

**MINUTES**  
**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**August 21, 2002**

**PRESENT**

Chair, Dempsey Benton. Members: Bryan Beatty, Tim Brewer (for Martin Lancaster), Bob Brinson, John Correllus (for Jim Fain), Jean Crews-Klein (for Billy Ray Hall), Kim Decker (for Meg Scott Phipps), Dr. Hugh Devine (for Molly Broad), Terry Ellis, Dianne Enright, Derek Graham (for Mike Ward), Thomas Gray, Jay Heavner, Curtis Hinton, Reggie Hinton (for E. Norris Tolson), Bill Holman, Stan Jenkins (for George Bakolia), Susan Johnson, Chris Kannan (for Gerald Ryan), Kelly Laughton, Tim Lesser, Dr. Lee Mandell, Joe McKinney, Rex Minneman (for Elaine Marshall), Carlton Myrick (for Gwynn Swinson), Tom Newsome (for David McCoy), Bill Ross, JoAnne Sanford, Roger Sheats (for Lyndo Tippet), Sandra Trivett (for Carmen Hooker-Odom), Rebecca Troutman, Charlotte Turpin, Chris Wease

**PROCEEDINGS**

A meeting of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council was held in the Board Room of Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina on August 21, 2002. Chair Dempsey Benton called the meeting to order and asked members to introduce themselves. The Minutes of the May 14, 2002 meeting were approved.

Bylaws Discussion

Dempsey Benton asked for discussion on the Council bylaws that were presented at the May 14 meeting. The motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

Dianne Enright, Chair of the State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC) presented that committee's bylaws. Ms. Enright asked the Council to review the revised version in their packets. The SGUC executive committee suggested the membership as detailed in the draft bylaws be revised to add two additional members. The SGUC executive committee will appoint those two at-large members from state government agencies. The other executive committee members will be appointed from departments represented on the Council. The motion to accept the bylaws as revised was approved.

Kelly Laughton, Chair of the Local Government Committee (LGC) presented that committee's bylaws. The motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

Chris Kannan, substituting for Gerry Ryan, Chair of the Federal Interagency Committee (FIC) presented that committee's bylaws. The motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

Terry Ellis, interim Chair of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) presented that committee's bylaws. A motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

Susan Johnson, Chair of the GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GISTAC) presented that committee's bylaws. A motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

Dempsey Benton presented the Management and Operations Committee (M&O) bylaws. A motion to accept the bylaws as submitted was approved.

### Presentation: Business of GIS in North Carolina

Curtis Hinton, GICC member and principle of Geographic Technologies Group, Inc. said GIS is reinventing how we work. Increasing ease-of-use is allowing GIS to be dispersed throughout the government enterprise because of its ability to enable older data and justified use-cost benefits. Hinton said North Carolina is one of the states most advanced in government use of GIS. As examples of new tools to help promote usage, he mentioned that Johnston County is embedding GIS into documents so data users can work with "living" maps. Fort Bragg has installed map touch screens in mobile computers so users can get to information fast. Mr. Hinton said as GIS is integrated into government operations it will break down barriers between departments and become as common as word processing in the office environment.

Cost-benefits of GIS are realized when current processes are enhanced or replaced by GIS. Cost savings can be both in money and time. He gave several examples from physical facilities management at UNC-Chapel Hill, to E-911 dispatchers knowing where hazardous materials are located, to pin-pointing illegal drug sellers within buffer areas around schools, to matching arsons with known addresses of arsonists, to mapping all voter addresses in order to redistrict local voting precincts. The social services and public health areas are also benefiting from GIS. For example, Rocky Mount uses GIS to show workfare and welfare recipients the locations of day care centers, transportation routes and the locations of open jobs.

### Issue Paper: North Carolina Corporate Geographic Database (NC CGDB)

Zsolt Nagy of the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis said the vision of the NC CGDB was to provide around the clock access to North Carolina's GIS digital data. The Database is a collection of information from federal, state, and local government sources, and includes Framework data (such as county and municipal boundaries, parcel [land ownership] data, aerial imagery, surface waters), and secondary thematic data (such as water and sewer, land cover, soils data, etc.). The NC CGDB has about 100 data sets. As the technical ability has increased to "move" locally derived GIS data from one county to another, the long-term vision is to include local government data in the NC CGDB. When this occurs, all data users would have access to a seamless North Carolina database stitched together from multiple sources.

Mr. Nagy said the issues confronting this vision include the lack of a statewide data inventory and data documentation to ensure that existing data are not recreated. Data producers need to define data content standards as well as partnership roles and data access strategies. As an example, he referred to aerial imagery where individual counties have different access and distribution policies. He mentioned that there is no comprehensive listing of state legislation that potentially affects spatial data handling in North Carolina. Such a list would be helpful to the Council as it prepares its annual report to the Legislature. He said North Carolina benefits by participating in federal and national initiatives.

Mr. Nagy mentioned the Strategic Plan for Geographic Information Coordination that was passed by a previous Council in 1994. Dr. Lee Mandell suggested that the Council might wish to review the Strategic Plan. Ms. Rebecca Troutman asked about the next steps for the issues paper. She suggested the Council's user subcommittees review the issues paper with their members and make recommendations to the Council. The Chair concurred and asked the user committees to confirm the issues from their perspectives.

**Action #1:** All committees to review the issue paper, confirm what is stated, and make recommendations.

### Results of Council Survey Interviews

Chair Dempsey Benton said the issue paper on the Corporate Geographic Database, the individual Council member interviews, and the facilitated round-table discussion today were the three-pronged approach to determine a policy area focus for the Council. Tim Johnson summarized the Council member interviews. He said numerous issues, technical and non-technical, were identified and ranked with areas such as data accuracy, public access, informing decision-makers, funding and staffing at the top of the list.

Achievements in GIS included: orthophotography (aerial imagery, both local and statewide), better local government planning, GIS data availability on the Internet, better tax appraisals, GIS as the front-end for government information, collection of extensive rural water and sewer data, among others. Favorable trends in GIS included: overall availability of data, use of GIS data in official meetings, 3D visualization, increased collaboration between departments and agencies, and better targeting of information. As to saving money, Council members mentioned that more accurate data leads to better property valuation, crime reduction, and frees up staff time when public terminals are available in government offices. Members mentioned several barriers to be addressed, such as the need for better accountability for keeping data current, data maintenance, ease-of-use of this technology, justifying GIS expenditures, and measuring cost-benefits in a meaningful way.

### Facilitated Discussion: Issues Before the Council

Mr. Benton said that the Council is required to present an annual report to the Governor and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. He introduced Lynda Wayne from GeoMaxim to facilitate the issues discussion. This discussion can assist the Council in selecting a policy focus. Ms. Wayne, the former Director of the Louisiana Geographic Information Center at Louisiana State University, has served as the metadata ambassador to over 50 local governments through a working arrangement with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

#### *Topic 1: Data Sharing*

##### **What it means**

- Tools to maximize customer service and enable the organization to do its job
- Sharing data across boundaries; therefore need data standards, commonality
- Must be easy to use
- Ability to find the data; need an inventory (eg. conserved lands)
- Share costs in data development
- Look beyond needs of single department and consider maintenance and operation issues

- Requires stable technology and IT infrastructure for data sharing.
- Efficiency in how we get data, duplication is inefficient
- To have comfort with data quality must have data accountability.

### **Policies and practices required for effective data sharing**

- Some data are confidential, but needs to be used by others in government; trust among partners
- Common stewardship and commitment (e.g. someone develops a great dataset but doesn't maintain it because no financial resources committed); fund maintenance
- Maintaining data should be cost-of-business; GICC can help in finding funding
- Proprietary nature of utilities creates reluctance to share
- Need common description of data (metadata)

### **Benefits of data sharing**

- Less duplication of existing data sets, the more cost effective
- Maintain data locally
- Should not make "copies" of data sets, remain true to source
- Better communication between departments of government
- Promotes standardization of data
- Helps identify core data elements
- Promotes sharing of applications that cross jurisdictional boundaries (e.g. watershed management, emergency management, homeland security, flooding)

### **Barriers to data sharing**

- Tools not in place
- Regionally, no base-level standards; hard to combine data from counties and cities
- Lack of consensus on standards (format) for data
- For true self-service, need infrastructure to share data
- Must be a mutually beneficial relationship between data developers and data users; there is investment of time/money to participate in data sharing
- Lack of education for those who made decisions on infrastructure. Need outstanding applications (and easy to use) to convince those who have the purse strings
- Taught to be competitive versus collaborative
- Issues like proprietary software/data, trade secrets, and privacy inhibit data sharing

### **Council can facilitate data sharing**

- Encourage collaboration
- GICC could produce a model data stewardship agreement, targeted to local government
- Promote a common addressing standard as a model (e.g. Charlotte -Mecklenberg is now creating one)
- Since Internet is most efficient delivery model, GICC could produce guidelines on using the web to share data; develop boilerplate language for agreements
- Need a data directory pointer to a network of data sites from the Corporate Geographic Database (CGDB), which is a front door only. Perception of CGDB needs to change.
- Policies and procedures for confidentiality agreements, sensitive information.

## *Topic 2: Knowledge Building About GIS*

### **What it means**

- Communicate to decision-makers the capabilities of GIS. If you can think of it, GIS can do it
- Develop spatial mind set and bring children up to speed in schools
- Identify issues that affect specific decision-makers and elected officials
- Emphasize the advantages
- Promote better understanding among government officials and the public of the value of geographic information and imagery
- Promote idea that geographic information is part of the organization's business infrastructure
- Live in 3D world and GIS must be part of information delivery. Need killer applications that become shareware. Spatial is not special!

### **Target audience**

- Library community
- Legislators
- County commissioners and city councils
- Department heads (at whatever level of government, and officials who pay the bills)
- Taxpayers/citizens

### **Council can facilitate knowledge-building**

- Standard, packaged presentations; such as on voting addresses, redistricting
- Identify/train a core of people to make presentations
- Do a statewide data inventory. Who has what data and where is it?

**Action #2:** Mr. Benton asked staff and the committees to review this discussion and bring suggestions to facilitate action on these points to the November Council meeting.

### **Water Supply Issues, GIS and the Council**

Dr. Lee Mandell addressed the Council on the current drought and the issues relating to both water quality and water quantity in North Carolina. He said geographic data are becoming increasingly important for water supply planning amid growing calls for reservoir development and the assessment of alternative water sources. Statewide GIS resources need to be leveraged to begin dealing with long-term problems of water supply so public officials get the best information available they can predict, prevent, mitigate and correct impacts of water supply loss.

He said the NC Corporate Geographic Database lacks relevant and accurate data regarding water supplies because of non-maintained data and lack of rigorous geographical data verification of some data sets. Coordination between local and state government on data exchange still has barriers to be addressed. Long-term water supply should be linked to several other State efforts, such as basin-wide information management systems, the floodplain mapping project, and SB1260, which requires conservation and water reuse program information in local and state water supply plans. The floodplain mapping project is in peril because of the State money needed to complete it. Beyond the digital flood insurance rate maps, the actual terrain data

collected can be used for analyzing interbasin and intrabasin water transport challenges. This data can be used directly by state and local governments.

Dr. Mandell proposed that CGIA, staff of the Council, with assistance of committees, investigate the answers to seven questions relative to existing data layers and ascertain their quality; identify the missing data for analyzing water supply issues and where can we get that data; how would governments within the state use this data to work on the long-term water supply problem; how can we leverage other state GIS investments; and investigate what structure and process could be used to fund, design, build, and manage a statewide comprehensive water supply GIS.

**Action #3:** Mr. Benton said CGIA will study this proposal and report back to the Council at the November meeting.

### Geospatial One-Stop

Zsolt Nagy mentioned that the Geospatial One-Stop was a federal initiative that will provide for more efficient collection and use of geospatial information among federal agencies as well as serve state and local governments. He mentioned that standards committees have been formed for framework themes of data, such as transportation and surface waters. CGIA has signed up some staff members on behalf of the Council. Ms. Troutman asked if other committee members might review proposed standards. Mr. Nagy said yes, and the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee will definitely be involved.

### Civil GPS Service Interface Committee

Tim Johnson reported that US Department of Transportation has been given the lead to organize non-defense users of Global Positioning Technology (GPS) and has formed the Civil GPS Service Interface Committee. Governor Easley has appointed Gary Thompson, Chief, NC Geodetic Survey, to that committee. This will give our state a voice in the deployment of the defense satellites that comprise the latest GPS system.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held November 13, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the Department of Transportation Board Room, One. S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh.

*All PowerPoint presentations and the Issue Paper are on the Council Web site: [www.cgia.state.nc.us/gicc](http://www.cgia.state.nc.us/gicc), then click on "Meetings." The individual "Presentation" icons follow the Agenda and Minutes.*