North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes
August 14, 2013

PRESENT

Chair, Stan Duncan. Members: Jay Bissett, Bob Brinson, Marc Burris, James Caldwell, Kathryn Clifton, John Cox, Hugh Devine, John Dorman, Ryan Draughn, Chris Estes, John Farley, John Gillis, Derek Graham, Matt Helms, Bliss Kite, Elaine Marshall, Tim Muhs (for Dan Madding), Anne Payne, Stephen Pelfrey (for David Baker), Sarah Porper (for Art Pope), Alex Rankin, Linda Rimer, Hunter Robinson, Allan Sandoval, Richard Taylor, Keith Werner, and Ron York

Staff: Tim Johnson, CGIA

ABSENT

Dianne Enright, Sarah Koonts, Sharon Rosado, Colleen Sharpe, and Rebecca Troutman

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council was held in the Board Room of the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. Chair Stan Duncan called the meeting to order. Mr. Duncan noted that the meeting will be recorded to facilitate the preparation of the minutes and asked that everyone speak into the microphones.

<u>Chair Announcements</u>

Mr. Duncan expressed his pleasure at being named the chair of the GICC. He has met several of the members and looks forward to meeting and working with all the members. Mr. Duncan is the Henderson County Assessor and Tax Collector. He previously spent 21 years in the NC Department of Revenue as a Valuation Specialist and before that worked in the private sector for an appraisal firm.

He learned early how hard it is to appraise property without a map and most rural areas did not have maps or aerial photography when he started his career. In the 1970's he initiated a mapping project in Moore County and quickly learned the value and benefits of being able to identify properties. Progress since then has been very exciting and the opportunities in the future are equally exciting as maps and digital geospatial data are critical for not just tax purposes but countless other purposes. A foundation of real property mapping at the county level has served as a starting point for the many applications and uses of the agencies represented on the GICC. He encouraged everyone to please contact him, by phone or email, regarding any issues or concerns. He wants to learn how the work of the Council can contribute to the mission of the agencies around the table and how the members can better support the mission of the Council.

Mr. Duncan announced that Senator Berger reappointed to the GICC John Gillis, Gillis Group Partnership, who represents the Farming and Land Development sector, and Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the NC 911 Board. Senator Berger also appointed Matt Helms, Senior Business Analyst with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, to the Council. Mr. Duncan welcomed Kathryn Clifton, City of Salisbury, as the new chair of the Local Government Committee. An appointment of a county government representative representing the Association of County Commissioners is still on hold.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting were approved with no changes.

Legislative Actions

House Bill 301. Mr. Duncan introduced Gary Thompson, NC Geodetic Survey, and Andrew Ritter, Executive Director of the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBELS). House Bill 301, which was signed into law on June 12, 2013, includes a grandfathering clause for licensing GIS professionals that perform GIS surveys. The new legislation waives the examination requirement for those presently practicing GIS who meet certain education and experience requirements. The waiver (grandfathering) will be in effect until July 1, 2014.

The license board has prepared a package for GIS professionals to apply for a license, available at the NCBELS website (http://www.ncbels.org/). An individual performing GIS surveys is eligible through the grandfathering process to become a professional land surveyor practicing in their area of competency. Requirements include seven years of experience, two of which being in charge of the work product. Applicants also must provide proof of education and employment.

Mr. Ritter said that NCBELS met with many GIS groups over the last two years to explain the plan. He encouraged those interested in obtaining the license to visit the website and to apply under the grandfathering clause before July 1, 2014. After that an applicant will have to take the rigorous 16-hour examination. Mr. Helms asked if the classification is for a mapping professional. Mr. Thompson said yes and that it applies to anyone who had been performing those types of surveys. Questions should be directed to Mr. Ritter.

[Editor's Note: After the meeting, to provide clarification, Mr. Thompson said that individuals that are grandfathered will be licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor and they will practice in their area of competency, which will be GIS mapping (56.1608). This is the same model that engineers use. All licensed engineers have the title of Professional Engineer, but they practice in their area of competency (civil, electrical, chemical, etc.). NCBELS used the same language when photogrammetrists were grandfathered in 1999. They received a Professional Land Surveyor license, but they practice in their area of competency (photogrammetry).]

John Farley asked if someone representing NCBELS could make a presentation at the SGUC meeting on August 22. Mr. Ritter will find someone to attend.

House Bill 636. Ryan Draughn reported on House Bill 636, which directs the GICC to ask the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) to change an objectionable name of a creek in Union County in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Mr. Draughn reported that the objectionable name was changed to an approved name in 1985. The situation arose because the name is still on old maps.

In light of this issue the SMAC and the NC Board on Geographic Names (NCBGN) plan to be proactive about notifying GIS practitioners and others that manage databases with geographic names about official name changes in the GNIS that were handled by NCBGN. The SMAC approved and implemented a Communications Plan to ensure a wide dissemination of all name changes recommended by the NCBGN and approved by USBGN. A list of all name changes handled by the NCBGN since its inception is now posted on the GICC and the NC OneMap websites. In addition, announcements of all changes during the previous quarter will be distributed to various list servs and distribution lists and to county GIS Coordinators.

Secretary Marshall said that part of the problem is that there are lots of old maps and other materials still in use that have the old names. Her office has received complaint calls about the existence of objectionable names on old maps. Mr. Duncan noted that the problem is not limited to maps but also on old deeds and plats, which in many cases are the only historical, recorded record. Secretary Marshall asked if there is a way to encourage people to update current records and databases.

Mr. Draughn reported that as part of the Communications Plan, a letter will be sent to the county manager, and where appropriate the city manager, about all changes. Mr. Duncan noted that the letter will ask the county/city managers to inform the GIS, Land Records, and Planning offices and others about the changes. Secretary Marshall agreed that the Council and the SMAC need to be proactive.

Other Legislative Matters. Mr. Duncan reported that the budget bill included references to the role of CGIA in reviewing GIS projects in state government. The language is vague and Mr. Duncan and Tim Johnson plan to meet with members of the General Assembly to clarify the intent and the range and scope of the language in the legislation.

Committee Reports

Management and Operations Committee (M&O). Mr. Duncan said that the M&O Committee has been focused on work of the Metadata Committee and the statewide seamless parcel project, which will be covered in detail later in this meeting. He noted that he is a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). A recent IAAO publication focused on efforts to collect parcel data at various levels. North Carolina's seamless parcel effort is an example of these efforts. Attendance at national conferences make clear that North Carolina is ahead of most other states in terms of coordinating statewide programs for the development of parcel data, orthoimagery and LiDAR. The GICC should be proud of this recognition.

He added that one of the primary beneficiaries of a seamless, statewide parcel database will be the General Assembly. Members frequently ask for data about how a bill will affect counties, municipalities or state government. Without complete, consistent and up-to-date data, it is difficult to answer those questions. Telling a legislator that we only have a 30% response to a question is

unacceptable. Mr. Duncan made the point that a statewide seamless parcel database and other complete statewide datasets are fundamental needs and require the full attention of the Council.

The M&O Committee is developing a charter for a Census Working Group. He noted that at the Esri Users Conference in San Diego in July, Tim Trainor with the Census Bureau recognized North Carolina as a leader in terms of collecting addressing data and is one of two states from which the Census Bureau plans to acquire statewide address data. Mr. Duncan noted that in western states, municipalities are often the best or only source of address data. Address data outside the municipality is unavailable. Further, where address data exists, it is not geocoded. While North Carolina may be ahead of many states regarding the management of address data, the state still has a long way to go in terms of updating and maintaining accurate address data.

NC OneMap Governance Committee. The M&O received a report on the usage statistics for NC OneMap. Hits in June were much higher than previously and there were significantly more downloads. Hits during the week are five times more than weekends but weekend visits are much longer. He suggested that businesses are visiting during the week to view or download data but not lingering. Mr. Duncan said Mr. Draughn has suggested an exit survey to better learn why users visit NC OneMap and if they are finding what they need. Mr. Duncan asked that GICC members submit suggestions to Mr. Draughn on how to design a survey and to interpret usage statistics. The Governance Committee is considering a website redesign and welcomes ideas for improving the interface.

Local Government Committee (LGC). Kathryn Clifton said she appreciated the opportunity to serve as chair of the LGC. She thanked the GICC for approving the revised LGC bylaws adding the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association as an organizational member of the LGC. She recognized the benefits of GIS to the planning community and believes that will contribute value to the LGC and to statewide coordination efforts. The LGC's next meeting will be August 28.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). John Farley, SGUC chair, said the SGUC Executive Committee (EC) met July 29 and reviewed the work plan for FY 2013-14 to identify tasks and priorities. The EC will also resume discussions about the Esri Enterprise License Agreement (ELA), which will expire soon. Other topics of discussion included the update of various datasets for NC OneMap and the seamless parcels project. Specifically, the EC discussed how to share parcels data among state agencies. Until the statewide parcels project is complete, the NC Division of Emergency Management is taking the lead in acquiring parcel data from counties and sharing the data with other state agencies so that only one state agency is requesting data.

Another topic was the request from other state agencies for special imagery acquisition by NCDOT in the event of emergencies. The NCDOT aircraft frequently acquires imagery during emergency events. It makes sense to leverage this resource to acquire additional imagery that may be needed. NCDOT has prepared a memorandum of understanding that agencies can sign ahead of time that will streamline the process of meeting their needs.

The SGUC general meeting will be on August 22 and will hopefully include a new agenda item, a presentation on the grandfathering clause for licensing Mapping Science professionals.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). Ryan Draughn, SMAC chair, said the SMAC met on July 17. There was significant discussion of House Bill 636 and the NCBGN Communications Plan. He thanked Secretary Marshall for her suggestions to be proactive on communicating newly adopted feature name changes to the GIS community and other stakeholders. Her thoughts reflect the culture of the SMAC on this issue. Mr. Duncan suggested that in addition to notifying county and city administrators, the SMAC may want to consider outreach to the local bar association, given their involvement in title work, and the surveying community. Secretary Marshall said that her office issues regular newsletters that may serve as a resource for communicating feature name changes.

    ACTION #1   The Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee will modify the NCBGN Communications Plan to include outreach to legal and surveying communities and to include the Secretary of State's newsletters as a resource for communicating geographic name changes.

The SMAC approved a recommendation from the NCBGN that a previously unnamed reservoir in Wake County be named Lake Avocet. The recommendation will be submitted to the USBGN. This led to a discussion on the protocols for naming reservoirs, and the SMAC and NCBGN will study the process and requirements for this issue.

Working Group for Orthophotography Planning (WGOP). Gary Thompson, WGOP chair, said the group met on July 15 and received an update on the orthoimagery program.

He reminded the members that National Geodetic Survey (NGS) released GEOCON and GEOCONII, tools that allows users to transform coordinates between North American Datum (NAD) 83(2001), NAD 83(NSRS2007), and NAD 83(2011). Once NGS approves the beta version, Mr. Thompson anticipates that GIS software vendors will add these tools to their software to support on-the-fly transformation.

Mr. Thompson said the Council last adopted a standard for using GPS equipment in 2006. *[Editor's Note: The GICC first adopted a standard for GPS in 1994. That standard was revised in 2000 and again in 2006 to reflect changes in the technology.]* Recent developments, including the use of navigation systems from other countries, led to the need to update the standard. He is chairing a subcommittee that is working on updating the standard. The goal is to provide a draft of the revised standard at the February meeting of the GICC.

The WGOP was also tasked with considering the need for a standard for oblique imagery. The first step was to gather information. CGIA staff did a survey of counties that have acquired and are using oblique imagery. In response to the survey, 61 counties responded and 24 reported using oblique imagery. The next step will be to contact those counties to get a better understanding of how they are using the imagery and to identify the requirements of the user community. It will be difficult to develop a standard without first identifying these requirements.

Mr. Thompson serves on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC). A focus of this group is the national 3D Elevation Program or 3DEP, which is seeking funding to acquire nationwide LiDAR. The program has support from Congress. He is working on a committee to implement the program. Last week the committee provided recommendations to USGS on how to modify the plan, especially regarding states' roles. NGAC is also working on work force development.

<u>Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)</u>.
(see EPA PPT file at GICC website - http://ncgicc.net/Meetings/tabid/138/Default.aspx)

Tom Morgan, co-chair of the WGSP, remarked that many never thought the EPA Integrated Cadastral Data Exchange project would ever get underway. The effort began in 2009. He acknowledged the support of many in keeping the project alive, including Linda Rimer with EPA. The project is now underway. The project team includes the WGSP, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Land Records Management Program in the Secretary of State's office, Henderson County, NCDOT and CGIA. He acknowledged the work of Jeff Brown, CGIA Coordination Program Manager, in working with ITS to get the project approved and started. He also acknowledged Pam Carver, Henderson County, who is the co-chair of the WGSP.

The vendor team is led by the Carbon Project, Inc., and supported by Atlas Geographic Data, a North Carolina firm headquartered in Wilmington, and Fairview Industries, represented by Dr. Nancy von Meyer. Mr. Morgan described Dr. von Meyer as "Ms. Parcels" of the United States.

He showed a map of the 25 counties that have volunteered to participate in the pilot project. Seven counties are participating on Phase 1 of the project and have already provided parcel data in preparation for application development by the Carbon Project. The Phase 1 counties were chosen to represent a variety of Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) systems.

The process will involve the data providers – the participating counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians – uploading their data to the translator to be developed by the Carbon Project. The translator will convert the data to a common schema. In other words, attributes from different counties will conform to a common naming scheme to support regional and state analysis. Currently it is incredibly labor intensive for state agencies to acquire, combine and use parcel data from different counties.

Once a common dataset is available, it will first be distributed to EPA, which is funding the project. After that, the data will be distributed to data consumers through NC OneMap and other resources, as web services and as downloadable products.

Although the project involves 25 volunteer counties, the team anticipates reaching out to all counties. Mr. Morgan reported that the NC Department of Revenue has offered to reach out to county officials to engage counties that may be reluctant to participate.

Mr. Morgan displayed the time line. He remarked that it took almost five years to get the project underway but the team anticipates finishing the application development in six months. In early September, the Project Team will document that the project is more than 25 percent complete to be eligible for a needed time extension for the US EPA grant. Mr. Morgan expressed his belief that the outcome will be a tremendous tool for North Carolina and a wonderful example for the nation.

Mr. Duncan thanked the SMAC and its working groups for the progress on these very important initiatives.

Federal Interagency Committee (FIC). Linda Rimer, chair of the FIC, reported that the FIC finalized the Federal Land Ownership report and submitted it to Mr. Duncan. The report is now

posted to the FIC web page on the GICC website. She reminded members that the updated federal land ownership dataset is available for download from NC OneMap. She expressed her pride in the work of the FIC subcommittee on this effort.

The next FIC general meeting will be August 21, 10:00-12:00 at the Nature Research Center, NC Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh. The meeting will include a presentation on the EPA EnviroAtlas, which presents ecosystem services. Even though this is a national atlas, the City of Durham is one of the pilot cities for this program.

A second presentation will highlight the Conservation Planning Atlas, being developed by the Department of Interior's South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative as it studies climate change. This organization covers the southeastern states and is headquartered in Raleigh. She invited everyone to attend and said that following lunch there will be a tour of the Nature Research Center.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). John Farley reported for Colleen Shape, chair of the TAC. The TAC met on August 5 and reviewed recent and proposed NC OneMap enhancements. One item of discussion was a proposed standard for publishing web services, including specific formats.

Another topic was the use of ArcGIS Online for organizations, which is being widely adopted by state agencies. State agencies need to communicate regarding the sharing of credits under the ELA.

Finally, the TAC discussed the role of the TAC and what makes it unique among the GICC standing committees. Discussion focused on the need for ad hoc groups as technical issues arise and how the new ITS policy affects state agencies in terms of GIS.

Report from Metadata Committee
(see EPA PPT file at GICC website - http://ncgicc.net/Meetings/tabid/138/Default.aspx)

Mr. Duncan introduced Steve Averett, City of Greensboro and chair of the Metadata Committee, to provide a progress report on the work of the committee. Steve described the committee's charter, which was approved by the SMAC. Topics to address include metadata standards, tools for managing metadata, and incentives for metadata creation and maintenance. The latter is especially important for local governments. Best practices for integrating metadata creation into work flows will truly make it more feasible for local governments to maintain metadata.

Committee members include representatives from local, state and federal government and two very knowledgeable members from academia.

Mr. Averett said that recommending a new metadata standard turned out to be the easiest task. On the topic of standards, Steve made the following points:

- ISO 19115-1 metadata standard is expected to be adopted by the ISO board in January 2014.
- FGDC has been instrumental in developing the 19115-1 standard and will be adopting it once it is approved. This will replace the metadata standard adopted previously by the FGDC and the GICC.

- The Metadata Committee plans to recommend that the GICC adopt 19115-1, once it becomes official, as the metadata standard for North Carolina local governments and state agencies

Mr. Averett explained that for ISO standards, profiles that are specific to a group of users can be adopted. A key focus of the Metadata Committee is to develop a Local Government Profile for metadata required elements at the local government level. He noted that this could become a national standard, if adopted by ISO, as the committee's research indicates that no one else in the country is working on a Local Government Profile. An official ISO Local Government Profile could be integrated into GIS software, which will make it easier to create and maintain metadata and should provide an incentive for cities and counties to improve metadata collection and maintenance.

The committee has benefited from educational presentations from Lynda Wayne, a metadata expert and contractor to FGDC, and Dave Danko, Esri. Both are members of the ISO-US committee and were able to provide insights into the proposed ISO 19115-1standard, which is not yet published. The committee has reviewed many tools for managing metadata. He acknowledged Doug Newcomb's valuable technical help in evaluating the tools.

Mr. Averett attended metadata sessions at the Esri User Conference and was pleased by interest among attendees, but he did not discover profiles, tools, or specific techniques relating to the ISO standard that could expand the committee's knowledge. He did meet with staff from the GeoDiscover Alberta, the province's GIS coordinating agency, that plans to adopt the ISO standard and is considering development of a profile for the province. The committee will work with them to assess common grounds.

The next steps for the metadata committee:

- Continue development of the ISO Local Government Profile.
- Continue to review metadata editors and cataloging tools to establish best practice standards.
- Work with state, national, and international organizations on metadata profiles. Potentially formalize a relationship with GeoDiscover Alberta.
- Develop initiatives to educate and promote the ISO standard and best practices to local governments, state agencies, and educational institutions.
- Develop and present a formal recommendation to the SMAC in April 2014 regarding the adoption of the ISO standard, continued support for the NC Local Government Metadata Profile development, and recommended best practices. If approved by the SMAC, a formal recommendation can be made to the GICC at its May 2014 meeting.
- Work with state agencies and other metadata initiatives across the nation to develop and promote the Local Government Profile.
- Continue to search for grants to be used to promote the ISO standard within North Carolina. Unfortunately, the FGDC 2013 CAP grant was delayed and possibly cancelled due to the federal sequester.

In closing, Mr. Averett noted that the Metadata Committee anticipates its efforts will continue for 12-18 months and plans to meet once every 6-8 weeks. The committee will continue to foster collaborative efforts with national and international geospatial agencies. In fact the committee met this morning and had an hour long phone call with GeoDiscover Alberta about opportunities to collaborate. He encouraged guidance and recommendations from the GICC and its respective committees.

Mr. Duncan thanked Mr. Averett and emphasized that metadata is a fundamental underpinning of GIS coordination initiatives.

Mr. Draughn asked if the Local Government Profile can be adopted by state agencies and other users. Mr. Averett responded that local agencies are the biggest offenders in terms of not creating metadata and at the same time generate much of the most valuable, high resolution data. He cited his own experience working for five local governments over the last 17 years. He believes state agencies are doing a better job of managing metadata than local agencies. Therefore the profile will focus on local governments but the committee may be able to recommend tools, possibly accessible through NC OneMap, which will help state agencies.

He emphasized that if the ISO formally adopts the Local Government Profile, software providers like Esri will be more likely to incorporate the profile into their software, which will make it easier for all users to maintain metadata. Mr. Duncan, as a local government person, acknowledged the difficulty of devoting resources to maintaining and documenting data once it had been created. He expressed hope that the Local Government Profile, especially if it is incorporated into software packages, will make it easier for local governments to document data.

Mr. Averett remarked that a CGIA initiative to promote metadata 10 years ago met with some success. One change since then is the ease of and the emphasis on sharing data. He believes the pressure to share data will also pressure agencies to better document their data.

Tom Morgan noted that a section of the Public Records law requires that all databases generated by government be documented, that is that they include metadata. This initiative will help local governments meet the requirements of that law.

Statewide Orthoimagery Program Update
(see Orthoimagery PPT file at GICC website - http://ncgicc.net/Meetings/tabid/138/Default.aspx)

Tim Johnson provided an update on the 2012, 2013 and 2014 orthoimagery projects. The effort is led by a strong team from NCDOT, the Secretary of State's Office, the Department of Public Safety and CGIA.

Coastal Orthoimagery Project 2012
As reported previously, the 2012 data was delivered and is now available on NC OneMap. The last step is to prepare and submit a final report to the NC 911 Board, documenting lessons learned that will improve efficiencies in the next phases. Mr. Johnson will submit the final report to the NC 911 Board on August 23. The project will close out by August 31, on time and under budget.

Eastern Piedmont Orthoimagery Project 2013
The current phase of the four-year project cycle is the Eastern Piedmont region, covering 25 counties in the center of the state, including Fort Bragg and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Acquisition of imagery is complete and quality control review has begun by the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs, responsible for emergency communications), county GIS staff, CGIA

and NCDOT. Currently,

- Othoimagery production is underway.
- Testing and enhancements to the Virtual Online Inspecting, Checking, and Editing (VOICE) on-line review tool have been completed.
- VOICE training of PSAPs and GIS end users is complete and VOICE has been deployed online.
- Imagery for the first eight counties has been delivered for quality review.

Imagery for the remaining counties will be delivered incrementally over a seven-week period – four counties per week – and QA/QC using VOICE will continue. Imagery for Fort Bragg will be delivered separately to Fort Bragg staff for QA/QC of data within the base boundaries. As issues or problems are identified through the review, they will be submitted to the contractors for correction.

Mr. Johnson said the project is on schedule. Resolution of all issues will be complete by December with delivery of products in January 2014 followed by the final 60-day review. He noted that the 60-day review period for the 2012 Coastal project generated few problems.

Northern Piedmont and Mountains Orthoimagery Project 2014
The NC 911 Board approved funding for Phase 3 at its April 26 meeting. The project area includes 26 counties with imagery acquisition beginning in early 2014. The area is slightly smaller than the first two phases but more complex. The mountain terrain and elevation differences present special challenges in terms of data acquisition and processing, such as snow and other weather issues and flight planning in highly varying terrain.

The contract between CGIA and the NC 911 Board has been signed as has the contract between CGIA and Department of Public Safety, NC Geodetic Survey for horizontal control and accuracy assessment. The contract between CGIA and NCDOT for the work of their Photogrammetry Unit is awaiting one final signature.

The Qualifications-Based Selection process for vendors for Phase 3 will begin at the end of August leading to contracts in place by late November.

Mr. Johnson said it was great to complete the first phase of the four-year cycle for updating orthoimagery statewide. He acknowledged the work of Darrin Smith, the CGIA Project Manager.

Richard Taylor reported that the acting FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn will be speaking at the annual conference of the NC Chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) at Sunset Beach, NC, from September 8-12. Ms. Clyburn wants to highlight the North Carolina Ortho Program and give it national attention.

Mr. Duncan stated that at the plenary session of the Esri Users Conference, North Carolina was recognized as a leader in LiDAR. The state can be proud of that but needs to continue to be in the vanguard.

<u>NC OneMap Update</u>
(see NCOM update PPT file at GICC website - http://ncgicc.net/Meetings/tabid/138/Default.aspx)

Brett Spivey, NC OneMap Application Developer, said the NC OneMap team has been working on a number of tasks that derived from input and feedback from the user community and various surveys. He is happy to report that the team has accomplished all of those tasks.

He first displayed a list of 15 data updates to NC OneMap this quarter. He highlighted a new partner, the Department of Administration, which is serving state-owned lands and parking facilities in the capital area. Mr. Spivey acknowledged John Cox, GIS Coordinator for the Department of Administration (DOA) and the department's designee on the GICC.

The team has completed all infrastructure upgrades at the Western Data Center (WDC) in Rutherford County. This is part of the effort to provide redundancy and to ensure that NC OneMap is always available, especially in periods of emergency when users need access to data. With the completion of the upgrades and migration of the server environment to the WDC, this effort is now 50% complete. The WDC is now acting as the full production environment. The team is now in the process of replicating the technology stack at the Eastern Data Center in Raleigh.

Another improvement was to consolidate URLs to make it easier for users to find web services on NC OneMap. Previously there were separate addresses for imagery/raster data and vector data. A new URL – http://services.nconemap.com/ – removes this confusion. Users now go directly to this landing page for all NC OneMap web services. This page includes frequently asked questions, an explanation of web services in plain language and links to the Geospatial Portal and a comprehensive list of web services hosted by CGIA and offered to NC OneMap.

In review, Mr. Spivey showed a slide to demonstrate the organizational structure of NC OneMap, which consists of three direct links. They are:

- Web Services – services.nconemap.com
- Geospatial Portal, the data discovery page – data.nconemap.com
- NC OneMap Program, general program information and announcements – nconemap.com

Mr. Spivey then described recent enhancements to the Geospatial Portal and gave a live demo of the five major improvements. They are:

- Recent Updates. The most recent list of data updates or additions are shown on the home page of the Geospatial Portal. These may include map services, downloadable datasets or PDF files. He reminded members that users can sign up for an RSS feed to be automatically notified about data updates and enhancements to NC OneMap.
- Autocomplete Keyword Suggestions. The Search tool now automatically displays suggestions for datasets as users type a keyword into the Search box.
- Service Status Indicator. A real time or near real time service status tool indicates whether map services are up/down and provides a measure of their reliability. A link provides more detailed information on the reliability and performance of the service. This improvement was in direct response to feedback from users who wanted instantaneous

feedback as to whether a service is reliable and can be included in an application or workflow. The team worked with FGDC to implement this solution.

- Alphabetical Data Search. This function had previously been dropped in favor of using keyword searches. However, user feedback indicated a demand for an alphabetical search function.
- Image Preview and Discovery. Mr. Spivey described the multi-year discovery and preview tool as the most exciting enhancement. Previously users could not preview the data to determine if it met their needs. Additionally, when drawing a box defining the area of extent for a download, users were not getting instantaneous feedback on whether the box met the download size limitations. A user can now draw a box and get instantaneous feedback on whether the area is too large for download. Once the box is defined, a list displays all available years for which imagery is available. The user can determine the geographic extent of the data for the area of interest and then preview the imagery. The enhancements enable users to more easily ascertain which datasets are of most valuable for their applications before they download or use the image service.

Mr. Spivey described future activities. The team will complete the infrastructure upgrade at the EDC in Raleigh. Upon completion, fail over capability for NC OneMap will exist. Another task will be a redesign and restructuring of the NC OneMap websites to improve the user experience.

Mr. Spivey concluded by saying that he and Mr. Giordano welcome constructive criticism and suggestions as well as confirmation of the value of recent improvements.

Mr. Duncan commended the staff on their hard work.

GICC Member Announcements

Mr. Duncan announced that Tom Tribble has announced plans to retire on September 30 after 29 years at CGIA. He complimented Mr. Tribble for his contributions to the work of the Council, thanked him for his leadership and vision and remarked that he is highly regarded by the North Carolina GIS community.

Mr. Johnson announced the date of the November meeting has been changed to November 13. It had previously been scheduled for November 20 but GIS Day was moved to November 20, necessitating this change. He asked that members mark their calendars.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be **November 13, 2013** from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Department of Public Instruction Board Room, Room 755, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh.

Presentations and reports are on the Council Website: http://ncgicc.net/Meetings/tabid/138/Default.aspx). Click on "GICC Meetings." Presentations and documents presented during the meeting are available in a zip file for easy download.