



*North Carolina*  
Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes  
May 30, 2012

**PRESENT**

Chair, Dr. Lee Mandell. Members: George Bakolia (for Jonathan Womer), Bob Brinson, James Caldwell, John Cox, Ryan Draughn, Dianne Enright, John Farley, John Gillis, Derek Graham, Bliss Kite, Yongjun Lei (for Allan Sandoval), Kelly Laughton, Dan Madding, Elaine Marshall, Anne Payne, Sarah Porper, Alex Rankin, Linda Rimer, Julie Stamper, Richard Taylor, and Gary Thompson

**ABSENT**

Jay Bissett, Hugh Devine, David Hoyle, Chris Koltyk, Sarah Koonts, Hunter Robinson, Jeremy Poss, Colleen Sharpe, Rebecca Troutman, Sandra Williams, Ron York, and Reuben Young

Staff: Tim Johnson, CGIA

**PROCEEDINGS**

A special meeting of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council was held by phone on May 30, 2012. Chair Dr. Lee Mandell called the meeting to order. Elaine Marshall asked that members identify themselves before speaking.

Dr. Mandell reported that Senate Bill 851, Section 2.9 proposes changes to the GICC, reducing the membership from 35 to 20, mainly by eliminating the local government membership but also members representing lead regional organizations, federal government, the private sector and the general public. The bill will also move the GICC to the NC Department of Public Safety.

Dr. Mandell reported that the Management and Operations Committee (M&O), the Local Government Committee (LGC) and the State Government GIS Users Committee already met to discuss the proposed legislation and are opposed to the proposed changes. The M&O prepared a set of talking points that documents the reasons for opposing the bill, which he distributed to the GICC members before this special meeting.

Dr. Mandell said that another piece of legislation is anticipated that will move CGIA to the Department of Public Safety, probably under the Division of Emergency Management. He noted that the GICC is opposed to moving CGIA anywhere other than the Office of the State CIO. Moving CGIA did not appear in House version of the appropriations bill released on June 29. The legislation to change the GICC and the potential move of CGIA appears to be a Senate initiative. The Senate

budget bill will follow soon and may have financial implications, possibly reducing or eliminating CGIA staff.

Dr. Mandell said that George Bakolia suggested the special meeting of the GICC. Mr. Bakolia said that he was successful in the past in defeating some questionable legislation by presenting a united front in opposition. To show a united front, he suggested that the GICC send a letter to the bill sponsors and the Senate committee that will review Senate Bill 851 with as many signatures of GICC members as possible opposing the legislation.

Mr. Bakolia described a legislative proposal in the past regarding IT reform. The bill was not introduced by Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) but many legislators presumed it had the support of ITS. The strategy in opposing the bill was to educate sponsors, key legislators and others to make sure they knew all the facts and understood that ITS did not introduce or support the bill. He believed that the legislators sponsoring the bill initially heard only one side of the story. He emphasized the importance of presenting a unified voice from the GICC that clearly explains the position of the GICC and its members. Although contacts with individual legislators are valuable, he recognized that most GICC members do not have time to make individual phone calls or visits.

Dr. Mandell echoed the need for a unified voice. The purpose of this special meeting is to take a formal vote by GICC members on Mr. Bakolia's proposal for the GICC to send a letter opposing the legislation, as outlined in the talking points. Dr. Mandell opened the floor for questions and discussion.

John Farley discussed the legislation with other state agencies and all were opposed to the section of the bill that affects the GICC, especially the manner in which it was submitted. The proposal to change the composition of the GICC was not brought before the GICC. Dr. Mandell described it as an attack from the outside. It is unclear who introduced this section of the bill. He noted that opposing these changes does not preclude the GICC asking for changes to the composition of the GICC in the future.

Secretary Marshall said she has not heard any real reasons or justification for the proposed changes. In addition to a letter from the GICC, she suggested that support from the Association of County Commissioners (ACC) and others who recognize the value and benefits of the GICC will be important.

Ryan Draughn said that the loss of local government representation on GICC is bad and will hinder collaboration by local governments. He asked how best to convey the GICC's opposition.

Dr. Mandell suggested that a single letter reflecting the unity of the GICC is the starting point. But he hopes that members will express their opinions directly, either by letter or in personal communications. He reported that he talked to Bill Stice, IT Director of the Town of Cary and President-Elect of the NC Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA), which is opposed to the proposed changes. NCLGISA plans to send a letter and Mr. Stice said he is working to get a letter of opposition from the Town of Cary. Dr. Mandell said the more opposition from diverse organizations and jurisdictions, the better.

Julie Stamper, chair of the LGC, will be sending a letter on behalf of the LGC, which is unanimously opposed to the changes and is very concerned about the loss of local government representation on

the GICC. She has also contacted Senator Stan White, who represents her county. She expects the lead regional organizations (COGs), the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) to prepare letters. She reported that the NC American Planning Association is also planning to oppose this section of the bill.

Bob Brinson, Chief Information Officer in the Department of Public Safety (DPS), said that he spoke to DPS management and reported that they were unaware of the proposed changes. This effort was not initiated by DPS. He told his management that there will be widespread opposition to the proposed legislation. The DPS Division of Emergency Management (DEM) has strong GIS capabilities but DEM does not have the broad portfolio to best support the use of GIS in North Carolina. DPS does not support the initiative.

Linda Rimer, chair of the Federal Interagency Committee, reported that the FIC Executive Committee members are opposed to the loss of federal representation on the GICC. However, she noted that federal employees are prohibited from lobbying. Mr. Farley asked if letter can state the FIC supports the GICC as currently configured. Richard Taylor suggested that there is a difference between signing a letter opposing the changes and a direct contact with a legislator and that signing the letter may not be construed as lobbying. Dr. Mandell suggested that Dr. Rimer could pass the issue up the EPA chain of command. Dr. Rimer is skeptical that this effort will be timely enough to make a difference. She said that it would be best if the letter is phrased to state the FIC’s support of the GICC as currently configured.

Dr. Mandell raised the issue of timing. He has received mixed messages. Senate Bill 851 is apparently not on a fast track. The appropriations bill will be on a fast track. The companion bill to the House appropriations bill has not been released so the schedule for the General Assembly to deal with the appropriations bill is unclear. Still, the GICC needs to move quickly.

Dr. Mandell reported that Senate Bill 851 is more than 60 pages long and affects numerous boards and commissions. Many other groups will likely respond. This shows the importance of a unified front by the GICC member organizations. A great value of the GICC is the broad representation of the GIS community and the diversity of voices around the table. Eliminating important constituencies from the GICC discussions will reduce cooperation.

Jim Caldwell, representing the Association of Regional Council Executive Directors said that he sent an email to Dr. Mandell expressing the opposition of the COGs to this legislation.

Dr. Mandell asked for a roll call vote in support of a motion to send a letter opposing the changes proposed in Senate Bill 851, Section 2.9 and for CGIA to remain in the Office of the State Chief Information Officer. He noted that some members may have a potential conflict of interest and will need to consider that when voting. A “Yes” votes means support for the motion.

The members in attendance voted as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Lee Mandell	Chair	Yes	
Bob Brinson	Department of Public Safety	Yes	
James Caldwell	Assoc. of Regional Council Executive Directors	Yes	
John Cox	Department of Administration	Yes	

Ryan Draughn	NC League of Municipalities	Yes	
Dianne Enright	Department of Culture Resources	Yes	
John Farley	Department of Transportation	Yes	
John Gillis	Gillis Group Partnership	Yes	
Derek Graham	Department of Public Instruction	Yes	
Bliss Kite	Public Utilities Commission	Yes	
Kelly Laughton	Private Sector Consultant	Yes	
Yongjun Lei	Department of Commerce	Yes*	Subject to Mgmt Approval
Dan Madding	Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services	Yes*	Subject to Mgmt Approval
Elaine Marshall	Secretary of State	Yes	
Anne Payne	Wake County	Yes	
Sarah Porper	Office of State Budget & Management	Yes*	Subject to Mgmt Approval
Alex Rankin	Concord Engineering & Surveying, Inc.	Yes	
Linda Rimer	Federal Interagency Committee	Yes*	Subject to Mgmt Approval
Julie Stamper	Local Government Committee	Yes	
Richard Taylor	NC 911 Board	Yes	
Gary Thompson	Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources	Abstain	

Note: George Bakolia, representing the State Chief Information Officer did not vote. By statute, the State Chief Information Officer serves as a non-voting member. Sarah Koonts, who was absent, is also a non-voting member.

Dr. Mandell thanked the members for their serious consideration of this matter. He will contact the members who are not in attendance to get their vote.

The next step will be to prepare a short letter in opposition to Senate Bill 851, Section 2.9 and any proposed move of CGIA, with attached talking points. Dr. Mandell will work with the GICC members to obtain signatures. It emphasized again the importance of speaking with one voice. Mr. Caldwell emphasized the importance of moving quickly.

Dr. Mandell repeated that direct letters and personal contacts are also valuable. It is important not to just blindly copy the talking points but to include the unique perspectives of a member's organization.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the GICC will be August 8, 2012 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Department of Public Instruction Board Room, Room 755, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh.