



North Carolina  
Geographic Information Coordinating Council  
Local Government Committee

**NCGICC**

MINUTES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

June 2, 2021- 2:00PM

PROCEEDINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Local Government Committee (LGC), a committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC), was held on June 2, 2021.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Josh Norwood, Pender County, NCLGISA  
Ben Strauss, Wake County, NCACC  
Natalie Walton-Corbett, City of Greenville, NCLM  
Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, NC-APA (LGC Chair)  
Pam Carver, Henderson County, CURISA representative  
Todd Shanley, Cabarrus County, GICC Appointee

Others:

Wright Lowery, Wake County, Hydrography Working Group  
David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Working Group for Census Geospatial Data  
Marcus Bryant, City/County of Durham, TAC, SMAC, Working Group for Municipal Boundaries  
Sallie Vaughn, Person County, TAC Infrastructure Working Group, WGEER  
David Giordano, CGIA, Staff to the GICC  
Colleen Kiley, CGIA, GIS Coordination Program Manager  
Matthew McLamb, CGIA, Assistant Director  
Tim Johnson, CGIA, Director  
Joanne Halls, PhD UNC Wilmington Department of Earth and Ocean Science  
Matt Hutchins, Senior Resiliency Analyst NEMAC/Fernleaf  
Elena Studier, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
James Wu, UNC Wilmington Department of Earth and Ocean Science  
CJ Jordan, Applicant services director, NCORR

Absent members:

Crystal Burnett, Brunswick County, NCPMA  
Aarti Sharma, Centralina COG, ACRED

WELCOME

Alice Wilson called the meeting to order and welcomed members and representatives.

## MINUTES

Motions and voting for approval of the February 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes occurred.

### MEMBER AND REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Four members have terms expiring in 2021: Aarti Sharma, Alice Wilson, Natalie Walton-Corbett, and Pam Carver. Additionally, Alice Wilson will step down as chair, and a request was put forth to the membership for nominations for the next Chair. Those interested, or those with a nomination should reach out to Alice Wilson or Colleen Kiley with names. The SMAC and TAC representatives have terms expiring. Tobin Bradley was voted to continue on the TAC, and Alice Wilson was voted to continue on the SMAC as the LGC representatives.

### RESILIENCY PROJECTS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. Joanne Halls presented "Example NC Coastal Resiliency Projects." Dr. Halls focused on examples of projects from the past 3 years. She reviewed some of the coastal issues that include flooding, stormwater management, sea level rise variation, and marsh changes. In response to hazards and environmental and human vulnerabilities, there are resiliency strategies that can be employed including open space preservation/reclamation, critical infrastructure mitigation, construction standards, buyouts, land use regulations, shoreline adaptation strategies, and emergency management.

Dr. Halls presented an overview of seven projects covering the following topics:

- Flood risk and wealth
- Flood vulnerability in coastal NC
- Flood risk and wetland change assessment
- Barrier island habitat and geomorphology mapping
- Tidal creek habitat change analysis
- Drone based wetland mapping

For her study of flood risk and wealth, Dr. Halls reviewed the percentage of county area within the 100-year flood zone and county wealth across the United States over time. Her results showed that for areas with high flood risk and low income, over time, those areas moved toward moderate wealth. In a similar project, her group reviewed the social vulnerability index in relation to high flood risk to identify areas with high flood risk and highly vulnerable populations.

In a Pender County study, Dr. Halls looked at wetland change, whether urban development was correlated with flood potential, and whether change was occurring in flood prone areas. Using a variety of methods to map landcover and detect changes, the research team quantified forest, agriculture, and wetland loss as well as urban growth. In developing areas, the research team looked at flood vulnerability to identify areas of growth into flood prone areas.

Dr. Halls included a review of remotely sensed data to identify the best source for habitat and geomorphologic mapping. Her team mapped marsh changes and geomorphology to identify shoreline change, island movement, and inlet migration.

James Wu, a Master's degree student, mapped storm tracks and shelter use for 5 recent hurricanes, and created evacuation simulations to assist local governments in planning for shelter locations and capacities.

Matt Hutchins presented "Resilience Planning Process, Tools, and Data". He began by defining resilience as the capacity of both communities and businesses, but also the natural environment, to respond to and recover from disruptions. NEMAC+ FernLeaf is a public/private partnership for resilient solutions located in Asheville and working throughout the southeast. He stated that a big part of the process is identifying threats and hazards, so they rely on trusted sources information from federal state also local sources. Some of the threats that are included in the planning process are flooding, sea level rise, earthquakes, extreme heat, water shortage and hazardous materials. Mr. Hutchins recommended two resources: the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) and the NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer. In the planning process, community assets are reviewed including property and public services, roads and mobility, economic factors, and population and socioeconomics. This part of the planning process evaluates how vulnerable populations and critical facilities could be impacted. Mr. Hutchins presented examples from a study in New Bern of physical and social vulnerabilities to flooding and storm surge. Mr. Hutchins demonstrated a tool called AccelAdapt that provides access to all assessments, parcel level analysis, and city-wide maps, analytics, and socioeconomics. From the resilience planning process, local governments should expect to see priorities and actions. The planning process should be co-developed with local staff, and can be limited by staff capacity.

Elena Studier presented "NCORR: ReBuild NC Strategic Buyout Program." She introduced Monika Jani, the Chief Recovery Officer for NCORR. The NCORR program is in the Department of Public Safety, and administers support for homeowner recovery, affordable housing, mitigation, strategic buyout, local government grants and loans, and rent and utility assistance. Ms. Studier focused her presentation on the buyout program, which works to empower N.C. property owners by buying them out of storm damaged homes and incentivizing them to move to areas of lower risk. The homes are then demolished and converted to open space in perpetuity. The program is entirely voluntary, and to participate, applicants must seek out the program and can pull out at any time prior to acquisition. The program is collaborative with the state, local governments, and homeowners. The buyout program can be a powerful tool to permanently reduce risk and increase resiliency in buyout areas.

Ms. Studier outlined the multi-step buyout process. After an in-depth review of eligibility and property appraisals and inspections, the home may be bought out, which is followed by demolition, restoration, and transfer of the property to the local government for open space. Buyouts are targeted in Disaster Risk Reduction Areas (DRRAs). DRRA establishment involves intense collaboration with local governments and has a goal of leaving communities more cohesive while allowing for more effective, long term mitigation planning. Each DRRA is supported by a local ReBuild NC Center to provide in-person direct support to homeowners throughout the process.

Data allows NCORR to target areas with the greatest need, highest probability of success, and with local government priorities. Four major data categories contribute to the initial siting of DRRAs: Severe Repetitive/Repetitive Loss, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Registrants, FEMA Individual Assistance

Recipients, and Floodplain data. Initial DRRA areas are revised using local input to better align with local priorities and to concentrate buyouts.

NCORR is still developing its GIS capacity and is working on more efficient and effective ways to do business. Some data gaps that it would like to work with local governments to fill are actual damage indicators, such as addresses with substantial damage or records of emergency calls placed during storm events. NCORR would like to find more information on long term recovery group information including where unmet needs are located and where investments have been made. Other resiliency efforts are a third topic of interest including where other resilience investments are located or where stormwater management efforts are planned.

#### GICC TOPICS

Ms. Wilson reviewed the GICC topics relating to this committee from the May 19th GICC meeting.

The GICC had a presentation from Micki Schmidt of NOAA on the Digital Coast Act and Digital Coast website. Mr. Schmidt presented an overview of the website including tools for local governments, training resources, mapping applications, and data.

Dianne Enright from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) offered a presentation about COVID response. She demonstrated how DHHS tracks infection spread and rates by zip code and county, and how DHHS used Census data to target areas in need of increased COVID testing, and then vaccination resources.

The 2021-2023 GICC priorities were sent to LGC members after the meeting.

#### BRIEF UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Alice moved into the next topic, the updates from committees and working groups.

##### Working Group for Enhanced Emergency Response

The March round table discussion centered around discussing data and applications needed for events other than hurricanes.

##### Working Group for Seamless Parcels

There have been 58 updates this quarter so far, and the committee discussed educational and outreach efforts that could increase the frequency of participation in updates.

##### Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation

Imagery for 2020 was delivered via mail in November. NC OneMap is hosting the imagery. The Eastern Piedmont collection is complete with a deliver timeline of mid-November 2021. The 2022 Northern Piedmont and Mountains collection has been funded and will follow a similar timeline to this year's collection with delivery in November 2022. NAIP imagery is available and is available through multiple sources.

Systematic issues with the recent Lidar collection will result in a delay in delivery. Originally planned for May 2021, the data will be delivered in the fall. There were some challenges combining the Lidar and coastal topobathy data. The 2020 Sparta lidar earthquake collection was QL1. NCEM is working on the QC for contours created from the Lidar data.

#### Hydrography Working Group

The Hydro working group is concentrating on a schema for the data and evaluating whether the data produced by the Atlas project could be brought into the Elevation Derived Hydrology dataset or the National Hydrography Dataset. The schema will include local needs and have time for local review.

#### Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Other than the items already covered by other working group updates, the NextGen 911 is progressing. Eight-five PSAPs are at i3 ready status, 24 are processed with ALI and 3 processed without ALI, and 3 remaining to be processed.

DOT has updated GIS data for the second quarter including roads, rails, crossings, stations, bridges, and major signs. The roads and transportation working group may be reinvigorated to look at road centerlines and routing.

#### Census 2020

A webinar was held by Bob Coats and Mike Cline with speakers from the U.S. Census Bureau that contained useful information on redistricting data. The first release of the redistricting data is due August 16<sup>th</sup> with the final version following in September. The first release will have a similar format to what was released in 2020, and the later data will be in an easier to use format. The data will allow local governments to evaluate whether there are population imbalances in their districts. There will be additional data included: population in group quarters by type. Some geography files have been released that can be downloaded now. Practice data can be obtained to allow governments to develop methods to handle the upcoming releases of data. The upcoming Count Question Resolution process will be a yearlong process.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The ESRI user conference is free this year and virtual.
- NCAUG is also having a virtual conference, and a call for presentations is out.
- Some ArcGIS Pro classes now count for AICP credits.

#### ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

LGC's web page on the GICC website: <http://it.nc.gov/gicc-local-government-committee-lgc>.