



North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes

February 8, 2023

PRESENT

Hope Morgan (Chair), Steve Averett, Paul Badr, Amy Barron, David Baker, Kathryn Clifton, Bob Coats, Jason Dowdy, Stan Duncan, Dianne Enright, Dean Grantham, Joanne Halls, Pokey Harris, Jason Hedley, Matt Helms, Dan Kempton, Rich Elkins for Elaine Marshall, Chris Nida, Haley Pfeiffer-Haynes, Allan Sandoval, Allen Serkin, Brooks Tate, Gary Thompson, Linda Thurman, Christian Vose, Natalie Walton-Corbett, Melanie Williams, Eric Wilson, and Vanessa Wrenn

Staff: Tim Johnson, Colleen Kiley, CGIA

ABSENT

Jeremy Baynes, Seth Dearmin, Kristian Forslin, Sarah Koonts, Bill Shankle, and Tony Simpson

PROCEEDINGS

The council held its meeting in person at the Albemarle Building, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, and via Webex.

Welcome and Chair Announcements

Hope Morgan welcomed the committee to the first meeting of 2023. She announced committee chair updates. Jeremy Baynes has been appointed by the governor to be the federal representative to the GICC. As the federal representative, he is also the chair of the Federal Interagency Committee.

Pam Carver has stepped down from Co-Chair of the Seamless Parcels Working Group (SPWG). She has been instrumental in the success of the program and has served for many years. Katie Doherty from Rutherford County has stepped into her role.

Silvia Terziotti, who has been the USGS Liaison for North Carolina for many years, has been promoted to USGS Hydrography Science and Applications Lead. Silvia has served on the FIC and has kept the state informed of important grant opportunities and USGS programs. North Carolina will have a temporary USGS liaison until a permanent replacement is named.

Ms. Morgan announced that Jessica Middlebrooks, who has served as legal counsel to the GICC has stepped down. Heather Freeman has been assigned to assist the Council until a permanent replacement is made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting were approved for adoption with no changes.

Presentations

Upcoming 2023 NC GIS Conference Overview (Tim Johnson, CGIA)

Tim Johnson provided an update on the upcoming NC GIS Conference to be held in Winston-Salem March 7-10. Training opportunities will be offered by Carolina URISA on March 7th, followed by the conference March 8-10. The conference has been held since 1987, and this conference will be the 18th. Highlights will include a Wednesday Plenary Session with Bill Johnson presenting “Carpe Geo- A Field Guide to Enjoying Your Career Journey,” an awards luncheon with Joseph Kerski presenting “5 Forces, 5 Trends, and 5 Skills Pivotal to the GIS Community in the 2020s and Beyond,” Herb Stout Awards for students and local governments, an evening social with poster session, local and national firms as exhibitors, and seven concurrent sessions with 127 speakers. The conference will close with two important sessions: one that includes North Carolina’s state neighbors to speak about GIS in their states, and a final session that will be a town hall format to collect feedback from the GIS community.

National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC): Overview of Committee and Subcommittee Activities 2022-23 (Gary Thompson, NCGS, Bobbi Lenczowski, NGAC and John Mahoney, FGDC)

Gary Thompson, GICC Vice Chair and NGAC Chair, gave an overview of the NGAC and its duties and activities. He was joined by Bobbi Lenczowski, NGAC Vice-Chair and John Mahoney, Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) Senior Policy Advisor.

The duties of the NGAC are described in the Geospatial Data Act:

Per the Geospatial Data Act (GDA), the duties of the NGAC are:

- 1) provide advice and recommendations relating to –
 - a) the management of Federal and national geospatial programs;
 - b) the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure; and
 - c) implementation of the GDA;
- 2) Review and comment on geospatial policy and management issues; and
- 3) Ensure the views of representatives of non-Federal interested parties involved in national geospatial activities are conveyed to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

NGAC develops papers on emerging issues, advice on federal programs, and input on key federal initiatives. They also hold spotlight sessions on topics such as data sharing, workforce development, and emerging technologies. Committee members represent all sectors including private, non-profit, and academia as well as various levels of government.

John Mahoney provided an overview of the ways the NGAC provides focus and a venue for the stakeholder community to engage with federal agencies on topics of mutual concern. NGAC produces white papers and advice on federal programs for important issues which lately have included the Landsat program, public-private partnerships, the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure strategic plan. NGAC held four in-depth sessions to provide input to the FGDC climate mapping initiative under Executive Order 14008 which helped shape the Climate Resilience Information System.

Bobbi Lenczowski provided more detailed information on NGAC committees. The NGAC has many subcommittees including the Landsat Advisory Group Subcommittee, 3DEP Subcommittee, GDA

Reporting Subcommittee, Review of GDA Implementation, and Geospatial Excellence & Innovation. The Landsat Advisory Group focuses on a national perspective to include specific issues related to the program. The group is looking at the 2030 Landsat deployment and is seeking feedback to help them understand what scientific requirements will be for the products produced in the future.

Gary Thompson serves as Chair of the 3DEP subcommittee which, per requirements of the National Landslide Preparedness Act, provides a report on GDA implementation by this July. Two working groups, Trends and Developments and Program Management developed components of the report.

The GDA Reporting Committee reviews the FGDC report on activities from covered agencies. This committee makes recommendations for the future as well. The Review of GDA Implementation Subcommittee develops a summary paper with recommendations that can be incorporated into FGDC's GDA report to congress and reviews FGDC's implementation to identify areas needing improvement and makes recommendations.

The Geospatial Excellence and Innovation committee concentrates on approaches and opportunities for the geospatial community to enhance capabilities and initiatives. Its work includes developing an interim report on U.S. Geospatial Competitiveness in 2023.

Upcoming NGAC meetings will be held on April 11-12 and June 27-28. Information and registration instructions available at www.fgdc.gov/ngac . Gary asked the GICC community for suggestions for NGAC study topics.

Hope Morgan asked the presenters to clarify what the NSDI includes. John Mahoney answered that the concept of the NSDI has been around for about 30 years and has been an organizing principle for the development of national strategic plans that include data, personnel, and systems that all interact to advance the geospatial national capabilities.

GICC Outreach Sessions: What We Learned (Hope Morgan, Chair)

Hope Morgan gave a summary of the outreach meetings held during the fall of 2022. Over one hundred individuals participated across five different sites with some attending more than one meeting. Meetings included representatives from 23 different cities/towns, 27 counties, 2 federal agencies, 3 universities, 8 state agencies, 8 companies, 2 MPO's, 1 tribal government, and 1 nongovernmental organization.

Ms. Morgan provided an overview of feedback received from participants including how geospatial coordination at the state level impacts organizations, requested improvements from the GICC, and topics of interest to the community. More detail on these results can be found in the presentation linked above.

When asked if they were familiar with the Council and its committees, most participants were familiar with the GICC and the LGC, and the least were familiar with the FIC. Participants shared their thoughts on how geospatial coordination at the state level impacts their organizations. Answers included standards and reliable data, cost sharing, having a central data repository, eliminating duplication of effort, and understanding initiatives. Participants were asked how the GICC could be improved, and answers included more outreach, education for town officials on where to find data, more virtual meeting options to allow statewide participation without travel, and more clarity on what data is available and how often it is updated. Meeting participants weighed in on other topics of interest that they would like to hear more about. Some of these other topics included utility data, stormwater, transportation, equity, indoor modeling, and open data portals.

Ms. Morgan invited LGC Chair, Natalie Walton-Corbett, to speak about the outreach meetings and her efforts through the LGC. Ms. Walton-Corbett said that the LGC has greatly increased participation at its quarterly meetings to typically over a hundred participants, but with over 500 municipalities and 100 counties, there is still more to reach. The recent outreach meetings did reach new individuals that were not previously involved with the LGC. She said that in future outreach attempts the GICC should strive for greater name recognition so that people know that the GICC, LGC, and NC GIS conference are all associated with the same overall group.

Bob Coats stressed the need for two-way communication for outreach. He said that virtual meetings allow more participation across the state, but effective virtual meetings need to encourage participants to submit feedback and participate in the meeting. He said that a benefit to the in-person meeting format is that participants who feel uncomfortable talking in front of the group will talk one-on-one and share their thoughts during breaks and before or after meetings. Ms. Walton-Corbett stated that the LGC was using Menti to capture feedback from in-person and virtual attendees, and the platform was used during the outreach meetings. Ms. Morgan added that some feedback received during the events was that there is a need for GICC engagement with other non-GIS focused organizations that frequently interact with GIS staff. Participants gave a list of organizations other than the GICC such as the American Planning Association, state demographer, NCDOT, and those working on diversity and equity. Chris Nida recommended finding events or regular communication methods from these groups to which the GICC can contribute rather than attempting to add new pathways. Mr. Nida offered assistance in reaching out to organizations.

Overall reception of the outreach meetings was exceptionally positive. Many meeting participants were new to GICC events, and they provided valuable feedback for the council's future work.

Statewide Hydrography Dataset: Update (John Derry and Colleen Kiley, CGIA)

John Derry and Colleen Kiley of CGIA provided an update of the Hydrography Working Group (HWG). The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has produced a more accurate spatial dataset which has been attributed with state stream data by the Department of Transportation's (DOT) ATLAS program. This dataset was designed to support the ATLAS planning model and is not in a format that meets all stakeholder needs. The statewide ATLAS dataset is more accurate and contains more stream mileage than the current USGS 24K hydrography data. However, it is missing some key stakeholder needs such as waterbodies less than 2 acres, cartographic representation of hydrography, and "double line streams" or large rivers wider than 50 feet represented as polygons.

The HWG collected stakeholder needs through the fall outreach meetings, working group stakeholders, and SGUC and LGC engagement. The gaps identified during outreach will require a significant amount of work to complete, and there will likely be a need to secure additional funding beyond the investment made by DEQ and DOT. The focus of the working group this spring will be compiling NC Hydro specifications and a detailed review of each gap to determine what work would be needed to bring the ATLAS dataset to the NC Hydro specifications.

The discussion after the presentation focused on the federal dataset including the sunset of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and their plans to move to the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) using 1-meter digital elevation model derived hydrography. The USGS has published specifications for 3DHP data, but is revising it, seeking funding for the program, and is in the process of processing pilot areas in the country. The program is not finalized, and there could still be changes. The HWG has been working closely with the USGS to learn about the program status, understand their specifications, and discuss whether North Carolina's data may be able to be incorporated into a national dataset.

[GICC Goals for 2023 \(Hope Morgan, Chair and Colleen Kiley, CGIA\)](#)

Every two years the GICC reviews its priorities and goals for the next two years. The last review was in 2021, and the committee will spend some time at the next couple of meetings thinking, discussing, and finalizing its goals for 2023-2025. Ms. Morgan and Colleen Kiley led the committee through a series of questions to solicit feedback on needs and priorities that will inform the planning as it moves forward. Questions and answers from the planning session can be found at the link above. The council's answers to the following questions are contained in the provided link:

- What GIS community do you represent?
- Considering the stakeholders you represent on this council, what GIS needs are not being fully met?
- What data layers should we prioritize for update/completion/development over the next two years?
- What problems or issues related to GIS should we investigate over the next two years?
- What are the barriers to our effectiveness?
- If this committee were given unlimited funding for GIS, what issue or data would you fund first?

GICC members with additional feedback can send it to [Colleen Kiley](#). GICC members are encouraged to read the 2021-2023 goals and priorities and to consider what changes and updates should be made for the next period. The M&O will review the answers given during the feedback session as well as the current goals at its next meeting and begin the process of revising goals. The May GICC meeting will include a discussion of the current goals and what new or changed goals should be included for the next two years.

Committee Highlights

Ms. Morgan asked each committee chair to update the council on the committee's two most pressing goals for 2023. Paul Badr, Chair of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) said his committee's goals were to advance hydrography and continue to advance critical existing datasets such as orthophotography, 911 data, addressing, and lidar. Matt Helms, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) said his committee's goals were to move forward with the infrastructure study pending instructions from the GICC and begin to investigate best practices for storing and serving large datasets. Melanie Williams, Chair of the State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC) said her committee's two goals were to update standards for authoritative tagging for ArcGIS Online and to create a StoryMap to illustrate the value of GIS to state agencies. Natalie Walton-Corbett said the Local Government Committee's (LGC) goals were to continue to increase membership and engagement. Ms. Morgan provided the two goals for the Federal Interagency Committee (FIC), as the new chair, Jeremy Baynes, was unable to attend. The FIC's goals are to identify and communicate what data federal agencies need from the state and seek feedback on what data federal agencies can provide to the state.

2023 GICC Quarterly Meeting Dates

August 23
November 1