

Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Summary of the May 17, 2023 Meeting

Introduction

Hope Morgan announced that all GICC meetings are in person, and that the virtual link is for guests and members who have an unavoidable conflict or are sick.

The next meeting will include a breakout session afterward so member can discuss data availability. Ms. Morgan encouraged all members to invite guests who are knowledgeable about data availability, access restrictions, and data extent. Please block extra time after the August 23rd meeting to participate in the data discussion.

Presentations

1. [NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint Project \(Elizabeth Christenson, Senior Policy Advisor, NCDEQ\)](#)

The North Carolina Resiliency Blueprint is a program aimed at developing a standardized approach and an online decision support tool for flood resiliency in the state. The program is funded by the General Assembly, with \$20 million allocated in 2021. The blueprint will help prioritize and implement flood resilience strategies across different watersheds in North Carolina. Christenson discussed the progress of the program, including the development of a draft process document, an online tool, and action strategies for specific watersheds. She also highlighted the need for data, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with technical advisory groups and community-centered engagement. The goal is to develop a comprehensive blueprint that visualizes flood risks, considers different mitigation strategies, and assesses the impacts and vulnerability of communities and infrastructure. The program is expected to continue beyond 2025 with periodic updates and ongoing stakeholder involvement.

2. [2023 NC GIS Conference Recap \(Tim Johnson, CGIA\)](#)

- The 2023 NCGIS Conference, held in Winston-Salem was attended by approximately 560 participants. Reviews were very positive with many participants reporting that in-person networking was an important benefit of attendance.
- Keynote speakers included NC DIT Secretary James Weaver, Bill Johnson, and Joseph Kerski.
- 29 posters were submitted to the poster session, and Jeff Hyder of Madison County won with an amazing 3D topographic model created from lidar data.
- The awards luncheon was moved to Thursday from Friday resulting in more participants attending the luncheon. Outstanding service awards were presented to Gary Thompson, Pam Carver, Silvia Terziotti, and Art Rex. Herb Stout Innovative Student Paper awards were presented to 13 students from 8 campuses from across the state. Herb Stout Visionary Use of GIS by Local Government awards were presented to Sallie Vaughn from Person County and the Forsyth CARES team (MapForsyth and Town of Kernersville).
- The North Carolina Neighbors session included GIS Coordinators and Directors from Georgia – Susan Miller, South Carolina – Adam DeMars, Virginia – Joe Sewash, and Tennessee - Dennis Pederson.

3. [Summary of Town Hall Session at NC GIS Conference \(Hope Morgan, Chair\)](#)

Hope Morgan discussed the number of participants in the conference and outreach meetings. She mentioned that there were 120 participants in the survey conducted during the outreach meetings

and 102 participants during the conference. The main focus of the conference was on the main GICC and the Local Government Committee.

Hope Morgan highlighted the importance of getting information out about the local government and mentioned that they received positive responses in this regard. She categorized the responses based on geospatial coordination at the state level, including standards, access to data, collaboration, consistency, and duplication.

Ms. Morgan provided examples of the feedback received, including the need for uniformity, avoiding duplication of effort, ensuring quality and uniformity, and promoting cross-jurisdictional collaboration. They emphasized the importance of making everyone's job easier and reducing duplicate requests. Data sharing and standards were identified as key areas of focus for the council.

Communication and collaboration were highlighted as areas where the organization had improved, along with the understanding of staffing needs. The speaker acknowledged that more staff couldn't be provided but emphasized the importance of raising awareness about the consistent need for staffing across different groups. However, communication and collaboration were also identified as areas that needed improvement.

4. GICC Goals and Priorities

Please review the attached goals and priorities and send comments by July 9th.

DRAFT

2021-2023 Geographic Information Coordination Council Goals and Strategic Direction

Committee Acronyms

GICC – Geographic Information Coordinating Council

LGC- Local Government Committee

SGUC – State Government GIS Users Committee

FIC- Federal Interagency Committee

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee

SMAC – Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Goal 1. Improve, expand, and support statewide geospatial data and applications.

1.1. Promote free and open discovery of and access to geospatial data created and maintained by local governments and support efficient local to state data sharing.

Access to local government datasets	LGC – promote value of data and share data hubs
Reduce redundant data requests and streamline processes	SGUC – define technical and policy solutions to promote single source data collection and sharing through NC OneMap

1.2. Recommend utility infrastructure solutions that maintain data sharing security to aid discovery and ease of access to geospatial data.

Local data access constrained by security policy	TAC - Propose secure data sharing options as recommended by providers.
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1.3. Support priority initiatives that compile and maintain statewide geospatial datasets that benefit the businesses and citizens of North Carolina.

Data standardization, development, and dissemination	SMAC- Prioritize streams, and administrative boundaries, elevation, buildings footprints
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Goal 1. Improve, expand, and support statewide geospatial data and applications.

1.5. Request all state agencies to make the Council’s priority geospatial datasets discoverable and accessible through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal.

Priority data accessible via NC OneMap	SMAC – define priorities and make recommendations SGUC – define technical and policy solutions
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1.6. Promote geospatial metadata for standard documentation.

Geospatial data documentation and protection	SMAC – provide metadata training resources and support implementation
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1.7. Support enterprise applications that derive business value from geospatial data assets and analytics.

Promote understanding of the enterprise capabilities of GIS	SGUC - educate management and IT departments about the value of GIS TAC – Assist with technical solutions
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1.8. Promote efficient data sharing of large datasets by recommending technical solutions

Promote access to previously difficult to share datasets	TAC- research solutions and make recommendations
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Goal 2. Collaborate and conduct outreach for more integration of geospatial data in information technology for expanded benefits in the geospatial community in North Carolina.

2.1. Identify opportunities to collaborate on GIS solutions in all state departments including divisions not directly represented on the Council to add value to state business processes.

Collaborate with State agencies to add value and prevent silos.	SGUC – Identify needs and opportunities; optimize GIS and IT resources.
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2.2. Identify opportunities to collaborate on geospatial data and technical solutions on a regional basis, engaging councils of government, educational institutions, metropolitan planning organizations, and rural planning organizations.

Collaborate on a regional basis, engaging councils of government.	LGC – identify opportunities in working groups
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2.3. Reach out to jurisdictions with the least resources to find ways to add value with geospatial data and applications.

Reach out to local governments with the least resources	LGC – identify needs and practical ways to assist SMAC – assist in technical support
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2.4. Increase awareness and adoption of Council initiatives and priorities through outreach and education

Engage the GIS community at the local, state, and federal level to promote initiatives	LGC, SGUC, FIC – Share opportunities for collaboration, promote initiatives, promote the value of GIS
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