



North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Minutes

August 12, 2020

PRESENT

Alex Rankin (Chair), Steve Averett, Paul Badr, David Baker, Kathryn Clifton, Mike Cline (for Bob Coats), John Correllus, Greg Cox, John Cox, Seth Dearmin, Stan Duncan, Dianne Enright, John Farley, Kristian Forslin, Dean Grantham, Joanne Halls, Pokey Harris, Jason Hedley, Matt Helms, Sarah Koonts, Scott Lokken, Dan Madding, Rich Elkins (for Elaine Marshall), Allan Sandoval, Brooks Tate, Gary Thompson, Alice Wilson, Lee Worsley, and Ron York

Staff: Tim Johnson, Colleen Kiley, CGIA

ABSENT

Amy Barron, Wesley Beddard, John Gillis, Chloe Gossage, Debbie Joyner, Chris Nida, and Tony Simpson

PROCEEDINGS

The Council held its second meeting via Webex due to Governor Cooper's COVID-19 stay at home order.

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, Colleen Kiley, and Tim Johnson of Council staff outlined some instructions for participating in this Webex meeting of the Council.

Mr. Rankin made several announcements about changes in Council membership since the last meeting. Alice Wilson of the City of New Bern is the new chair of the Local Government Committee. Ms. Wilson has been an active member of the LGC and the NC GIS committee for many years. The Chair congratulated her on this new role. Mr. Rankin reported that he has appointed Todd Shanley, the Cabarrus County CIO, to the Local Government Committee, to replace Debbie Brannan who has stepped down. Brooks Tate has been appointed by the NC Utilities Commission as a new member of the Council to replace Bliss Kite, who has retired with over forty years of service. Brooks

came to state government in 2016 as a pipeline safety engineer. His role in the Utilities Commission is to inspect natural gas operators in the state and verify that they are complying with federal regulations. He previously worked in the private sector as an associate engineer and with the City of Monroe.

Mr. Rankin introduced Jonathan Shaw, general counsel for the Department of Information Technology, who joined the meeting for Jessica Middlebrooks, who had a family emergency.

Council Chair Rankin announced that NC OneMap was recognized at the 2020 ESRI User Conference with a special achievement award. He expressed his congratulations to David Giordano and Brett Spivey for their work on NC OneMap.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 8, 2020 meeting were approved for adoption with no changes.

Presentations

2020 Census Update: Making NC Count

Chairman Rankin recognized Michael Cline, State Demographer, Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), to present on behalf of Bob Coats.

Mr. Cline updated the Council on the progress of the 2020 Census. The Census enumeration is winding down, and as of August 5th, NC had only a 59.2% response rate. In comparison, the nation has a 63% response rate. Union County has the highest response rate with 71% of households responding, and Avery County in the mountains has only a 30% response rate. Some counties in the mountains and coast have seasonal homes, which decreases the response rate. Response rates correlate with internet access. Rural counties, on average, are showing a response rate of 52%, with suburban and urban counties responding on average, at a rate of 62%. At this time about 41% of the households have not responded. An estimated 1.6 million households have not responded, corresponding to over 4 million uncounted residents, putting approximately \$7.4 billion in annual funding at risk.

President Trump prepared a memorandum on July 21, 2020 to exclude illegal aliens from the apportionment base following the 2020 Census. The memorandum required the Census Bureau to prepare a separate count of illegal aliens that would not be included in the 2020 apportionment count, but there are technical issues related to the memorandum. North Carolina has joined 21 states to file an injunction in US District Court over enforcement of the memorandum. A hearing is scheduled on August 13, 2020.

The Coronavirus has affected the Census timelines and approaches. The count is still occurring, and residents are encouraged to respond to avoid a census worker coming to the door. The changes in timeline include self-response now occurring March 12- September 30. Updated Leave Operation for areas that do not have standard addresses was from June 13 to July 9th. Mobile questionnaire assistance locations are under review for appropriate placement within areas of low response but high traffic. Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU) will occur from August 11 to September 30 and will involve census employees knocking on doors to collect information from households who have not

responded or from whom the census needs clarification on a question. Group quarters enumeration including barracks, prisons, nursing homes, and college dorms will finish up September 3.

The Census Bureau director and Secretary of Commerce requested from Congress relief on reporting deadlines due to a COVID related shutdown. The December 31, 2020 Census apportionment, and April 1, 2021 redistricting dates can only be changed by Congress. The House has passed two bills to honor the request, to push the dates to April 2021 for apportionment, and June 2021 for redistricting. The administration has since reversed the request. There are concerns about the time needed to adequately count and quality check the data provided for the current timeline.

The Count Question Resolution Program provides an opportunity for communities to challenge a part of the count in their community due to counting on the wrong side of a boundary. This challenge does not affect apportionment or redistricting, but it does feed into Census Bureau estimates and estimates used by OSBM. For this census, there will only be an opportunity to challenge based on housing units. There is an opportunity to comment on the Federal Register Notice for this change posted August 4, 2020: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-08/pdf/2020-16962.pdf>

Mr. Cline updated the Council on differential privacy. There is a new strategy for protecting the confidentiality of persons enumerated. Small population groups and geographies may not be produced. The new differential privacy method will apply to the 2020 Census, and there is discussion about applying it to ACS beginning mid-decade. Planned invariants are state total population, census block total housing units, and group quarters counts. There could be variation in the total population for a municipality. The original product tended to decrease urban population and increase rural population, but it will not be used. They are working on improving the product, but they have not provided a sample product, only metrics. Mr. Cline provided comments to the Census Bureau on what he felt was acceptable based on his perspective. The GICC will provide a second comment, and Mr. Cline and Mr. Coats are assisting with the second letter.

Mr. Cline encouraged everyone to fill out their census form and encourage friends, family, and coworkers to do the same. The census can be filled out online or by phone in multiple languages.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. Chairman Rankin asked if we would decrease the amount NC lagged the nation in response rate after the follow up period. Mr. Cline stated that the state's overall numbers will improve with the follow up period, but the state typically lags the nation, as do most other southern states. Chairman Rankin asked if Mr. Cline felt that there was adequate staffing to perform the follow-up. Hiring has been a long process, and COVID may have caused people to drop out, so this could be a concern with having enough people to knock on doors.

Tim Johnson asked if there was additional information forthcoming on differential privacy, or are the metrics all that will be supplied? Mr. Cline said that metrics are being provided nationally, and they are improving. They did release a micro-dataset so that people can do analysis.

Working Group for Enhanced Emergency Response Update – Hope Morgan, WGEER Chair

Chairman Rankin introduced Hope Morgan as the Chair of the Working Group for Enhanced Emergency Response and invited her to present on the status of the workgroup. Ms. Morgan began by going over the original intent of the group which was to provide a secure environment for data

sharing during emergency events without duplicating the data. The goal was for data sharing through web services and links, rather than through copying and storing datasets on-site where they could become out of date as changes were made to conditions during the event. Content would be locked down and available to responders only, not to the public. The workgroup is still working on solidifying the process to ask for personnel to come to a site to assist with event related work. There is a system in the NC Division of Emergency Management called TERMS where people can register and be vetted. Counties can request assistance through the WebEOC system used by emergency managers during an event and those registered through TERMS will be reviewed for the appropriate skills.

The WGEER Hub website is up and running. All users must have an ArcGIS Online account (AGOL). If users do not have a work related AGOL account, they can request one from CGIA. There are two types of users for the website, a provider, who will be contributing data to the group, and a viewer, who will use the site to view and consume data only. Ms. Morgan demonstrated the site. CGIA has worked with ESRI to test, troubleshoot, and get bugs fixed. Users can search for layers, and users allow their data to be found by tagging the layers. One layer currently available is recent imagery, and Ms. Morgan thanked the NC 911 Board for making imagery available early during Isaias for sharing within WGEER.

The plan moving forward is to make sure all current WGEER members have access and can contribute data. This step is nearly complete. Phase 2 will be widening the user base to LGC members and other local government users throughout the state who need access. The WGEER will be presenting to the LGC to make sure they are aware of the resource and know how to get access. The final phase will be to determine how to open the site to private partners while protecting governmental data.

Ms. Morgan explained the process for obtaining access to the WGEER hub site. She also said that there is a Microsoft Teams site set up for the group to collaborate, share documentation, and communicate. Contacting CGIA will allow users to gain access to both the Teams site and the Hub.

During the question and answer period, a member asked when Phase 2 would begin. Ms. Morgan answered that Phase 2 is beginning with the LGC in two weeks and will make the rounds of GICC committees with members who would benefit from the resource. She requested that if committee members wish to join, that they send all users who will want to join from their organization at once, so that CGIA can get them all on board simultaneously. Ms. Clifton asked for clarification on whether those who just need to view the data needed to be invited to join the secure group, and Ms. Morgan answered that all members, viewers and contributors, need to receive an invite to gain access. Mr. Farley added that data security within DOT is important to them, so they are comfortable with this sharing model, because everyone viewing the data is vetted, and they know who is seeing their data.

Committee Reports

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). Paul Badr, SMAC Chair, briefed the Council on activities of the committee and the last SMAC quarterly meeting held on July 15. The primary points are summarized below:

For the Statewide Orthoimagery Program, the 2020 project is in the QC phase. The goal is to have deliverables ready for 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in November, which will be four to five weeks ahead of past schedules. The Imagery 2021 project has been approved by the 911 board, and the contract phase has started with imagery collection starting in February 2021. Local governments interested in buy up products should contact CGIA.

Eighty-seven counties provided updated data to NC Parcels in Q2 along with 66 counties in Q1. Ninety-four counties have updated so far in 2020. Counties are encouraged to update quarterly. Digital elevation models (DEM) and contour lines have been completed by the Department of Public Safety, but no release date has been determined. The 2022 Datum update has been delayed until 2024 by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) due to COVID 19. North Carolina's plan for the new State Plane Coordinate system has been approved by the NGS. The AddressNC team will be updating the address layer using data from the Next Generation 911 project. Of 119 PSAPs in NC, all have been onboarded and 35 are now i3 ready.

Council Chair Rankin asked for any questions. Hearing none he called on Dean Grantham to report on TAC activities.

GIS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Dean Grantham, TAC Chair, reported for the committee.

The TAC and its Infrastructure working group jointly met on July 23rd to review the workplan item of outlining what infrastructure data could be shared and best practices for sharing data. The workgroup was made up of three counties, three municipalities, two private utilities, NC Railroad, and a private business. Two additional members may join. The working group represents rural, developing, and urban cities and counties to capture the breadth of experiences in the state.

The working group identified five categories of infrastructure to review: water/sewer, natural gas, electric, telecommunications, and stormwater. The working group is beginning with identification of data layers and will be discussing data security related to each layer. Malicious intent issues in relation to data sharing will need to be reviewed. Accuracy and intended use will also be discussed.

The final deliverable is still being discussed, and may be a white paper or an examination of a good/better/best approach where good data may meet general needs and consist of data less likely to expose a security risk, better data may be more accurate and meet more detailed user needs, and best data may be fully accurate data that is only released on demand for small areas.

The working group will reach out to end users such as the DOT ATLAS group to get their perspectives, needs, and experiences in trying to obtain infrastructure data. The next meeting will be August 20th with biweekly meetings planned.

During a question and answer period, Mr. Johnson stated that the newest GICC member, Brooks Tate, would like to join the committee as the representative of the Utilities Commission. Mr. Rankin recommended including private sector members to get a better understanding of the private sector utility needs.

Mr. Rankin asked for questions from the Council; with no additional questions he thanked Mr. Grantham for his report and called on Alice Wilson to provide the Local Government Committee report.

Local Government Committee (LGC). Mr. Rankin recognized new LGC Chair Alice Wilson to report.

The following changes have been made to the members of the committee:

- Josh Norwood, Pender County is replacing George Brown, Alexander County as the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA) representative
- Crystal Burnett, Brunswick County is replacing Robin Etheridge, Dare County as the North Carolina Property Mappers Association (NCPMA) representative
- Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, is the new Chair, and Crystal Burnett of Brunswick County is the new Vice Chair.

The LGC met on May 20th discussing the adoption of the international foot, the 2021 NC GIS Conference, LGC outreach, and to receive updates on NextGen 911, NC Parcels, Orthophotography, WGEER, TAC Infrastructure working group, and the 2020 Census.

A subgroup for the LGC outreach efforts met and decided that joining with the North Carolina ArcGIS Users Group (NCAUG) conference rather than holding a separate event would provide an excellent outreach opportunity to participate in a member panel to discuss the GICC, LGC, and other subcommittees while reaching an expanded audience.

Mr. Rankin asked for questions from the Council; with no additional questions he thanked Ms. Wilson and called on Scott Lokken to provide the Federal Interagency Committee report.

Federal Interagency Committee (FIC). Scott Lokken, FIC Chair, shared the recent work of the committee.

Mr. Lokken shared that the FIC met on July 27th via Webex. Matt Duvall of the Natural Resources Conservation Service presented on the existing soils layer. Doug Newcomb discussed the Fish and Wildlife Service wetlands database. The US Army Corps of Engineers also maintains wetlands coverage on a project by project basis; contact Todd Horton for USACE data. The group discussed new satellites to be launched in 2022 for soil moisture and other products.

Mr. Lokken recognized FIC member Silvia Terziotti for her new report “[Elevation-Derived Hydrography Acquisition Specifications](#),” intended to guide data producers of hydrology data. He also mentioned that there is a delay in the release of the modernized National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). He recommended visiting the NGS website for additional information, and attending the webinar presented by Drew Smith on August 27th.

The Coastal Topobathy project has collected the originally planned area and is adding a second sensor to recollect some of the area to obtain better data. The data will be served out through Digital Coast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Charleston, South Carolina. Post storm imagery for Isaias is available on the NGS website.

The FIC will meet next in late October which will include a presentation update on NOAA Topobathy. The group is currently working on compiling accomplishments for the 2020 GICC annual report and will discuss the workplan at the next meeting.

Council Chair Rankin thanked Mr. Lokken for his remarks and asked for questions. Tim Johnson mentioned that NAIP imagery is being flown this summer; Surdex, a company that flies the leaf-off imagery for North Carolina is flying it. He was unsure whether the flights have been completed.

Mr. Rankin thanked Mr. Lokken and recognized John Farley, SGUC Chair to report.

State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC). John Farley, SGUC Chair, reported for the committee.

Mr. Farley stated that the current ESRI Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) will end next summer, and the SGUC is in a good position for the next ELA with assistance from CGIA and an understanding of the prior process. He stated that ELA prices typically increase, but that some state agencies are facing financial constraints that may complicate the ELA negotiations. CGIA set up a Microsoft Teams site for collaboration, communication, and ELA ordering.

The SGUC met on July 24th to discuss the upcoming ELA and plan for discussion and presentation topics for the general meeting to be held late next month. Mr. Farley participated in the TAC meeting and plans to involve the SGUC to document use cases for the utility infrastructure workgroup.

The training plan is on the horizon. A survey was performed, results have been compiled, and will be presented to the group at a later date.

Council Chair Rankin asked for questions and hearing none offered the final committee report covering the GICC Management and Operations Committee.

Management and Operations Committee (M&O). The M&O met on June 22nd, and covered the status on 2020 Census, NextGen 911, statewide orthoimagery, and NC Parcels. Mr. Gary Thompson informed the M&O about an issue with GPS functionality regarding the approval by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of a company named Ligado to create a ground-based network that could interfere with GPS signals.

Chairman Rankin opened the floor for announcements. Ms. Alice Wilson thanked Gary Thompson for his assistance in making gage data available during the recent hurricane. Ms. Pokey Harris thanked Paul for his report, and thanked Tim Johnson and the team at CGIA for integrating into the NC 911 Board team. Mr. Brooks Tate, new member from the Utilities Commission, thanked the committee and introduced himself.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Chair requested and received a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

The Council has one remaining quarterly meeting for 2020 on November 4.

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