), Stephen Puckett, Kay Radford (for David McCoy), Colleen Sharpe, L.C. Smith (for Lyndo Tippet), Julie Stamper (for Rodney Bunch), Billy Willis (for George Bakolia), 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. He introduced several substitutes: Julie Stamper attending for Rodney Bunch, Pasquotank County; Kay Radford attending for State Budget Officer David McCoy; Rex Minneman attending for Secretary of State Elaine Marshall; and Billy Willis attending for State Chief Information Officer George Bakolia.

The Minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting were approved.

Mr. Benton noted that the new state ethics law provisions governing boards and commissions do not apply to members of this body under current rules. He read a brief statement asking if any council member has a known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Council. There were none.

Status and Discussion of Priorities Before Council

*Priority #1—NC OneMap Implementation*

Tim Johnson said David Giordano, NC OneMap Database Administrator, has been working on the federal Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) effort conducted by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Initial data sets include statewide hospital data, EMS locations, and police stations. The Division of Emergency Management and DENR are providing data for fire station locations. He thanked Dianne Enright, Julia Harrell and Tonda Shelton for their contribution to these data sets. He asked for help from GICC members to find a good source for data on correctional facilities across the state. Once the data submitted are validated by the NGA contractor, it will be returned to the state in the original form which it was sent, and copies sent to the originating agency. The data will also appear on the NC OneMap data download site.

Mr. Johnson said NAVTEQ is using NC OneMap's free FTP download site for evacuation routes, which they intend to incorporate with street centerline database.

A second NC OneMap staff position is in the House budget at this point. That position would sustain the NC OneMap viewer connections to local government data and provide support for refreshing the viewer application.

Regarding the NC Board of Engineers and Surveyors (NCBELS) and the NCEES Model Law, Mr. Johnson reported that NCBELS expects to consult with Council representatives when the draft rules changes are ready later this month. Andrew Ritter, the NCBELS Executive Director, will meet with the group that includes Colleen Sharpe, chair of the Local Government Committee, John Spurrell, with the NC League of Municipalities, and CGIA to discuss these proposed changes.

#### *Priority #2—Stream Mapping Project Status Report*

Joe Sewash said the Phase I project in the western part of the state is on time and on budget for completion. The horizontal alignment (placement of stream geometry) was completed by the contractor on March 30. Briefings were held in April to update stakeholders in Asheville and Raleigh. Mr. Sewash attended a national USGS meeting on the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and state stewardship. North Carolina presented background on program startup and technical accomplishments. He reported the Stream Mapping Advisory Committee will have had 36 meetings during Phase I and he thanked everyone for their time and contributions. The handout showed progress maps and the summary statistics comparing existing 1:24,000-scale NHD and the NC Stream Mapping dataset. Most noteworthy is that the new data derived through this process reveals a 214% increase in stream miles and 890% increase in the total number of features that are represented in the database.

Dr. Lee Mandell asked about the practical significance of the dataset. Mr. Sewash said that government business processes will have much better representation of what is on the ground. This work provides a more direct way to share surface water data. For example, the Division of Water Quality can index twenty-two (22) data sets to the NC Stream Mapping data set. Local governments that have high resolution streams data can use this work to help integrate stream-related data across departments. Mr. Mandell said that it appears there are more benefits than originally anticipated for government business. He thanked Mr. Sewash for the good work.

Mr. Sewash said the North Carolina model for this project is very effective and can be used nationally. Mr. Benton asked if local governments can overlay their parcels on top of the new stream mapping data at the same scale. Mr. Sewash replied yes. Mr. Bill Holman offered congratulations and said this comprehensive data can be used for numerous government processes including stormwater planning and mitigation. He said there is hope this work can move from the mountains into the piedmont. At this time there is no money in the House budget for Phase II continuation, but the Senate still has its chance to weigh-in.

#### *Priority 3—Public/Private Partnership Working Group*

Mr. Herb McKim referred to the handout in the Council member packets. He said good base data exists, but there are data gaps. He said the committee discussed state funding possibilities that include the Interagency Leadership Team as a model. The group is recruiting some

industries to participate. The tasks ahead include establishing the statewide base map components and funding sources, and involving the private sector in legislative lobbying.

### Presentation: The Uses of GIS at Duke Energy

Council member Ron York, the Atlas Landbase Manager, Duke Energy Power Delivery, said that Duke Energy serves 3.9 million customers and is in the top five energy producing companies in the U.S. It merged with CENERGY in the Midwest and currently serves North Carolina, South Carolina, portions of Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, plus six countries in Central and South America. They use GE SmallWorld GIS software and have 26 staff directly engaged in GIS work, plus another 300 engineers who provide updates as they occur. Their GIS began in the 1970s.

The GIS includes transmission and distribution facilities, substation information, roads with address ranges, city and county boundaries, Duke operating areas, regions & zones, subdivisions and apartments, as well as building footprints for new apartment and commercial projects, assigned service territories, endangered species, Duke-owned real estate parcels, and tax districts. Mr. York estimates that the company has about \$30 million invested in the data. At first, Duke used the GIS to plot maps; now users, such as engineers, can query the system in multiple ways and access the entire system.

Data comes from multiple data sources including counties, the NC Department of Transportation and GDT. There is a minimum of +/- 40 foot accuracy. Mr. York said that city boundaries are a challenge to keep up and Duke Energy has hired an outside firm. They do use local property lines from developers for subdivisions. The GIS is used for map plotting and on-line viewing, customer data for electric distribution, transformer load management, outage analysis, circuit analysis, mobile views, engineering design, right-of-way inspection maps, storm maps, tax line mileage reporting and North Carolina and South Carolina One Call service.

For the future, there are discrepancies to resolve between map symbology used by the Duke Energy GIS system and the CENERGY system in the Midwest. Mr. York said that street lighting is not in the GIS, but they have GPS locations for every light pole in South Carolina. A huge database is being constructed for Distribution Asset Management. They are testing broadband over power lines (BPS) and an interface to document management for transmission rights-of-way.

There is on the web a new outage map for customers to use, [www.duke-energy.com/outages/map/](http://www.duke-energy.com/outages/map/). Duke Energy also promotes an economic development website, [www.ConsiderTheCarolinas.com](http://www.ConsiderTheCarolinas.com) that imports data from lots of websites and data sources. It allows users to drill down and do radius searches for properties.

He mentioned the Duke Energy GIS is secure because data is shared within the company Intranet using Citrix, and requires login ID and password.

Bill Holman asked how Duke Energy keeps up with the pace of development, especially since counties are having trouble meeting the demand of water and sewer. Mr. York said the utility would like a legislated requirement that developers provide maps referenced with GPS. He said

Duke Energy has to wait until the roads are cut in to a development, then Duke must GPS for distribution lines. Mr. Holman asked if local property owners are in the system because of the rights of way. Mr. York said gathering this information is still done on paper: Duke Energy engineers go to the county courthouse to find ownership documentation. However, it will be added to the document management system being developed. Mr. Benton asked if Duke Energy is using local government high-resolution orthophotography. Mr. York said the company purchases imagery when it is not available for free, and is very interested in using local imagery. He said their SmallWorld GIS system can bring the orthophotography in as an overlay, (imagery is stored outside the GIS), and is great for right-of-way maintenance planning. Tom Gray asked if the system can identify rental properties. Mr. York said they do have customer of record, which would be the renter. However, they can tie a particular customer to a transformer, but not to the exact property. Colleen Sharpe asked how the company gets building footprints. Mr. York said footprints are provided by developers; otherwise, Duke Energy does not have them. Billy Willis asked whether CADs are submitted electronically. Mr. York said yes.

### 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 April 11 with 19 people attending. Mr. Holman said there were updates from Stream Mapping, Floodplain Mapping, and the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Partnership, and a report on Homeland Security Infrastructure Program activities. The SMAC approved a recommendation from NC Board on Geographic Names (NC BGN) that the name Buckwater Creek, a tributary of the Eno River in Orange County remain as is. A map editor from Wisconsin had requested the name to be changed to Buckquarter Creek citing several instances where it is being used. However, the NC BGN has identified many substantive instances where the name Buckwater Creek is in place.

He mentioned that North Carolina will host a southeastern states partnership meeting of USGS liaisons and state coordinators on July 10 and 11 in Chapel Hill. It will involve representatives from 10-12 states.

Mr. Holman referred to the handout in the packet on the Local/State/Federal Data Sharing *ad hoc* Committee. The group is meeting monthly and making progress. There will be recommendations at the August 8 GICC meeting on how data can be shared by public agencies. He mentioned that David Lawrence of the Institute of Government stated that the public records special GIS exception does not apply to the State, and therefore once local government data is given to a state agency, it then becomes state data under the public records law. He said the genius of NC OneMap is the ability to share data.

Mr. Benton asked if the NC League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners are involved in the *ad hoc* committee. Mr. Holman replied they were, along with numerous local government representatives. Ms. Colleen Sharpe said the Local Government Committee thinks the committee is on the right track. Dr. Lee Mandell pointed out an item on the handout that states the GIS Exception in Public Records Law may have "served its purpose." He said the League of Municipalities must be convinced of that statement for

reasons important to public policy. Mr. Dan Madding asked if the League would support the removal of public law exception. Dr. Mandell said these GIS exceptions were created because of private enterprise requests to receive tax-supported data. The exceptions were not meant to restrict government to government data sharing. Further, he said, local governments will want to have a say in any removal of Public Records Law exceptions. One size does not fit all.

Gary Thompson spoke for the Orthoimagery Planning group and said the Orthoimagery map is up to date on the Web. He said, at the request of local governments wanting more information about orthoimagery and photogrammetry, the state will offer a seminar on how to acquire it. The first class will be in Raleigh, October 2-3, and two more classes are being planned in the mountains and on the coast. USDA color leaf-on NAIP orthoimagery will not be flown this summer, he said.

Zsolt Nagy mentioned that plans for the third year of federal cost-share assistance awards for 2008 are underway. Steve Strader, from the USGS National Geospatial Programs Office in North Carolina is working on funding. Mr. Nagy said the Local Government Committee contacted its constituency to determine the interest, and 23 counties responded, representing roughly 25 percent of the state's area. The downside is that potential federal dollars are expected to be half of last year's dollars. Mr. Nagy said the cost-share award range might be \$5,000 to \$20,000. He said the good news is that most of the requests concern work for this coming winter season, rather than seeking reimbursement for this past flying season. He said that if the cost-share funds progress, by the end of this calendar year, 70 local government units will have taken advantage of this program. The program is looking at age of orthoimagery in the counties as well. Mr. Benton asked if the cost-share participants also correlate to aging imagery. Mr. Nagy said that will be covered with the Wireless 911 task currently before the Management and Operations Committee that will look at unspent county fund balances and the age of their imagery. He said we can prepare a map to illustrate where cost share contracts exist and the age of imagery. Mr. Madding asked about the age of imagery used by the Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), since some is now very old. Mr. Nagy replied that the FEMA had a rule requiring imagery to be no older than seven years for Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Because of that, the FMP had to fly 17 counties in 2005 in order to progress with their work.

Action #1: CGIA will prepare a map showing where cost share dollars have been spent in relation to aging county orthoimagery.

Mr. Holman concluded the SMAC report by stating that the NC House budget has included funds for continuation of the landslide mapping project.

*Working Group for Roads and Transportation.* Mr. L.C. Smith said the NC Traffic Records Coordinating Committee works with traffic crash analysis to improve response time and manage data. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) made funds available through the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, to address sharing street centerline data between local governments and state government agencies. Street centerlines are important to numerous state agencies, and it frustrates counties to receive so many requests. This grant provides an opportunity to solve for street centerlines statewide. The grant of \$92,760 was awarded for this project. The funds will be administered through the Governor's Highway Safety Program and involve NC DOT and CGIA, and others. CGIA is working on a software specifications document and will prepare the final document. All street centerline data will be

available through NC OneMap and data can be shared via a data sharing login page. State and federal agencies will read and accept the terms at login. There are performance requirements built into the grant. Integration and final internal testing will be in August and the data dissemination system should be installed by September.

***State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC).*** Dianne Enright said that John Correllus, Commerce, has resigned as Vice Chair, and has been replaced in that position by Allan Sandoval, also with the Department of Commerce. The SGUC met April 26 and had presentations on ArcServer 9.2, the Water Resources Information, Storage, Analysis and Retrieval System (WRISARS) developed by the Division of Water Resources, and also on Leveraging NC OneMap from GICC member John Cox in the Office of State Property.

Ms. Enright mentioned a GIS study proposed in a House bill this session and said the SGUC executive committee members offered their assistance in writing and recommendations, if the bill passes. Mr. Benton said the Governor's budget included a study proposal on state government GIS that would name as principals the Office of State Budget and Management, the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, the State Chief Information Officer, and the Council. The House budget study is the same, but it must make it through the legislative process.

***Local Government Committee (LGC).*** Colleen Sharpe said the LGC met on April 26. In an outreach effort, the LGC tried to generate interest in the LGC at the 2007 NC GIS Conference by creating a session "Meet Your LGC Representative." That strategy was not a success, but the LGC did develop an LGC fact sheet out of the process and has written an article for Carolina URISA newsletter, and other group newsletters. There is a PowerPoint about the LGC being developed for NCLGISA and other professional meetings. Ms. Sharpe said the group discussed emailing LGC Alerts after each LGC quarterly meeting to keep the broadest community informed.

Regarding the Wireless E-911 orthoimagery funding, Ms. Sharpe said the local government GIS committee would benefit from a document that identifies how the local funds can be used. This would help to enlist their support and push the initiative for orthoimagery funding at the county level.

Action #2: CGIA and W911 Executive Director to develop brief guidance document on allowable uses of local W911 funds.

She said there is a level of confusion in the counties about the various data sharing efforts such as the Local/State/Federal Data Sharing group and the Working Group for Roads and Transportation group. She said another document, or "summary matrix," needs to be drafted to explain what each effort is trying to achieve and how they work together. Mr. Benton asked whether newsletter publications created by the NC League of Municipalities and NC Association of County Commissioners might be interested in an article on data sharing. Dr. Mandell replied they would, as long as it is not technical, and especially if the article shows coordination in data sharing.

Action #3: CGIA to prepare a document clarifying the data sharing efforts.

***Federal Interagency Committee (FIC).*** Mary Combs reported on the issue referred to the FIC by the Chair at the February meeting. A handout in the meeting packet summarized the activities around military bases. She said there is not one source for military information, and there are several initiatives for collaborative planning in regions that are home to military bases. Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) is a regional partnership of environmental and resource officials from southeastern states and the Department of Defense. Another group, limited to North Carolina, is the Sustainable Economic Corridors for Compatible Use of Resources and the Environment (SECCURE), an initiative of SERPPAS. SECCURE objectives include engaging stakeholders from areas surrounding military installations in North Carolina to develop models, maps and information to provide a future perspective on sustainability.

Ms. Combs said in 2005 the EPA awarded a three-year grant to Sustainable Sandhills, a nonprofit organization, to develop a regional land-use plan, with a focus on sustainability. The Sustainable Sandhills and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) Regional Task Force have conducted land suitability analyses and developed GIS models for eleven counties to conduct informed planning and analysis. There are several good planning initiatives, but there is the problem of the lack of data from different time periods. She referred to the recommendations in the handout and said one addressed the acquisition of particular geospatial data layers for characterizing the landscape in GIS models. Mr. Benton asked if the state could assist in any way. Ms. Combs said the last recommendation in the handout, which is to fully implement the vision of NC OneMap, will help SERPPAS, SECCURE, and the Interagency Leadership Team to accomplish their missions. Ms. Combs said the FIC will meet in June and invite members of SERPPAS and SECCURE. Mr. Steve Puckett said another contact for consideration is the NC Military Business Council. He suggested Ms. Combs look at the website and see if they might help. Mr. Johnson said that CGIA is involved with both SERPPAS and the Sustainable Sandhills project.

***GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GIS TAC).*** Tim Johnson reported on behalf of Susan Johnson that there is more work to be done on the National Grid.

***Management and Operations Committee (M&O).*** Tim Johnson said the M&O is working on the 911 Wireless funds that allow a four-year cycle for updating of orthoimagery. Richard Taylor is working to develop the fund balances available per county and that information will be compared to the age of existing orthoimagery for each county across the state. The M&O expects to come back with recommendations on how to use these funds for orthoimagery acquisition.

### Other Business

***Floodplain Mapping Program.*** Ms. Tonda Shelton reported for John Dorman and said that 45 counties will be completed by May. Fifty-seven counties will be fully completed by the end of 2007 and possess new floodplain maps. This data is available to the public; however because of the large file size, the data downloads have to be broken down so they can be used by local government. After the maps are finalized, the Floodplain Mapping Program works with each county to help them develop necessary ordinances.

*2007 North Carolina GIS Conference.* Mr. Johnson said the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary NC GIS Conference celebrated “20 Years of Spatial Vision.” This conference set a new record with 950 attendees, including 159 speakers, and 58 exhibitors. The Herb Stout Award for Visionary Use of GIS by Local Government in North Carolina was presented to Julie Stamper of Pasquotank County for being a unifying force in northeastern North Carolina and creating the Albemarle Regional map viewer. The City of New Bern also won for its deployment of GIS throughout their departments. Mr. Johnson said the poster session showed complexity of GIS for solving problems. The winners in the poster competition included the City of High Point, the City of Greensboro and the City of Charlotte. The program included sessions on technology, LIDAR data, coordination challenges that featured several GICC members, and lots of applications. Mr. Johnson said the sophistication of the student presentations was remarkable. Everyone was very pleased with this conference.

*New GICC Website* [www.ncgicc.org](http://www.ncgicc.org)

Mr. Johnson referenced the handout in Council member packets showing the new layout of the revised GICC website. This new layout features GICC activities and allows better navigation to the various areas of interest, including the meetings of the Council and all committees, policies, and standards. He asked for GICC member feedback on the website.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be August 8, 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/](http://www.ncgicc.org/), then click on “Meetings.” Any presentations and documents presented during the meeting are available in a Zip file for easy download.