



# North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

## Minutes

May 17, 2023

### PROCEEDINGS

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

#### Welcome and Chair Announcements

Hope Morgan welcomed the council members and announced that after the August meeting there would be a data discussion. This discussion will take place in small groups for specific data topics, and will be held in the hour following the meeting. She encouraged members to stay for the discussion and invite colleagues to participate. Council guests can choose to attend the council meeting, or just attend the data discussions.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting were approved for adoption with no changes.

#### Presentations

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

Ms. Morgan handed over the floor to Elizabeth Christenson, who introduced herself as a policy analyst for the Department of Environmental Quality. Elizabeth thanked the Chair, board members, and members for the opportunity to speak. She briefly mentioned that she had been presenting at various conferences recently and was excited to discuss the North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint.

Elizabeth introduced her team members, Mark Rectenwald, Michelle Ferree, and herself, and highlighted their roles in the project. She described the history of flood resiliency work in North Carolina, including hazard mitigation plans, regional hazard mitigation plans, and climate risk assessment and resiliency plans. She explained that the North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint is building upon decades of flood resiliency work.

She shared that the blueprint is a result of legislation that allocated funding for its development. She explained the goals of the blueprint, which include developing a standardized approach and an online decision support tool for each major basin in North Carolina. The tool would help prioritize and implement flood resilience strategies. Elizabeth also mentioned that the blueprint should consider impacts on vulnerable communities and meet federal requirements like the Justice40 initiative.

Elizabeth discussed the two strategies for developing the blueprint – a statewide approach and a basin-specific approach. She emphasized that while the pilot project focuses on the Neuse River Basin, the goal is to address all major basins in North Carolina. She highlighted the importance of addressing data gaps, especially in modeling and understanding future conditions related to flooding and development.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions and answers. Members asked questions and discussed coordination with other states, data sharing, Identifying and prioritizing data updates, demographic data and its role in the blueprint, and community engagement and public meetings. Members engaged in a discussion about how data is managed and prioritized in the state. The concept of key data frameworks and the importance of coordination between agencies were highlighted. The need for regular updates and collaborations among different stakeholders was emphasized.

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

**Conference Highlights:** The conference was well-organized, and the opening plenary session featured Secretary Weaver from the Department of Information Technology, Ms. Morgan, and Bill Johnson, who gave the keynote speech on career journeys. There were over 100 speakers presenting in 7 concurrent sessions, and the conference also featured lightning sessions, where panel discussions were held for the local, state, and federal governments.

**Innovative Student Papers Awards:** The conference recognized 13 students from 8 different campuses across North Carolina for their innovative research papers. Each student received a \$200 check.

**Awards Luncheon:** The awards luncheon took place on Thursday rather than Friday this time, which was well-received as it kept attendees engaged throughout the event. Various awards were presented to local government projects and individuals who provided outstanding service to the community. Mr. Johnson introduced Michael Wallace from North Carolina Central University, one of the student award winners. Mr. Wallace said that one of the benefits for him, as someone beginning his career, was finding out about the GICC. He enjoyed learning the history of the evolution of GIS in North Carolina and the contributions that have been made in the past. Jason Clodfelter, one of the awards recipients from Forsyth County introduced Shaylee Bowen, their new Geographic Information Officer who shared her positive experience of the conference including the networking between old friends and new acquaintances. Mr. Clodfelter appreciated the work of the conference committee, the location, the food, and the networking opportunities.

**Poster Session:** The conference had 29 posters on display, and the winner of the poster session was Jeff Hyder from Madison County for his unique hydrographic model created from a wood block.

**Networking and Collaboration:** The conference provided ample opportunities for networking and collaboration, allowing participants to engage with each other, share experiences, and build meaningful connections. Attendees mentioned that they appreciated the open and friendly atmosphere.

Feedback and Suggestions: During the meeting, attendees provided their feedback and suggestions for improvement in future conferences. Some of the feedback included the following:

- More Interactive Sessions: Some attendees suggested having more interactive sessions, workshops, or hands-on activities to enhance the learning experience and engagement.
- Diverse Locations: Participants expressed interest in holding conferences in different locations across the state to provide better access to attendees from various regions.
- Longer Presentation Time: Some attendees mentioned that the presentation time slots felt too short and suggested allowing more time for speakers to present their topics adequately.
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Planning for Future Conferences: The executive committee will meet next week to evaluate the recent conference and discuss potential improvements. The selection of the location for the next conference in 2025 will also be made soon. The committee aims to continue delivering a successful and engaging conference experience for all participants.

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

Hope Morgan presented a summary of the town hall style session held at the conclusion of the conference. The GICC received responses from 120 participants during all of the outreach meetings and 102 participants during the conference.

The primary focus of the outreach meetings was to increase understanding about local government among the participants. During the conference, the Local Government Committee, represented by Natalie Walton-Corbett, shared many needs related to local government work. The Council and other committees were encouraged to review these needs.

Conference attendees discussed how geospatial coordination at the state level impacted their organizations. Categorizing the responses, it was found that data sharing and adherence to standards were the most common impacts. Participants appreciated the efforts in ensuring data consistency and avoiding duplication of effort. Communication and collaboration were also recognized as vital areas that required continuous attention.

Improvements and Focus Areas: Ms. Morgan continued with a focus on improvements made so far and areas that needed further attention. Improved communication and collaboration were highlighted as the main accomplishments of the recent efforts. Staffing, a recurring concern among attendees, was recognized as an important hurdle for efficiency and effectiveness.

Attendees discussed the key areas of focus for the next two years. Communication remained a priority, and the need for better data understanding and updates was emphasized. Addressing staffing needs and promoting knowledge sharing across the groups were also highlighted as significant areas for improvement.

The town hall concluded with an open discussion about the needs that were currently not being met and the future goals. Attendees shared their desires for improved equity, communication, and response in the geospatial coordination efforts. The importance of addressing these needs consistently across all groups was emphasized. Participants expressed interest in continuing to improve data understanding, update processes, and promote knowledge sharing. The desire for clear and efficient communication was reemphasized as a critical goal for future endeavors.

## GICC Goals for 2023-2025 (Hope Morgan, Chair and Colleen Kiley, CGIA)

Hope Morgan called upon Colleen Kiley to assist with a review of the goals for the upcoming year. Colleen presented the proposed goals, which had been thoroughly discussed with the chairs of different committees. The members were requested to review the goals and provide feedback for further refinement. The deadline for feedback submission was set for June 9th.

During the presentation of the goals, the topic of data management and handling big data arose. The challenges posed by the ever-increasing size of datasets were highlighted. Members discussed the need for a focus on efficiently managing and processing large datasets to ensure effective utilization and data sharing. This “Big Data” task was assigned to the Technical Advisory Committee.

The meeting participants discussed the consistent issue of staffing and resource constraints. Ideas were shared on how to address this challenge, including the possibility of creating a position for a data specialist or coordinator who could oversee data-related aspects and ensure consistent practices across the organization.

Collaboration and Outreach for Geospatial Data Integration: The importance of collaboration and outreach efforts was emphasized to ensure broader integration of geospatial data and information across different departments and organizations. The idea of creating a short video or multimedia content to showcase the benefits of data integration and emphasize the need for collaboration was discussed. The members discussed identifying key stakeholders and targeting specific conferences or events to reach the right audience. Emergency services and public safety departments were mentioned as important stakeholders who should be engaged to understand the value of geospatial data in their operations.

## Committee Reports

Committees presented a summary of their workplan tasks to the Council. They are provided at the end of these minutes. Each chair gave a summary of recent committee work.

**Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee:** Paul Badr provided an update on the Seamless Parcels Working Group. The working group discussed attributes that should be required, recommended, or optional for the state standard. They also explored the possibility of incorporating building and structure data into the dataset. Furthermore, they talked about the formation of a technical support team to assist counties with transforming their parcels to the state standard.

The Hydrography Working Group is drafting a report outlining the differences in NC DOT’s ATLAS hydrography data and other stakeholder requirements. They are also highlighting roles, responsibilities, and governance. The goal is to have the report ready by the August meeting.

The process of drafting and implementing the Elevation Business Plan has begun. Small groups have been established to work on different sections of the plan, including standards, data collection, economics, and case studies.

**Technical Advisory Committee:** Matt Helms reported that the Big Data Initiatives group will be meeting within the next month to discuss their plans and objectives.

**Local Government Committee:** Natalie Walton-Corbett shared updates on the efforts to increase awareness and support for local governments. The committee is working on communication strategies to help local governments understand how they can benefit from geospatial data and maintain accurate and up-to-date information.

**Federal Interagency Committee:** Jeremy Baynes mentioned that the committee is focused on increasing awareness and involvement of federal employees in geospatial initiatives. They are aiming to see a measurable increase in federal conference attendees by 2025.

**State Government GIS Users Committee:** Melanie Williams provided an update on ongoing efforts to increase awareness of geospatial tools and training opportunities for state agencies. The group is also working on consolidating hubs to centralize information sharing.

### Adjournment

Ms. Morgan thanked the council members and adjourned the meeting at 2:43.

### **2023 GICC Quarterly Meeting Dates**

August 23

November 1

## Member Attendance

<b>LastName</b>	<b>FirstName</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
Averett	Steve	Yes	City of Greensboro	
Badr	Paul	Yes	GPI, Geospatial Division	
Baker	David	Yes	NC Association of County Commissioners	
Barron	Amy	Yes	Duke Energy	
Baynes	Jeremy	Yes	US EPA	
Clifton	Kathryn	Yes	Davidson County	
Coats	Bob	Yes	Office of State Budget & Management	
Dowdy	Jason	Yes	CACI, Inc	
Duncan	Stan	Yes	Retired, State and Local Government	
Enright	Dianne	Yes	Department of Health & Human Services	
Forslin	Kristian	Yes	NC Railroad Company	
Grantham	Dean	Yes	Department of Environmental Quality	
Halls	Joanne	Yes	UNC Wilmington	
Harris	Pokey	Yes	NC 911 Board	
Hedley	Jason	Yes	Stewart Engineering	
Helms	Matthew		Charlotte Water	
Kempton	Dan	Yes	Department of Information Technology	
Koonts	Sarah	Yes	Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	
Marshall	Elaine F.	Yes	Office of Secretary of State	Rich Elkins
McCracken	Marty	Yes	Department of Justice	
Morgan	Hope	Yes	AECOM	
Nida	Chris	Yes	NC League of Municipalities	
Pfeiffer-Haynes	Haley		Department of Administration	
Sandoval	Allan	Yes	Department of Commerce	
Shankle	Bill		Tri South Commercial Realty	
Serkin	Allen	Yes	Cape Fear Council of Governments	
Simpson	Tony	Yes	Department of Revenue	Michael Connolly
Tate	Brooks	Yes	NC Utilities Commission	
Thompson	Gary	Yes	Department of Public Safety	
Thurman	Linda		UNC Charlotte	
Vose	Christian	Yes	Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	
Walton-Corbett	Natalie	Yes	Greenville - LGC representative	
Williams	Melanie	Yes	NCDEQ - SGUC Chair	
Wilson	Eric		Department of Transportation	
Wrenn	Vanessa		Department of Public Instruction	

## Committee Reports

### Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Task Item	Update
Assess the quality of statewide parcels, recommend enhancements to the master schema, and assist the NC Parcels Program with local participation.	<i>The Working Group for Seamless Parcels met April 12 to discuss attributes that should be required, recommended, or optional. Also, the possibility of incorporating building/structure data into the data set. With regards to assisting with local participation, the group talked about the formation of a technical support team to help those counties with the transformation of their parcels to the state standard.</i>
Define an approach and requirements for an enterprise dataset for surface waters as a Framework dataset, with an adopted schema to follow.	<i>A Hydrography Working Group report is being drafted to outline the differences in the ATLAS/DOT hydrography data and what other stakeholders are asking for. Document will also highlight data roles and responsibilities, governance and data dissemination. Goal is to have report ready by the August GICC meeting.</i>
Draft and Implement elevation business plan to update and maintain LiDAR data and derived web services	<i>First organizational meeting with regard to the plan was held April 17. Small groups have been established to draft different sections of the plan - standards and data collection, economics, and case studies.</i>

### Technical Advisory Committee

Task Item	Update
Produce infrastructure data best practices document outlining what data can be shared easily (and how) and what data cannot be shared.	<i>Report complete. Waiting on recommendations from GICC on next steps</i>
Review GICC concerns and develop responses; review requests and solutions in the context of NSDI	<i>Need feedback from GICC on priority tasks that the TAC can review and research.</i>
Define best practices and guidelines for data exchange interoperability. Identify any need for updated or additional state standards beyond the current set adopted by GICC and bring to the attention of the Management and Operations Committee.	<i>"Big data" task definition needed from the GICC.</i>

## Local Government Committee

Task Item	Update
Promote free and open discovery of and access to geospatial data created and maintained by local governments. Explore options to list open data hub sites in a central location.	<i>Discussions have begun on options for hub sharing. Exploring options.</i>
Create a Local Government Contact web map to ensure contact information is up-to-date as well as to inform GIS users in a particular geography of an upcoming emergency event.	<i>Coordinating with CGIA to host contact information and provide a method for local governments to keep it updated.</i>
Identify jurisdictions in need and practical ways to assist those in need; engage professional organizations in outreach and solutions when relevant.	<i>Working on this task in conjunction with the contact map to allow those who need help to see what nearby jurisdictions are willing to assist.</i>
Provide outreach to the local government GIS community to provide information on current projects and initiatives as well as solicit feedback on current projects and priorities.	<i>LGC meetings are evolving to include feedback opportunities, new professional spotlight opportunities to encourage new members to get involved, and increased attendance.</i>
Provide advice, guidance, and support to multiple GICC initiatives and projects.	<i>LGC members sit on working groups, have collaborated to distribute surveys, and await additional requests for assistance.</i>

## Federal Interagency Committee

Task Item	Update
Increase awareness and adoption of Council initiatives and priorities through outreach within federal agencies and recruitment of new FIC members.	<i>2 new FIC members were added to the Executive Committee, and members are working on increasing outreach to federal agencies</i>
Identify ways to share federal datasets in North Carolina and recommend ways to make priority datasets, including web services, discoverable through NC OneMap.	<i>Working to identify FIC members in key agencies that can provide updates. Need feedback from the state on what datasets and priorities need federal data on NC OneMap.</i>
Identify federal grant solicitations and consult with CGIA as the lead state agency in the development of proposals for cooperative projects that may support development or enhancement of geospatial datasets, methods, tools, or applications.	<i>Members notify CGIA of grant opportunities, but more feedback is needed from state agencies on what types of grants will be needed.</i>



## State Government GIS Users Committee

Task Item	Update
Support an enterprise license agreement to foster efficiency and effective application of GIS technology and practice.	<i>ELA negotiations will begin late this year. Members have been asked to provide feedback on software information they need to provide informed decisions.</i>
Identify common opportunities and requirements that support applications that derive business value from geospatial data assets and analysis.	<i>Working to increase awareness that GIS is not just "pretty maps" and that databases can be linked to other state databases for value added visualization and analysis.</i>
Identify training options and take advantage of training opportunities and resources.	<i>The SGUC has organized five group training classes for the summer. At the last meeting, CGIA provided a demo on free training options and how to create training plans for staff.</i>
Request all state agencies to make the Council's priority geospatial datasets discoverable and accessible through the NC OneMap. Also, support development of derivative data sets from framework data (data developed from LiDAR or land cover, for example).	<i>Discussing with CGIA the options for compiling a list of state hub sites. Working with members to raise awareness of the need to eliminate duplicative services as well as make datasets that are heavily used discoverable through NC OneMap.</i>
Share opportunities for collaboration, promote initiatives and the value of GIS (e.g., professional conferences, GIS Day, etc.).	<i>Summer intern will assist each agency in creating a storymap to demonstrate the value of GIS to the agency and public. The storymap will compile projects from all agencies that wish to participate into a single location.</i>
Identify opportunities to collaborate on GIS solutions in state departments and divisions not directly represented on the Council to add value to state business processes.	<i>Actively working to recruit members to general meetings from all agencies and increase awareness of the SGUC and its goals. Assistance is needed from GICC members who represent departments with light GIS use in reaching potential members to learn what projects are being developed and identify new opportunities for collaboration.</i>
Coordinate data development and knowledge sharing for mobile and UAV/drone emerging technologies, as well as others. Facilitate communication and cost-sharing knowledge among state agencies relative to these technologies. Rely on GIS TAC for a deep-dive into a specific technology.	<i>Recent meetings have included UAV related presentations, and the SGUC organized a meeting with the vendor to review UAV data collection and storage technology. The SGUC will continue to provide education as requested.</i>