MINUTES
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL
May 14, 2003

PRESENT

Chair, Dempsey Benton. Members: Tim Brewer (for Martin Lancaster), Bob Brinson, Carol Burroughs (for Carmen Hooker-Odom), John Correllus, John Dorman (for Bryan Beatty), Terry Ellis, Dianne Enright, Jeff Essic (for Hugh Devine), Derek Graham (for Mike Ward), Tom Gray, Reggie Hinton (for Norris Tolson), Bill Holman, Stan Jenkins (for George Bakolia), Susan Johnson, Kelly Laughton, Tim Lesser, Daniel Madding (for Meg Scott Phipps), Dr. Lee Mandell, Joe McKinney, Rex Minneman (for Elaine Marshall), Carlton Myrick (for Gwynn Swinson), Tom Newsome (for David McCoy), Forrest Robson (for Lyndo Tippett), Gerry Ryan, Charlotte Turpin, Chris Wease, Mike Wilkins

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 on May 14, 2003. Chair Dempsey Benton called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the February 12, 2003 meeting were approved.

Status and Discussion of Priorities Before Council

Priority #1—Common Understanding.
Tim Johnson reported that per Council's instructions, staff took the draft vision statement and characteristics of **NC OneMap** and sought additional input from Council committees and through outreach at the February 2003 North Carolina Conference for Geographic Information Systems. Additionally, staff registered the domain names of NCOneMap.net, NCOneMap.com and NCOneMap.org as web site placeholders. Based on feedback, the changes made to the final **NC OneMap** Vision and Characteristics include:

- Added second sentence to first paragraph: North Carolina aims to have a statewide framework of geographic information operational by the year 2005. *That framework will promote the maintenance of economic vitality in our communities, public health and safety, and the quality of life for all North Carolinians*.
- Added sentence to second paragraph: *NC OneMap will provide information to support the daily business processes of numerous organizations and their functions.*
- Added *utilities* to listing of sectors served in third paragraph.
- Re-grouped characteristics logically, with these additions:
  Historic and temporal data will be maintained and available.
  NC OneMap data are reliably maintained by the data provider organization through partners and formal arrangements.

Dr. Lee Mandell said he still is concerned about the four challenges/observations he raised in February. One has been dealt with but he still had a concern about cooperative efforts when there is no money to fund them, and the cost-recovery aspects versus the free access promoted in

the vision. Mr. Johnson said those challenges will be considered in the implementation plan, and a draft will be presented at the August meeting. Committee chairs will be involved throughout this next process.

Action #1: A motion to accept the vision and characteristics of **NC OneMap** as presented was seconded and approved.

Priority #2—Data Inventory

Zsolt Nagy said the Data Inventory team, which includes CGIA staff along with Chris Kannan from USGS and Kelly Laughton from Henderson County, was researching a questionnaire tool as one of the seven key tasks. The team researched several survey tools including the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP) survey, the Framework Survey conducted several years ago by National States Geographic Information Council, the State of Maryland survey, the Indiana GIS on-line survey, and a Geospatial OneStop survey developed by PTI that is about to be released in a paper form to county and city managers across the country. USGS is also planning to conduct a survey in 133 selected urban areas related to geographic information for homeland security issues. Mr. Nagy said the North Carolina data inventory survey will consider themes of interest to multiple agencies and we could request information on numerous data layers. Recipients will be GIS contacts in counties, council of governments, state government, federal and municipalities. The municipality contacts are the most difficult to find.

The team wants to make the inventory a "living" electronic database that can be accessed, searched and updated on-line. As an example, Mr. Nagy mentioned *Access Indiana* as the type of web application we would like to emulate, but it also would require hardware and server and programming costs in order to conduct a robust survey that also creates searchable metadata. Geospatial OneStop, a federal effort, is looking at the *Access Indiana* model to see if a template can be created for other states to use. Since this is not available now, the Data Inventory team has focused on a less expensive web-based alternative that is extremely easy to use: Survey Monkey. All results would be captured in an Access database. Mr. Nagy said the tasks before the committee are to blend the contents of the Floodplain Mapping Survey together with the content from *Access Indiana* and then create the survey tool with Survey Monkey. The team expects to generate publicity, and roll-out the survey with pre-mailers. The team anticipates that the future **NC OneMap** website will contain many of the "living" survey qualities of the *Access Indiana* model.

John Dorman said the 18-page Floodplain Mapping Program survey is being conducted in 32 counties throughout the summer, predominantly in the western part of the state. He mentioned that FEMA is considering offering the North Carolina FMP survey tool to other states for flood-hazard delineation. Mr. Dorman said other items could be added to this survey at this time.

Mr. Benton asked if some counties and cities might receive four different survey requests over the next few months. Mr. Nagy said the state can only control the release of the FMP survey and the Data Inventory survey. Susan Johnson asked if the content of *Access Indiana* and the FMP survey could be combined in a single Survey Monkey tool. Mr. Nagy said yes, the Data Inventory will cover more data themes and have a broad focus. The Survey Monkey tool could allow respondents to provide information on extensive data holdings, which is why an on-line survey would be the easiest to complete. Dr. Mandell said that the extensive data inventory should be called the NC OneMap Inventory, and should build the perception that it is a

coordinated survey. Chris Wease said the survey outreach should explain the benefits to local governments and be tied to **NC OneMap**. The next committee actions are to complete the list of individual contacts, combine all the survey questions, and invite a member of the Floodplain Mapping Program to the data inventory team.

Priority #3—Content Standards and Implementation Plan
Bill Holman said the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee has a plan in place to consider standards for the entire set of Framework data themes: Geodetic control, Cadastral (land ownership), elevation, roads, jurisdictional boundaries, digital imagery, and surface waters. Various subcommittees are working on each of these themes. Several proposed standards will be presented at the August 20th meeting.

Priority #4—Access and Distribution
Susan Johnson said the GIS TAC was pleased with the changes made in the **NC OneMap** vision and characteristics relative to data access. The GIS TAC is still waiting on the RAND study for guidance. There is a May 21st summit in Washington, DC sponsored by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association to promote national data partnerships and collaboration. She will attend that meeting.

North American Datum 1983 (NAD83), which was adopted by this Council in 1997, is the official standard used by state government. The datum is a mathematical description of the shape of the earth and is the basis for all map projections and coordinate systems. In order for one geographic data set to be used with others, they must be based on the same datum. The GIS TAC recommends that **NC OneMap** use NAD83 as the datum. However, because some local governments have not converted their parcel ownership records from NAD27, both datums should be supported. The GIS TAC is examining whether metric units, currently supported as the unit of measure, should continue as the standard, or should North Carolina return to the imperial units (feet) standard. Ms. Johnson said the GIS TAC is currently studying all North Carolina statutes that restrict access to data because of confidentiality requirements.

Presentation: Homeland Security

Mr. Benton introduced Mike Domaratz from USGS. Mr. Domaratz is responsible for implementing "The National Map" and is part of the team that coordinates USGS activity in support of homeland security. He added that his remarks are based on experiences as co-chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Homeland Security Working Group and other projects, but should not be misconstrued as formal guidance from the Federal Government on homeland security.

There is concern in the geospatial data community about the extent to which data that are publicly available might aid potential terrorists. To understand the information needs of a terrorist, one needs to know what they consider to be "success;" what are their ends and means, and what kinds of places would be of interest. Terrorists need information to select a target, and to plan an attack. There are many information sources for the former purpose (for example, information about sites that attract crowds, such as tourist attractions, is widely available). For the latter purpose, geospatial data has less value than eyes-on intelligence to get first-hand information. Thus, the value of publicly available geospatial data to an attacker might be small.

However, if one makes the assumption that geographic data has value, the next question is what could be done to constrain supply. Sources of data, such as governments, need to make judgments about what places might be of interest, and the extent to which hiding data reduces vulnerability. A basic question: How does one know what information is valuable? For example, if a place of interest can be easily observed, or if a place of interest is large or readily visible, removing data about these places may have little value.

Another question: If one should decide to restrict access, how does one know if other sources of the same information would render that action meaningless? For example, he showed how an Internet search discovered more than 48 available data sets of imagery for Raleigh taken between 1937 and 2000. There may be many sets of geospatial data for an area, developed separately for different public and private purposes, about which someone concerned about data access may be unaware.

Another concern is public confidence. Citizens will expect government organizations to be prudent in making data available. Balancing this concern for security is the fact that most publicly-sponsored geographic data, including those used for homeland security purposes, often are collected and shared to support many other essential purposes, including governance, land and resource management, economic enterprise, and scientific research. Both the costs and benefits of actions to restrict access to data must be considered.

Several options are open to organizations. They can take no action, alter data, control access by limiting terms and conditions, or withhold data altogether. Each of these actions has consequences, both intended and unintended. The National States Geographic Information Council has developed a decision-tree to help determine if a specific data holding should (or can) be restricted. There is some formal federal agency rule making underway within the Department of Homeland Security. Under Attorney General Ashcroft, the U.S. Department of Justice has a stricter standard for agencies' responses to Freedom of Information Act requests than did the Clinton Administration. The Federal Geographic Data Committee's Homeland Security Working Group also is developing guidance to federal agencies.

Stan Jenkins said in North Carolina we have both security and legislative angles to consider in light of the Public Records law. The state's Information Technology Service is working with legal counsel on a light-switch approach, in which data are deemed "open" (available), but not necessarily available on the Internet. He said we may need a state law for direction. On the technology front, we can require an authentication process to protect sensitive data.

Dr. Mandell thanked Mr. Domaratz for his rational presentation. He asked how **NC OneMap** can address concerns about personal privacy and confidentiality. He acknowledged that restricting access to one dataset might be a problem when other data already exists. Susan Johnson asked if the decision-tree could be used for confidential data to see if the data restrictions are necessary at all. Mr. Domaratz said some data, like location of emergency operations centers, would probably not be published on the internet.

Dr. Mandell said North Carolina passed a law in 2002 (G.S. §132-1.6) that exempts some sensitive public security information from public records. The exclusions are specific details of public security plans and arrangements and detailed plans and drawings of public buildings and infrastructure facilities.

Committee Reports

Local Government Committee (LGC). Kelly Laughton said the LGC Members support the vision and characteristics of **NC OneMap** and she was pleased to participate in the Town Meeting at the North Carolina GIS Conference. The committee discussed the comments made during the Town Meeting and the concerns Dr. Mandell raised regarding accessibility, security and cost recovery. These issues are critical to local government and should be addressed in the **NC OneMap** implementation plan. The LGC supports the data inventory, but stressed that data should be captured once electronically, if at all possible. The committee members who reviewed the *Access Indiana* site found this to be an excellent example of how to deliver **NC OneMap** and conduct the survey, unless time constraints require an initial survey using the Survey Monkey route.

Ms. Laughton mentioned that CGIA should coordinate efforts with the Division of Archives and History to insure that data captured in the data inventory satisfies the indexing requirement of the public records law. However, the LGC does not recommend trying to capture complete metadata with the initial survey. The LGC will assist CGIA in identifying survey contacts in municipal government.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). Dianne Enright reported that the SGUC reviewed the long-term water report and the revised **NC OneMap** vision and characteristics and made comments to CGIA for incorporation. The last meeting discussed the National Map project, the NC GIS Conference and upcoming activities for GIS Day 2003 in November. The next meeting is July 24th.

***Federal Interagency Committee (FIC*)**. Jerry Ryan said the Executive Committee met by teleconference and has established points of contacts for federal data holders in North Carolina.

GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GIS TAC). Susan Johnson said the GIS TAC suggested that the NCOneMap.gov domain be registered and that we should investigate establishing a service mark for the name as well. She asked if the Council or the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis should take responsibility for these actions.

Action #2 CGIA to register NCOneMap.gov domain and investigate the Service Mark.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). Bill Holman said the data content standards are being addressed in specific subcommittees formed by the SMAC and there would be reports at the August meeting. Concerning House Bill 483, Change Offensive Place-Names, which has moved from the NC House to the Senate, Mr. Holman said he spoke with chair Ellie Kinnaird to modify the bill to reflect current procedure that geographic name changes go through the Board of Geographic Names that is an adjunct committee of the SMAC. He said that Senator Kinnaird was willing to correct language in the bill. He also mentioned that he had talked to Mike Wilkins, a GICC member representing the North Carolina Utilities Commission, about sharing data. Mr. Holman said that the major utilities indicated they would share data with state and local government agencies on a case by case basis, but not make it widely available.

Presentation: Submitting Digital Plat Maps and Plans to Local Government

Mike Kemp, the Site Administrator for Mecklenburg County's digital plans submittal project, spoke about the need for an electronic means for surveyors and developers to submit drawings and documents for plan review. The project he is working on involves the county, cities and surrounding towns and their planning, public works and land records departments. Each single family lot and residential permits requires plats and other drawings. In the first phase of the project they are looking at the processes to integrate plan review with GIS. Phase II involves permitting and deed recordation. The goal is to increase participation of developers and add a digital signature capability. The digital submittal of plans will allow update of street centerline and tax maps, since the land records office will not need to digitize from a paper plat; and reduce paper storage by two-thirds. The use of computer-assisted drawings (CAD) data to update GIS records has many benefits: improved accountability; removal of the need for couriers carrying plans from office to office; increased access to the plat and permit information; and paper reductions. In the case of digital submittals, plans can be submitted over a secure Internet site, then reviewed and accepted, comments retrieved and plans resubmitted. A host, called Buzzsaw provides the interface between CAD and GIS. Carlton Myrick, responsible for the State Property Office, asked about the cost for using Buzzsaw. Mr. Kemp said it is $1,000 per month but customers are willing to pay something for the convenience.

Dr. Mandell mentioned that Senate Bill 622, Promote E-Commerce and E-Government, allows for the use of electronic signatures between a person and public agencies. The bill is supported by the NC Board of Engineers and Surveyors.

News

Tim Johnson said the successful 2003 NC GIS Conference in February attracted almost 800 people. Of the total, 50% were county and municipal employees, 10% state employees, 14% from business, and almost 20% from educational institutions.

He mentioned that the National Map initiative has added York County, SC, Henderson County and Buncombe County, and Wake County expects to join soon. He recommended that the Council should consider signing a Memorandum of Agreement with USGS on the National Map initiative. USGS and NC partners are developing a draft for consideration at the August meeting.

Action #3: CGIA to work with USGS on a draft Memorandum of Agreement between Council, partners and USGS on the National Map.

John Dorman reported that in the Floodplain Mapping Program, 20 whole or partial counties are now complete in the White Oak and Tar Pamlico river basins. Beaufort and Hyde counties are getting their flood insurance rate maps May 15th. The program is using a scoping tool to determine streams for study in the Chowan, Roanoke, Catawba, Watauga, Yadkin and New River basins. The Cape Fear was scoped two years ago and is being mapped at the present time.

Other Business

Joe McKinney referred to General Statutes 89C which places requirements on GIS/GPS data functions and extends some exemptions to local government when those agencies collect GIS or GPS data for themselves without using a licensed surveyor. The problem occurs when counties or cities want to cooperate among themselves, or in the case of councils of government that wish to contract and provide GIS services to a local government. The law, which gives oversight to the Board of Engineers and Surveyors, is not clear about situations in which a county or city shares data, and many local governments need more clarification. Rex Minneman suggested the Council invite the Board of Engineers and Surveyors attorney to the August meeting. Terry Ellis said he thought the main issue was confusion over sharing data once it was created. Mr. McKinney said he is not clear how the current law applies when one county assists data gathering in another county. Gary Thompson said the Local Government Committee should generate a list of questions for the Board of Engineers and Surveyors and let them respond.

Action #4: The Local Government Committee will prepare a list of questions to be submitted to the Board of Engineers and Surveyors.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held August 20, 2003 at 1:00 pm at the Department of Public Instruction Board Room, Room 755, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh.

All PowerPoint presentations and reports are on the Council Web site: www.cgia.state.nc.us/gicc, then click on "Meetings." The individual "Presentation" icons follow the Agenda and Minutes.