MINUTES
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL
August 16, 2006

PRESENT

Chair, Dempsey Benton. Members: Bob Brinson, Rodney Bunch, Dr. Hugh Devine, John Dorman (for Bryan Beatty), Dianne Enright, Derek Graham, Reggie Hinton, Bill Holman, Susan Johnson, Bliss Kite, Kelly Laughton, Dan Madding (for Britt Cobb), Dr. Lee Mandell, Elaine Marshall, Herb McKim, Joe McKinney, Anne Payne, Mark Prakke (for Carmen Hooker-Odom), Stephen Puckett, Gerald Ryan, Allan Sandoval (for Steve Troxler), L.C. Smith (for Lyndo Tippett), Richard Taylor, Rebecca Troutman, 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 May 17, 2006 meeting were approved.   Mr. Benton directed member's attention to the Council's 2006 Annual Report that was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly. He noted the Annual Report summarized an active year by the Council. Dr. Lee Mandell said the report was impressive and reflected the hard work of the Council and its staff, the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA).

Status and Discussion of Priorities Before Council

NC OneMap Implementation
Tim Johnson said that the General Assembly recognized the value of NC OneMap by including one recurring appropriated staff position in the new budget. That position will be focused on database administration for all of the connections and data layers. The Legislature also provided $80,000 in non-recurring funds to move NC OneMap toward the goal of 24x7 operations. He remarked that this funding is an important step toward advancing the Council's initiative of making geospatial data more widely available to decision makers across North Carolina.

The status map of NC OneMap connections indicates there is now coverage from Murphy to Manteo. The most recent connections include the counties of Cherokee, Craven, Greene, Pamlico and Pitt, as well as the City of Winston-Salem. The data served includes a combination of parcels, street centerlines, orthophotography and zoning. Mr. Johnson mentioned that staff is focused on adding five to six new counties/cities per quarter. At this stage, 93 organizations are contributing data to NC OneMap, including 45 counties and 26 cities.

Concerning the NC OneMap business case, Mr. Johnson reported that CGIA received a grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee to develop a business plan to sustain NC OneMap. The plan will enable the Council to take the next step in demonstrating the value of NC OneMap. The effort involves two major components: the Strategic Plan that answers the questions of "who" and "what"; and the Business Plan that answers the questions of "why" and "how much." Mr. Johnson said he would send relevant information from the 2004 strategic planning effort to recently appointed

Council members because it folds into this plan. The Business Plan will include "return on investment" projections. Mr. Johnson says the objective is to have the work completed by January in time for the 2007 legislative session.

NC OneMap Data Inventory (www.nc.gisinventory.net)
Diana Hales said the NC OneMap statewide inventory is progressing. The inventory tool, called RAMONA, is dynamic and replaces North Carolina's 2003 statewide inventory. It achieves the Council's goal of conducting a statewide inventory on a regular basis as a component of NC OneMap. The NC OneMap/RAMONA data inventory is on the Internet and can be added to or updated at any time. Ms. Hales said 79 local governments (50 counties, 26 cities, 3 Lead Regional Organizations), and 7 State government departments have completed the inventory, as well as numerous registrants from the private sector and universities. To date, there are 410 Framework data entries posted, which includes basemap data in the categories of Boundaries, Digital Orthophotography, Inland Waters, Land Ownership (parcels), Elevation, Location (geodetic controls) and Road Centerlines.

The inventory collects information on 443 additional data layers that are divided into 19 International Standards Organization (ISO) categories: Biota, Boundaries, Climatology, Economy, Elevation, Environment, Farming, Geo-scientific, Health, Imagery, Inland waters, Intelligence/military, Location, Oceans and estuaries, Planning/cadastral, Society, Structures, Transportation, Utilities and communication. Ms. Hales used status maps to show the diversity of data and the array of data developers from counties, cities, and state agencies. She demonstrated how the status map "Identify" tool returns detailed information on a specific data theme from every agency that has inventoried it.

On the policy questions, the current respondents indicated that 36 % of 167 respondents create metadata; 31% of 150 respondents allow data downloads; 81% of 153 respondents said their organization distributes data, although some do have limitations; 59% of 100 respondents said they waive data charges for other governmental programs; and 45 % of 151 respondents said their organization does not normally restrict data redistribution. Almost 70% of respondents indicated use of GPS receivers, with the vast majority choosing mapping and survey grade, and only 11% claiming to use recreational grade receivers.

One problem noted was that some respondents do not fully complete the survey. Ms. Hales said the inventory will continue to seek participation from the remaining 46 counties and 40 towns/cities, as well as missing state agencies. Anyone who visits the website can view instant status maps on hundreds of data themes, and can use the directory function to find North Carolina GIS contacts.

Stream Mapping Status Report
Joe Sewash said Phase I, which includes 19 counties in the western portion of the state, is on target for completion in the spring of 2007. The Unit 1 Pigeon River Sub-basin has passed quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) and Unit 2: Upper New and Upper Yadkin Sub-basins have been delivered to CGIA for QA/QC review. The software tools for data development are nearing completion. CGIA and the Stream Mapping Project Advisory Committee will review the tools and supporting materials. The High Country Council of Governments in Boone hosted a meeting on June 21 to update western partners and stakeholders on activities and progress for the project.

There is a federal National Hydrography Dataset Stewardship agreement for developing a long-term maintenance plan for this data set. The NHD Stewardship agreement defines partners, roles, and

responsibilities, and other relevant technical and organizational details. North Carolina could become the fifth state to enter an agreement with USGS. The four states already partnered are Idaho, New York, Pennsylvania and Utah.

Mr. Sewash mentioned that the QA/QC will continue on Unit 2 as well as the horizontal alignment for Units 3 and 4. The data for Unit 1 will be available this fall along with the project website and Internet-based data viewer application.

John Dorman asked about the custodian arrangements for the stream mapping data set. Mr. Sewash said that CGIA will be the lead party in developing the NHD Stewardship agreement and will be responsible for the geometry. CGIA will work closely with DENR's Division of Water Quality to maintain the attributes and business data for the data set.

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 July 19 with 18 people attending, including new Local Government Committee member Julie Stamper from Pasquotank County. Mr. Holman said the recent state budget provided money for shellfish mapping and the SMAC might ask for a presentation on this data resource at their next meeting. Mr. Benton said the General Assembly provided around $600,000 for project expenses and staff positions to map the major shellfish areas, including the submerged aquatic vegetation, in order to understand current conditions. He noted that shellfish areas and submerged aquatic vegetation are barometers of water quality.

Regarding the Offensive Names open item, a bay in the Core Sound area, Mr. Holman reported that the issue has been resolved. The bay no longer exists as a geographic feature because of changes created by recent hurricanes, and therefore the place name will no longer be registered as a current feature name. This concurs with the wishes of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners. However, five new place names will be added per the National Park Service and US Board on Geographic Names. These five features were also created by hurricanes. The new names include Old Drum Inlet, New Drum Inlet, Ophelia Inlet, Middle Core Banks, and Ophelia Banks. The SMAC concurs with these recommendations. The names will appear on maps this summer.

Gary Thompson reported on the status of orthoimagery throughout the state. He is contacting all 100 counties to get their plans for the flying season this winter. The handout, "Status of Local Government Partners Using Federal Orthoimagery Cost Share Funds," showed the county and municipal partners in 2005, 2006 and the coming 2007 flying season. Nearly $800,000 of federal cost-share funding has been made available for the 45 counties and municipalities. Mr. Thompson said the State's GPS base station network is essential for the flying of orthoimagery and is an important factor in achieving the goal of refreshing this photography statewide every four years.

The SMAC work group on orthoimagery has put a process in place to use a portable hard drive to transfer local orthophotography among interested state agencies, and thereby reduce data requests to local governments. There will be a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that an action item at the May meeting was to seek cooperative opportunities to fund appropriate aspects of NC OneMap. The SMAC would like to set up a working group to explore potential public/private partnership on orthoimagery with an emphasis on legal issues, procuring and storing of imagery. Ms. Rebecca Troutman asked about the involvement of local government in this work group. Mr. Thompson said since the work group is under the SMAC there is broad representation and more local governments can be invited in. Ms. Troutman asked about joint flyovers with adjacent counties, since there are cost-savings in adjoining borders. Mr. Thompson said his spreadsheet shows adjacent counties and notes if they are flying. Dr. Mandell asked why Lee County gets cost-share in two consecutive years. Mr. Zsolt Nagy said that Lee County flies one-quarter of the county each year, therefore they have two different sections available for cost-share in this schedule.

> Action #1: The Council authorized a working group to explore public/private partnerships on orthophotography.

Working Group for Roads and Transportation. Mr. L.C. Smith said the focus of the group is to facilitate the sharing of roads data and road framework between regional planning organizations, local governments, state agencies and the public. The Working Group recently submitted a grant application to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for funds through the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. The application seeks funding for establishing methodologies for sharing local government and state transportation data and the on-going maintenance of the new system. He said the group should be notified about the grant by the end of August.

Library of Congress Grant: Frequency of Data Capture Survey. Mr. Steve Morris reminded the Council that this grant, which focuses on NC OneMap data preservation, was one of eight grants awarded nationally by the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. North Carolina is the only state recipient. The Libraries of NC State University and the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis are partners and are into the second year of the 3-year grant. Negotiations are in progress to extend the grant through 2010. He said on the technical development front they are developing the workflows of metadata processing and ingest of acquired data. In archive development the grant partners are defining formats for geodatabases to determine what should be done locally and at the state level. Mr. Morris said one of the issues they would like to resolve is the ability to pull data in for archiving without bothering the data source. The Frequency of Capture Survey will seek guidance from local governments concerning their data archiving frequency. Mr. Morris says he expects the survey to reveal both the current practices and business cases for preserving older data. The survey instrument will be a joint effort of the State Archives and Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and will focus on Framework data layers (frequency of capture, format, conversion process, attribute fields), general questions about archiving practice, questions about business uses that require older data; and questions about older orthophotos. The survey questions will be presented to the SMAC and LGC for review and revision. The LGC will be asked to test the survey with their "A" team.

Ms. Anne Payne said this was a great effort and was needed. She cautioned that the team approach local governments carefully about another survey. Mr. Morris said the intent is to make the questions very simple so the respondent does not have to leave the screen once they begin.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). Dianne Enright reported that the SGUC met July 20 and heard Tyler Clark's NC Geological Survey presentation on Landslide Mapping in

western North Carolina as well as Jeff Reid talk about NC Geological Survey maps on the web. The next general meeting will be in October.

Local Government Committee (LGC). Kelly Laughton said an LGC Alert was sent August 3 to ask local governments to complete the GIS inventory using the RAMONA tool. She said the "A" team will be reviewing and testing the Frequency of Capture survey tool being designed for the preservation grant. Ms. Laughton mentioned the new people on the Committee: Amy Durden from Camden County and Alex Rickard from Eastern Carolina COG.

Ms. Laughton referred Council members to a report in their packets: "Requests by State Agencies for Geospatial Data Produced by Local Government." Reporting for the LGC, Ms. Laughton said that county and municipal government agencies receive repetitive requests for copies of locally produced geospatial data from many state government agencies. These duplicative requests pose a burden on local government agencies. She said the most common requested data sets are parcels, orthophotography, street centerlines, and boundaries. The problem is not restricted to multiple state agencies—often several units within a single agency make these data requests, but also Councils of Government, and students. The problem of data requests is spreading, and can create a problem based on the size of local governments.

The data requests are compounded by inconsistent policies on the local government level: Open *versus* restricted data; free *versus* fee schedule; unlimited redistribution of a data set *versus* restricted or no redistribution allowed. Ms. Laughton said the range of redistribution policies creates problems for state agencies, which sometimes redistribute data in spite of the local government preferred restrictions. A second problem is the space limitations on large files, such as orthophotography. These files take lots of time to be downloaded. She mentioned the need for metadata as part of the solution. Ms. Laughton noted that the SMAC Working Group for Transportation is addressing many of the same problems, but for a single data theme—roads. Ms. Laughton mentioned a clearinghouse strategy might be useful for this problem.

Ms. Susan Johnson asked what the sense is that the redistribution problem can be solved by all the county governments. Ms. Laughton said that LGC members are open to distribution of data and its redistribution, but for those counties that are not in the freely-shared data arena, perhaps the Working Group could determine some best practices/guidelines that would encourage those counties to voluntarily comply.

Ms. Johnson asked about the counties that still wish to sell data. Do we know if any actually make money from data sales? She said that accessibility at the data source needs to be respected, and state agencies must respect local governments' wishes about redistribution.

Ms. Anne Payne said some of the problems mentioned in the LGC report also indicate issues with state government redistribution to the private sector. She said the LGC and Council could encourage best practices. She also said this is not an "us *versus* them" issue, but one that requires cooperation to address everyone's needs.

Mr. Bill Holman proposed that the SMAC needed a new Working Group to investigate this further. Ms. Laughton said the work is actually compatible with the Mr. Smith's Working Group for Roads and Transportation. The group needs to keep in mind the NC OneMap characteristics and policies adopted by the Council. Mr. Holman asked if local governments call on state agencies for data--

there was general consensus that they do. Dr. Mandell said the Working Group was a positive move and would be a major benefit to North Carolina. Getting this distribution worked out motivates counties to change practices. There are a few counties that use a contractual vendor for all their GIS: The vendor charges a fee for distributing data on behalf of the local government entity. Therefore, money will be a concern, especially for orthophotography.

Ms. Payne said successful best practices here could provide the framework to change policy for those counties that have more restrictive data distribution. Mr. John Dorman said there are only a few essential base data layers that many state agencies need.

> Action #2: The Council directed the SMAC or a special subcommittee under their direction to study the problem and develop specific recommendations that address the concerns of state, federal and local government agencies. The group must include representatives appointed by the LGC.

Mr. Benton said he would consult with Mr. Holman to ensure there is a diverse working group assembled.

Federal Interagency Committee (FIC). Jerry Ryan said the FIC met in Asheville July 20 and heard presentations from the Renaissance Computing Institute and on Landslide Hazard mapping in western North Carolina. As part of the agency updates, the group heard reports on agency activities related to hazards such as hurricanes, floods, landslides, fire and the use of geospatial information. Mr. Ryan said the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Valley Authority participated. Regarding the discussion by the Local Government Committee, Mr. Ryan acknowledged that federal agencies also ask local governments for data and that it would be nice if everyone could go to one site for the data.

GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GIS TAC). Susan Johnson said there were no major projects underway.

Management and Operations Committee (M&O). Tim Johnson said the committee met on July 7 and discussed the "Guidelines for Providing Access to Geospatial Data." Regarding the access guidelines, Mr. Johnson said the Committee felt strongly that these access guidelines generate policy decisions and therefore need discussion in a policy forum, such as the North Carolina City/County Management Association meeting next February. The presentation should address concerns from their perspective. Council staff was tasked, in preparation for this meeting, to prepare a draft version of the communications plan; conduct facilitated sessions with small groups to talk through the guidelines, hone the message and develop relevant examples; and consider the methods to deliver information, such as a webinar, podcast, PowerPoint, and articles. Ms. Troutman said the NC City/County Management Association's conference planning committee meets on September 22 and she would forward any workshop proposal for conference consideration.

Mr. Johnson said the second item the Committee addressed was the Business Plan. The Office of State Budget and Management, through Council member Jonathan Womer, agreed to review the Business Plan outline to ensure that it addressed relevant items from OSBM's perspective.

Council Member Announcements

Secretary Elaine Marshall called the Council's attention to Session Law 2005-391 that allows for electronic recording of land records for county registers of deeds. The Electronic Recording Council, created through the legislation, has been meeting since fall 2005 to produce recommendations for the standards. Secretary Marshall said the work product should be ready in September. She pointed out that the legislation also established the "Electronic Notary Public Act" which allows notary publics to register with the Secretary of State to perform electronic notarial acts using electronic seals and signatures. She referred to the National Association of Secretaries of State website (www.nass.org) for the e-notarization national standards that were recently adopted. Secretary Marshall said that North Carolina leads the country in use of electronic recording. She told the Council that Rex Minneman, who has been the lead for the Land Records Program in her office, will retire as of September.

Floodplain Mapping Program. Mr. John Dorman said that in the early 1990s CGIA mapped the hurricane storm surge inundation areas based on the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computer modeling program. The Floodplain Mapping Program will use their data to update information for the Pamlico Sound area in the next few months and the Wilmington area within seven months. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is collecting pre- and post-hurricane event information and wants a manual of what information has been collected by state agencies.

Regarding the digital flood insurance rate maps, Mr. Dorman said the FMP had completed work or was working in 94 counties. Only the Chowan River Basin has not been started. There is still no money for the New River Basin, but he hopes FEMA will assist. Sixty-five of the 100 counties are now complete or partially complete, and there is $7.5 million available for work this year. He reported that in the past 12 months, there have been 14.5 million hits on the Floodplain Mapping website.

NC Wireless E-911 Board. Mr. Richard Taylor said that the Request For Proposal to construct a statewide 911 plan to share GIS across the state has been developed and should be approved at the NC Wireless E-911 Board meeting on September 22. The plan seeks to remedy the fact that may calls are routed to an adjacent county and most E-911 agencies only have data for their county, not surrounding counties.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be November 8, 2006 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.cgia.state.nc.us/gicc, then click on "Meetings." The individual "Presentation" icons follow the Agenda and Minutes.