



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes
November 19, 2008

PRESENT

Chair, Dr. Lee Mandell. Members: Jon Beck (for Joe McKinney), Bob Brinson, Michael Brown (for Reggie Hinton), Ron Brown (for Bliss Kite), Rodney Bunch, John Correllus, John Cox, John Dorman (for Bryan Beatty), Ryan Draughn, Matt Duvall (representing the Federal Interagency Committee), John Farley, John Gillis, William Gilmore, Kelly Laughton, Bill Laxton, Dan Madding, Elaine Marshall, Ben Matthews (for Derek Graham), Herb McKim, Steve Morris (for Dr. Hugh Devine), Anne Payne, Jeremy Poss, Stephen Puckett, Julie Stamper, Melodee Stokes, Richard Taylor, Rebecca Troutman, Dr. Billy Willis, and Jonathan Womer

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. Dr. Lee Mandell, Chair, called the meeting to order. He welcomed new members Melodee Stokes, representing the Department of Health and Human Services; Jonathan Womer, representing the Office of State Budget and Management, and Ryan Draughn, representing the NC League of Municipalities. He announced that Kelly Laughton was appointed to chair the GIS Technical Advisory Committee, and Professor Tyrel Moore, of UNC-Charlotte, will chair the NC Board on Geographic Names.

Dr. Mandell acknowledged a special guest, Guy McGarva, from the EDINA National Data Centre in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, who is learning about geospatial data preservation from the North Carolina perspective.

The Chair called attention to the GICC's 2008 Annual Report that was included in each member's meeting packet. The Minutes of the August 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

Status and Discussion of Priorities Before Council

Priority #1—NC OneMap Implementation

Mr. Tim Johnson reported that Chatham County had made a connection to the NC OneMap viewer and is serving parcel data and orthophotography. Local orthophotography for Greensboro and Raleigh is now available for download. Additional data layers have been updated on the FTP site, including land trust properties and shellfish growing areas.

Priority #2—State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan (HB 2436)

Dr. Lee Mandell said that adoption of the implementation plan is now a necessity given the financial situation. He asked for everyone's help. Feedback from the committees and GICC members was carefully considered and just about every proposed change was made in the final draft, as well as all corrections. Dr. Mandell said this implementation plan is a big opportunity for positive change in state government relating to the use of geographic information systems. He remarked that the original proposal for \$6.5 million to acquire high-resolution orthophotography and develop other data layers was reduced to about \$1 million in this budget round. He asked for full support from every member of the GICC because progress will be hampered if these recommendations fail. He stated that some draft language was modified regarding consolidation, and that open source will be investigated after we get some funding.

Orthophotography recommendations. Ms. Rebecca Troutman raised concerns about local government as it relates to the orthophotography recommendations found in numbers 13, 14, and 15. She did not understand why the State wants to take over an effort that has been managed and paid for by local governments, unless the State wants local government to relinquish their control. Mr. Johnson said the development of a business plan will help determine how this is done. Dr. Mandell said an important consideration here is that the State could provide leadership and 100% of the funding for high-resolution imagery and that control of the contracts could be left with the counties. He added that the General Assembly needs to recognize the importance of this orthophotography and the purpose is not to replace local control. He said the business plan will sort this out, and leaf-on color photography (summer flights), as well as leaf-off color photography (winter flights) will be considered. Mr. Madding asked why there is a difference between Recommendation 14 which proposes a 25% State funding match and Recommendation 17 which asks the State to pay 100%. Mr. Johnson said the request for 25% State funding was in the original February 2008 OSBM GIS Study Report; however the implementation plan is suggesting that the State pay 100% of that cost. Dr. Mandell said the change in the language for recommended State matching funds came through discussions in the Management and Operations Committee. Dr. Billy Willis cautioned that asking for 100% State funds may leave out other potential sources, such as the 911 Fund or federal programs. The current recommendations leave intact the concept of a bank for orthophotography purchases and outside funding opportunities. He said asking the Legislature for 100% of the orthophotography cost is not achievable now, but these implementation plan recommendations provide steps. Mr. John Dorman said that bad budget years also must be considered in writing any business plan.

Dr. Mandell said that at one end of the scale, the State would match 25% of the cost to local governments; at the other end of the scale the State would pay 100% of the cost. Dr. Willis said that orthophotography is a high-value data layer, but it is not the only data layer. If changes occur in the budget, the business case must reflect it. Ms. Troutman said Recommendation #13 mentions a four-year cycle for new photography, but Recommendation #15 talks about high-growth counties paying a larger percentage share than low-growth counties. Mr. Johnson replied that it is complicated to try to get every county flown with new orthophotography on a four-year cycle. Mr. Herb McKim said high-growth counties might need photography sooner than four years; whereas low-growth areas might not need orthophotography as often as four years. Ms. Troutman said that she does not think county governments would want the State

controlling the timing of flights. Dr. Willis said the recommendations do not ask counties to cede authority to the State.

Mr. John Farley said if there is a question of 25% cost share versus 100% payment by the State, perhaps the recommendations need further explanation. Mr. Dorman noted that the implementation plan does not provide money for any geospatial data besides orthophotography. He said if there are disagreements about how to move forward, maybe the Legislature should create the orthophotography plan. Dr. Mandell reminded the Council that the Legislature ordered that the implementation plan reference the recommendations contained in the earlier GIS Study.

Dr. Willis said this is a staged implementation plan. Some counties will need new orthophotography more or less than every four years. We can coordinate the acquisition of data, thereby saving taxpayers money. Everyone can vote with their dollars on participation in the program.

Dr. Mandell said the GICC will structure the business plan. The GICC was one-third of the group that put the State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan together, along with the State CIO and the Office of State Budget and Management. He asked the GICC to endorse this plan, as revised, in order to move it to the Legislature by December 1. The plan will be revised and the final version will be sent to GICC members just prior to delivery to the Legislature.

DECISION 1 GICC endorsed the State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan for presentation to the NC Legislature by December 1.

Priority #3—Archival and Long Term Access ad hoc Committee

Ms. Anne Payne, Chair of the committee, referred GICC members to the final report included in their packets. She thanked John Correllus, Chair of the State Government GIS Users Committee for his letter supporting the three key recommendations. Mr. Correllus said that the report represents a great first step but that many details need to be worked out. The committee is looking toward the future and presents three key recommendations to the GICC:

- Update the records retention schedule for NC OneMap;
- Develop the capacity and expertise at the Archives and Records Section (NC Division of Archives) to guide development of agency records retention schedules for geospatial content; and
- Develop a plan and implement steps at the Archives and Records Section to handle ingest of geospatial content as prescribed in emerging schedules. This plan should evaluate various geospatial content harvesting and ingest scenarios, including the leveraging of the NC OneMap clearinghouse and data work flow as a content transfer point between data stewards and the Archives and Records Section.

She thanked her committee, especially Kelly Eubank, Doug Newcomb, and Steve Morris. Dr. Mandell also thanked the committee and accepted the report.

DECISION 2 The Archival and Long Term Access *ad hoc* Committee report was accepted and referred to staff.

Priority #4—Surveyors' Model Law Working Group

Mr. Herb McKim, Chair of the Working Group, reported that they are working on two problems with NC Board of Engineers and Surveyors (NCBELS).

(1) The proposal for changes in the previous system to establish four classes for accuracy of GIS databases in urban areas: Class A, half-meter accuracy; Class B, 1-meter accuracy; Class C, 2-meter accuracy, and Class D, 5-meter accuracy. The NCBELS rule modifications will not restrict an accuracy base for city and county data: Local governments can now choose the level of accuracy they want. There is a public hearing about this on December 12.

(2) A list of 40 specific GIS data layers (ex. fire hydrants, traffic signs) has been presented to NCBELS. They are to determine which of these specific layers must have oversight by a licensed surveyor and will report back to the committee by the end of November. Ms. Kelly Laughton asked if the Local Government Committee could have that list. Ms. Julie Stamper noted that several of the committee members are from local government. Mr. McKim said that Councils of Government have issues with how they are being treated differently than local governments for data sharing relative to surveying law.

NC Master Address Dataset

Ms. Joe Sewash, Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, reported on a project to develop a master address dataset that was funded by the Legislature in the 2008 session. Mr. Sewash said project start-up began in August, information collection and coordination occurred in September, and benefits and incentives were the focus for October, as well as outreach at numerous fall meetings of professional organizations. The Attorney General was consulted regarding the content of the Master Address Dataset and meetings were held with the regional US Census office in Charlotte. Local governments are partners in the planning process because they maintain these data sets. The partners are considering the necessary tools and workflows; knowledge transfer; technical products; and collaboration. The next focus is the stakeholder meeting and describing the business process; characterizing data being used and integration issues; efficiency opportunities and metrics. That will lead to the technical implementation and knowledge compilation.

Ms. Julie Stamper said this project is very challenging since addressing is more difficult than orthophotography, parcel data and roads.

Presentation: Effectively Managing NC's Real Estate Portfolio

Mr. John Cox, Facilities Information Section Manager, State Property Office said the office functions as a broker to buy and sell property. They manage an inventory of land (783,529 acres), owned buildings (11,809) and leased buildings (1,078 buildings, annual cost of \$72.5 million), and conservation easements for the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Mr. Cox said the individual properties are managed by the state agency that owns them. Recent lean-budget years prompted the Legislature to consider new revenue sources and changed focus from property acquisition to selling property. As an example, that resulted in the Blount Street project in Raleigh. It also prompted the State Property Office to institute a "Portfolio Management" system for each agency to follow. In a

Portfolio Management approach, all of the agency's assets (land, buildings owned, leases, and conservation easements) are grouped by geography to see a more complete picture, rather than continuing to manage each asset in isolation. The portfolio approach requires agencies to prepare a real estate portfolio assessment which reviews and updates critical property information, assesses future use, and reviews co-location of owned and leased properties. The State Property Office will assist the effort. Mr. Cox showed samples of the on-line survey's new capabilities that give more asset management control to each agency. Pictures of the individual assets are available through the State Property GIS. The "Portfolio Management" system puts tools in the hands of the agency to build justification for what they own. He said the State of New Jersey adopted a portfolio approach to asset management and realized a \$40 million savings.

Mr. Bill Gilmore said the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) is managing more than 750 properties around the state that must be protected. EEP has created an open source web application to view GIS data and other documents. They received a grant from EPA to add shape files for these properties because in the past they were not georeferenced. Secretary Marshall questioned the figure of 783,000 acres under State ownership. She said the number seemed low and asked if that included all university systems and parks. Mr. Cox said there is a lag time of about a year to complete the process of real estate closing through the Attorney General's office, and add it to the portfolio inventory. That is why the recent large purchase of Grandfather Mountain is not included in the inventory acreage. Secretary Marshall said it can take a year for the deed to come to the Secretary of State after signatures on the acquisition. Mr. Farley mentioned that highway right-of-ways are not included. Secretary Marshall asked how State Property Office is getting agency participation. Bill Laxton asked if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was doing OK with its portfolio. Mr. Cox said there is a pilot with DENR's Division of Parks and Recreation now. The departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Correction will be contacted next.

Committee Reports

Council committee representatives reported on their group's activities.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Ms. Anne Payne, Chair, said there were two new members on committee and the SMAC met on October 15. In addition to committee reports and discussion about the appointment of the chair for the NC Board on Geographic Names, the SMAC saw a presentation on Watershed Boundary Delineation by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Working Group for Orthophotography Planning. Mr. Gary Thompson reported that Chowan County has the oldest orthophotography in the state (2000). He showed a slide of the proposed NC OneMap flights for winter 2008-2009 that will include Chowan in a six-county cluster in the northeast. The Centralina Council of Government is arranging to fly an eight-county region. There are three counties (Columbus, Carteret, Vance) that will be flown by the NC Floodplain Mapping Program, and Davidson is making its own plans. Mr. Thompson said 2008 marked the transition to digital cameras: 70% of the orthophotography flights were digital, instead of film.

About the calibration range for digital cameras, Mr. Thompson reported that USGS made a proposal involving NC A&T State University in Greensboro as a test site. Then USGS developed a new standard that requires 300 feet of variation in relief which will not work well in

the NC A&T terrain. He said additional tests will be conducted to find a new site. He reported that the digital camera paper on best practices is being written. Mr. Thompson said the USDA NAIP summer 2008 orthophotography flights were delayed by both weather and the extensive fire in eastern North Carolina. He mentioned that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has collected imagery and LIDAR from Virginia to Cape Hatteras and it is available on the NC Floodplain Mapping Program website.

Working Group for Roads and Transportation (WGRT). Ms. Janet Lowe, chair, said the group met on November 18. She mentioned that CGIA worked with NC StreetMap files and manually added the data to the NC OneMap FTP website, if the data provided by the county had metadata. NC StreetMap was launched six months earlier, and data sets are now aging and data stewards need to be contacted. Twenty-six data sets have been uploaded to NC StreetMap and there are more than 100 registered users. Ms. Lowe asked GICC members to encourage more uploads from local government. Because of problems with data stewards not using the statewide standard, Ms. Lowe said the WGRT committee is going to apply for an FGDC CAP grant to fund creation of a tool to automatically reconfigure local data to the statewide standard.

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP). Mr. Tom Morgan, co-chair of the Working Group said the group has been working on the EPA Exchange Network Grant proposal which is in member packets. The point is to provide a means to collect the parcel dataset from each county that adheres to standards and then release that data to everyone on demand, or restrict it to government entities if the county so chooses. The County is the custodian of their data. This Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Exchange grant will allow a data transformation tool to be constructed to a standard schema and common format. This would be available to all government users. The grant does not propose to make changes to shapefiles in cases where there are county boundary alignment problems; instead you will get what is reflected from each county office. Second, the grant will allow a parcel node to be built to facilitate transfer of data from county to other government users. Supporting letters have been provided by 17 state agencies and other organizations and universities. Mr. Morgan mentioned that 16 local government partners have provided letters of commitment, plus 9 more contiguous counties working directly through a Council of Government. The maximum award is \$500,000 because it includes the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The budget is in the packet. Mr. Morgan said that parcels and orthophotography are the two most important data layers to local government and other users. If the EPA grant is not pursued, the seamless parcel work can not move forward. This will be an open source GIS application.

Mr. Morgan asked for a letter of support from the GICC. Dr. Willis asked if the EPA grant required in-kind services. Ms. Julia Harrell, the proposal writer, said that EPA Exchange Network grants can either be proposed for direct funding, or as a cooperative agreement that requires the use of EPA's vetted contractors, who they pay. This proposal is for a cooperative agreement that focuses on integration and development (about 70%), and testing (30%). The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources already has an EPA node framework in place, which will be used. Dr. Willis said if DENR already has an EPA node, why would EPA fund this proposal and why are development costs so high? Ms. Harrell said the difference is that this proposal creates a spatially-enabled parcel data exchange tool, which is new. Dr. Mandell said the budget did not reflect personnel costs. Ms. Harrell said that several DENR staff already manage an EPA Exchange network node as part of their normal duties, 15% of the

time. Dr. Mandell said the GICC will send a letter in support of the proposal. Mr. Johnson said that CGIA is supportive and remarked that 25 counties showing interest is a positive sign. If NC OneMap had research and development funding, this is the kind of project that CGIA could undertake. Mr. Johnson said CGIA will also prepare a letter in support of the grant application.

ACTION 1 The GICC will send a letter in support of the EPA Exchange Network Grant proposal for the seamless parcels node.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). Mr. John Correllus said the SGUC reviewed both the Archival and Long Term Access final report and the Draft State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan. He said the SGUC participated in GIS Day activities in downtown Raleigh the preceding day, and the event was well attended. The last general meeting was October 16, which included several shorter presentations and a facilitated discussion on the archival issue. He said the SGUC is promoting state government attendance at the 2009 NC GIS Conference since it will be in Raleigh. Dr. Mandell said the Council is always looking for good presentations as well and asked for recommendations from the SGUC.

Local Government Committee (LGC). Ms. Julie Stamper said the LGC has changed meeting dates to two weeks after GICC meetings, instead of two weeks prior in order to be fresher on the issues. At the last meeting the LGC members had their questions addressed by Joe Sewash about the NC Master Address project. The LGC received a report from its representative on the WGSP and also supports the EPA grant application.

Federal Interagency Committee (FIC). Matt Duvall said the committee is looking forward to the Governor's appointment of the federal representative to the GICC, who also chairs the FIC. FIC members participated on the WGSP and the archives subcommittees. He mentioned that new certified watershed boundaries are being released by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and US Geological Survey. He expressed hope that as updates to these datasets occur the data can be integrated with the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) particularly in North Carolina where local resolution NHD data exists.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 NC GIS Conference. Ms. Payne said GICC members should attend the NC GIS Conference, February 19-20, 2009. She mentioned that the program is almost complete and this is a very low-cost opportunity to see an excellent program. Mr. Correllus said the attendance is usually just under a thousand. Mr. Johnson encouraged local governments to submit applications for the conference's prestigious Herb Stout Award.

Mr. Johnson said there will be a special 2-hour Thursday session for legislators and state agency heads. Rep. Joe Tolson, co-chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, and George Bakolia, State Chief Information Officer, will co-sponsor this session.

State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan. Dr. Mandell said the plan presented today will be adjusted based on comments, and then presented to the Legislature on December 1. Rep. Tolson's Joint Legislative Oversight Committee will have the plan before it

at their January 2009 meeting. Dr. Mandell urged GICC members to attend this meeting to support the plan.

ACTION 2 GICC members are encouraged to attend the January 2009 meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and support the State Geographic Information / Consolidation Implementation Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be February 11, 2009 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 Click on "Meetings." Presentations and documents presented during the meeting are available in a Zip file for easy download.