



North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes

May 19, 2021

PRESENT

Alex Rankin (Chair), Steve Averett, Paul Badr, David Baker, Amy Barron, Katie Bordeaux, Kathryn Clifton, Bob Coats, John Correllus, John Cox, Greg Cox, Stan Duncan, Rich Elkins (for Secretary Elaine Marshall), Dianne Enright, Kristian Forslin, Dean Grantham, Joanne Halls, Pokey Harris, Jason Hedley, Matt Helms, Sarah Koonts, Scott Lokken, Hope Morgan, Chris Nida, Allan Sandoval, Brooks Tate, Gary Thompson, Christian Vose, Alice Wilson, Sarah Wray (for NCDOT), and Ron York

Staff: Tim Johnson, Colleen Kiley, Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA)

ABSENT

Seth Dearmin and Tony Simpson

PROCEEDINGS

The Council held its fifth meeting via Webex due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcome and Chair Announcements

Alex Rankin, Council Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members and visitors on the Webex call. Council staff conducted a roll call to ensure that a quorum was present; a quorum was confirmed with a simple majority of voting members of the Council in attendance. Mr. Rankin outlined some instructions for participating in this virtual meeting of the Council.

Chairman Rankin announced the passing of long-standing Council Member, John Gillis, Jr. after a battle with cancer. Mr. Gillis joined the council in 2007 and served as an appointee of the Senate. John brought his experience with private development, real estate, and military service to the Council, and his contributions to the Council were invaluable. He will be missed, and the Council's sympathy extends to his family and friends.

Terms for members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives have been notified of their term expirations, and the Council is awaiting reappointments and new appointments. Work is ongoing to fill open seats representing the N.C.

Community College System, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Department of Transportation.

The Geospatial Maturity Assessment, conducted through the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), is ongoing and will be completed by June 18th. In 2009, NSGIC launched the Geospatial Maturity Assessment as a national effort to document each state's geospatial data development and use, while supporting state spatial data infrastructures that contribute to a robust National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The GMA produces framework layer level and state level report cards, and North Carolina received an overall score of B⁺ in 2019. The GMA provides the Council a way to review the currentness, completeness, and availability of framework layers and plan for data gaps and necessary updates.

Chairman Rankin asked Rich Elkins, on behalf of Secretary Marshall, to speak about a new piece of legislation granting registers of deeds expanded ability to reject false lien filings. Previously, elected officials were protected, and the expansion includes registers of deeds who process routine forms. Mr. Elkins explained that the new legislation is an action that most people will not see or hear but could protect someone from losing their home to a fraudulent filing against their deed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved for adoption with no changes.

Presentations

Digital Coast Act: Steps in Implementation— Miki Schmidt, NOAA Office of Coastal Management
Miki Schmidt joined the GICC virtually from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) office in Charleston, South Carolina. He is the Chief of the Science and Geospatial Division for NOAA's Office of Coastal Management. Mr. Schmidt updated the Council on the Digital Coast platform and the Digital Coast Act strategy.

Mr. Schmidt explained that the goal of the Digital Coast platform is to provide actionable information for coastal communities to make more informed decisions. The platform is tailored to the needs of its broad constituents and is a partnership that includes many national organizations. NOAA meets regularly with stakeholder organizations to develop tools, prioritize investments, and develop strategies.

The Digital Coast provides resources and tools for both coastal and inland communities. Some states are well equipped and have the capacity they need for data and planning, but there are other smaller communities and states around the country who continue to see the Digital Coast as their prime resource. Organizations that lack capacity can quickly visualize information for various resources and look at it without having to have in house capacity to process their own data.

Data is one resource on the Digital Coast platform. There are almost three thousand data sets accessible through the Digital Coast. The platform provides access to data hosted by NOAA and its partners including state data. Data is viewable through tools that also provide analysis, reporting, and snapshots of topics. Flood vulnerability, wetland values, economic impact of the blue economy, a sea level rise viewer, and stormwater impacts are examples of tools and data available. In addition to these tools, there are resources for how to apply the tools and data to issues, for instance, risk and

vulnerability communication resources. Lastly, the Digital Coast platform contains narratives from around the country demonstrating how the resources are being used for decision making.

The Digital Coast partnership has produced a [strategic plan](#), which Mr. Schmidt encouraged the Council to read. He explained that the strategic plan listed gaps, which is where opportunities exist to prioritize and advocate for resources.

The Digital Coast Act (DCA) was signed into law in 2020 codifying what the Digital Coast community had been working on for over a decade demonstrating national support to grow and sustain the Digital Coast resources. In the Act, there is a call for a greater focus on filling gaps in resources in underserved areas and integrating new data into decision support tools. It calls for the development and sharing of best practices, increased fellowships and partnership opportunities, and improvement of the user experience on the Digital Coast.

Some of the datasets called out in the Act for filling gaps are coastal elevation, land use and land cover, socioeconomic and human use, critical infrastructure, structures, living resources and habitat, cadastral, and aerial imagery data. The Act requires interagency coordination and coordination with the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, and the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act.

Mr. Schmidt concluded his presentation with an update on a pilot land cover change analysis project. The traditional 30-meter land cover resolution has not met user needs, so NOAA has been pursuing a new 1-meter landcover product. A pilot project in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties employs the new technologies.

Chairman Rankin opened the floor for questions and posed the first, asking whether utilities and infrastructure information were a difficult dataset to obtain. Mr. Schmidt said that they are currently assessing gaps, and through partnerships, they hope to overcome some of the reluctance around sharing infrastructure data. Alice Wilson inquired how small communities with few resources could work with the tools and seek assistance. Mr. Schmidt said that assistance is a big part of what they do, including staff for technical assistance and responding to questions. The Digital Coast Academy can be searched for topics, if a community knows what kind of training they need. Joanne Halls asked how academic institutions can become involved at the partnership level to help the State of North Carolina's goals. Mr. Schmidt said that contacting a NSGIC partner like Tim Johnson or your state Coastal Management Division or by being a part of any of the partnering organizations, you can learn ways to become involved. He also said that the DCA encourages expanded partnerships which should provide additional opportunities for involvement. Hope Morgan thanked Miki and the Digital Coast because the Digital Coast helped North Carolina provide public access to its Lidar data when it lacked the resources to distribute the data. She also said that the state has benefited from the tools, training, and resources available on the Digital Coast platform. Tim Johnson stated that the Working Group for Landcover is excited about the pilot project and is interested in talking more about the work once the data is released.

Update: Committee Bylaws Updates– Colleen Kiley, CGIA

Colleen Kiley of CGIA presented updates to the Federal Interagency Committee (FIC), Management and Operations Committee (M&O), and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) bylaws. The bylaw updates concentrated on four areas; updating General Statute references, standardizing language across the bylaws of all committees, and updating language to reflect current committee operation.

To reflect current committee operation, the M&O received updates to include a vice chair and to specify a member of CGIA as the secretary. The FIC received updates to the purpose to reflect the role of the Geospatial Data Act. The TAC received similar updates to vice chair and secretary language as well as an update to specify the need for additional meetings of the committee with subject matter experts. The bylaw updates were presented, and the Council unanimously voted to approve them for the FIC, M&O, and the TAC.

DHHS and COVID-19 Response: Part I– Dianne Enright, DHHS

Dianne Enright began her presentation with a look back to the 1918 flu and presented posters and media encouraging mask wearing, noting that even over one hundred years ago, there were anti-mask campaigns. She next presented a time series of maps displaying the spread of COVID-19 across counties in the state during the first few months of the pandemic. DHHS produces a series of daily maps to relay COVID-19 metrics, and the department has an interactive dashboard and information on their website.

DHHS leveraged GIS resources throughout the pandemic. Early on, they identified daycare centers within three miles of hospitals to request that they remain open during the lockdown to care for healthcare workers' children. GIS was also a tool to review school and nutrition programs, because for many children, the school free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs are their main source of food. In collaboration with N.C. Emergency Management, sources of food services, such as food pantries and senior meal services were mapped, and locations were edited by multiple agencies to make sure that vulnerable populations were able to receive food. DHHS also tracked counties with facilities available for those who needed to quarantine outside of their home.

COVID-19 testing was tracked by county and zip code. A particular project reviewed testing access in vulnerable populations including minority populations. Census data was used to identify areas with high minority populations and two or more chronic conditions, and testing site locations were evaluated to make sure testing sites were opened in those areas. DHHS also evaluated areas with high Hispanic/LatinX and Native American populations to open new testing centers where gaps existed to improve access. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and population percentage vaccinated were used as two metrics to target areas with low vaccination rates and high SVI with additional vaccination sites.

Chairman Rankin opened the floor for questions. Paul Badr asked about vaccination rates, and Ms. Enright directed everyone to the DHHS website, where vaccination rates are updated daily. Mr. Badr also asked if there were surprises in the data. Ms. Enright said that the rapid early spread was surprising, and that only three zip codes in the state were without a single case. Mr. Rankin asked if DHHS was tracking any reinfections. Ms. Enright said they were not tracking reinfections, but academic institutions were studying it.

2021-2023 GICC Goals and Strategic Direction– Colleen Kiley and Tim Johnson, CGIA

Tim Johnson and Colleen Kiley of CGIA presented the draft goals and strategic direction for the next two years. Mr. Johnson introduced the topic and outlined the timeline of the process. One of the Council's important functions is to set the direction for the Council activities based on community needs. The M&O reviewed the previous goals and discussed each goal at its March meeting. The result of the M&O meeting was a revision of the previous goals to reflect the intended direction of the Council for 2021 through 2023. Goals were combined, edited, removed, and added. At the current GICC meeting, the goals will be presented and discussed by the full council. Between the

May and August meetings, the goals will be revised, and the M&O will consider workplan tasks for the GICC committees. At the August GICC meeting, a vote will finalize the goals.

Colleen Kiley then presented each goal, giving the benefit, an expected action, and an example of how each goal has been or is expected to be implemented. Below is a summary of the information presented for each goal.

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.

Improved access to local government datasets	Promote the value of local data.
Ex. Coordination through local governments to provide parcels, addresses, streets, and municipal boundaries.	

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

Improved access to security constrained data when possible	Clarify policies, risks, needs, and alternatives.
Ex. The TAC is currently reviewing infrastructure data sharing policies and procedures.	

1.3. Continue to support initiatives that compile and maintain statewide geospatial datasets that benefit the businesses and citizens of North Carolina.

Data standardization and dissemination	Prioritize streams and municipal boundaries.
Ex. Priority datasets include orthophotography, Road networks, Parcels, Lidar elevation, geodetic control. Working on municipal boundaries, surface waters, and updating addresses.	

1.4. Find solutions to make data sharing local-to-state more efficient to meet the needs of multiple statewide datasets and not place undue burden on local geospatial data managers.

Reduce redundant data requests and streamline processes.	Identify needs and technical solutions.
Ex. Parcels and roads are a success story. Expand to municipal boundaries and addresses, leveraging data in NextGen 911.	

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	Prioritize datasets and define sharing policies.
Ex. Continuously working with state agencies to add data. Voting districts were added in 2020-21, working on Lidar and elevation.	

1.6. Promote geospatial metadata for standard documentation.

Geospatial data documentation and protection	Metadata training and implementation
Ex. SMAC metadata committee has an annual review of metadata tools and standards.	

1.7. Support applications that derive business value from geospatial data assets and analytics.

Geospatial Services from existing investments	Identify requirements and define technical solutions.
Value added applications from existing investments	Identify common opportunities and requirements.
Ex. Refresh of AddressNC using NextGen911 with plans for geocoding tool. NCDOT plans for networked road layer using data collected from local governments.	

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 state departments and divisions not directly represented on the Council to add value to state business processes.

Collaborate with non-GICC State agencies to add value.	Identify needs and opportunities; optimize GIS and IT resources.
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Ex. SGUC bylaws changed to bring additional departments into the SGUC EC.

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.	Identify opportunities in working groups
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Ex. LGC recently reached out to the COGs to begin the discussion on regional collaboration opportunities.

2.3. Reach out to jurisdictions with the least resources to find ways to add value with geospatial data and applications.

Assist Local Governments in statewide initiatives.	Identify needs and practical ways to assist.
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Ex. LGC surveyed members identifying communities in need of resources and communities with the ability to help.

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 GICC initiatives.	Share opportunities for collaboration, promote initiatives, promote the value of GIS
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Ex. This task is new, and we expect it to be a general outreach and education task for all committees.

After the presentation, the Council held a discussion about the goals. Alice Wilson stated her support for the second goal, especially in coordination with communities that lack resources. Paul Badr suggested that engaging more in social media, especially Linked-In. John Correllus indicated that the NC DIT communications group could assist with ways to better communicate with a wider community. He also suggested that engagement of the private sector, and not just local, regional, and state government should be part of the goals. Greg Cox asked if there was a set of metrics to measure where we are today and where we will be in two years to assess the effectiveness of the goals. Tim Johnson said that it is easier to assess progress on framework datasets, but that progress made in collaboration is more subjective. Alice Wilson added that more work can be done in sharing and collaborating on data development, so they are not done in silos. Tim Johnson suggested that quarterly GICC highlights sent to the GIS community could be a way to increase awareness of the Council’s initiatives. Alice Wilson added that some organizations have a newsletter. Greg Cox offered a final suggestion for a goal relating to community outreach to solicit from the public what things would be helpful to them.

The conversation wrapped up with a request from Alex Rankin and Tim Johnson to look at the goals, discuss them in the committees, and send suggestions to CGIA for incorporation into the goals for final discussion in August.

Wrap-up of 2021 Virtual NC GIS Conference – Tim Johnson, CGIA

Tim Johnson presented an overview of the 2021 virtual GIS Conference. The first virtual conference was held February 17-19, 2021. There were 786 attendees, 30 vendors, and 72 sessions. Due to the flexibility of a virtual conference, attendees were attracted from across the nation. The conference took place over three days, with a half a day of sessions daily to reduce Zoom fatigue. Conference topics were varied to reflect the varied interests in the GIS community. A virtual conference will be held again in 2022 due to uncertainty over travel. The conference will return in person again in 2023.

Committee Reports

Due to the length of the meeting business, the committee reports were provided in written form as an attachment to the agenda. They are provided here as an addendum.

Member Announcements

Bob Coats announced that the Office of State Budget and Management submitted comments to the recent Federal Register Notice concerning proposed changes to the criteria for urban areas and that the deadline for responses is May 20. He also announced that there is a virtual conference featuring the head of the central Census redistricting office with topics including the new differential privacy method and the Count Question Resolution process. He encouraged attendance on May 26 from 1pm to 3pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Chair requested and received a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Presentations given at this [meeting](#) are on the Council [website](#).