

North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council Local Government Committee

MINUTES LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE March 29, 2017, 2:00 PM

PROCEEDINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Local Government Committee (LGC), a committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC), was held on March 29, 2017.

<u>PRESENT</u>

LGC members: Kathryn Clifton, Chair, Davidson County, representing NCLM Michelle Deese, Catawba County, representing NCLGISA Robin Etheridge, Dare County, representing NCPMA Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, representing APA-NC and SMAC Rep

Others:

Pam Carver, Henderson County, Working Group for Seamless Parcels Stephen Dew, Guilford County, Metadata Committee and Working Group for Orthophotography Planning David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Working Group for Census Geospatial Data Jeff Brown, CGIA, Staff to the LGC Tim Johnson, CGIA Director

Absent members: Travis Penland, City of Hendersonville, representing Carolina URISA Benita Staples, Mecklenburg County, representing NCACC Jessica B. Welborn, High Country COG, representing ARCED

WELCOME

Kathryn (Kat) Clifton called the meeting to order and welcomed members and representatives.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the November 30, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

GICC TOPICS

Professional Land Surveying and GIS

Kat Clifton reported that the Coordinating Council (GICC) met on February 9. The meeting included an update from the Working Group on Professional Land Surveying and GIS. Kat, Alice, and Marcus Bryant are involved from LGC. A subset of the group continues to refine use cases typical of GIS practitioners and determine if a PLS license would be required in each use case based on definitions and rules. Discussion has included consideration of a decision tree to guide practitioners, nonprofessionals who need GIS services, and the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBEES) and other boards for professions that may be relevant to applications of GIS. The full working group plans to meet in April.

Working Group for Roads and Transportation

Jeff Brown reported that the working group plans to begin work this year on updating the street centerline data content standard adopted by the GICC in 2005. An update would be informed by multiple sources, including NCDOT's new dataset for all public roads, Federal Highway Administration requirements for submission of state roads data, National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and its GIS data standard for street centerlines, as well as standards of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The sources are expected to be more definitive in the coming months. Harry Lee of Currituck County agreed to be a local government representative on the working group last year and has been waiting for the group to begin work. Mr. Brown suggested it would be timely to consider another local government representative to join the working group, particularly someone with 911 experience. Meetings may include remote access. Michelle Deese nominated Greta Bumgarner of Catawba County who has extensive experience with centerlines and works directly with the 911 office and municipalities.

Alice Wilson suggested the addition of someone from a metropolitan planning organization for the regional perspective on roads. Jeff will check with Jessica Welborn about candidates.

HERB STOUT AWARD/ VALUE OF GIS STORY MAP

Kat reported there were three winners of Herb Stout Awards, presented at the 2017 NC GIS Conference—Catawba County, Forsyth County, and the City of Raleigh. Michelle expressed the county's appreciation of the award and explained that Catawba County's emergency services department requested assistance in predictive analysis for ambulances and response times. The department has an 8-minute response time goal. Instead of spending about \$250,000 on a software package, the department turned to GIS for a product within 18 months. Using a wealth of data, modeling, and statistical analysis, the GIS team developed products to support routing, budgeting and other decisions. Supervisors now using desktop tools to improve services.

The second county winner who will share the cup, Forsyth, developed an early voting wait time application that includes hours and locations of early polling sites, wait times,

and directions to the nearest polling place. The Board of Elections, Information Technology, and MapForsyth collaborated on the project.

The municipal winner is the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The team there developed an experienced-based park access model. Using analytics to assess park access across the city, the application can measure changes in service delivery and add value to Planning, Transportation, and Real Estate departments.

BRIEF UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Alice Wilson reported that SMAC met January 18th. Briefly, Joseph Sloop is the new chair. 2016 imagery was delivered to coastal counties, and 2017 imagery has been flown by now over the Eastern Piedmont. There was discussion about North Carolina being one of the leading states in Orthoimagery. NCDOT has published updated municipal boundaries (Powell Bill). The Department of the Secretary of State continues to work on geospatial annexation data to improve municipal boundary files. More information from the Land Records Management Division could be useful for local government GIS data managers. Regarding the Metadata Committee, NCDOT has engaged NC Central University and an intern to development more in-person and online training materials. Also, the NC Board on Geographic Names revised a document that explains procedures and communications in cooperation with the US Board on Geographic Names.

Metadata Committee

Stephen Dew and Jeff Brown reported that the Metadata Committee contributed to a session at the NC GIS Conference. Plans for training in 2017 will be issued soon. The State and Local Government Metadata Profile has been refined and guidance information about using ArcCatalog for editing metadata has been updated. There is still work to do on other metadata tools for editing and validation. There will be a notice about a survey for GIS practitioners to help guide training sessions and materials. Considering potential training venues for training in addition to NC Central University, Stephen offered the Guilford County IS training room, Alice Wilson recommended the Willis Building at East Carolina University, and Michelle suggested the community college in Hickory. Stephen observed that the committee favors hands-on sessions effective for transferring knowledge and techniques.

Also, for the ISO Metadata Summit in Reston, Virginia, FGDC invited Metadata Committee Chair Sarah Wray and staff Jeff Brown to do a brief presentation and participate in breakout groups on May 24.

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Jeff Brown and Pam Carver reported that the group added three fields that have been integrated in the NC Parcels Transformer—a second owner name field, a field for map reference (e.g., plat book and page), and an indicator that a parcel is in present use value, yes or no (not the type of present value). Some of the information the working group shared at the NC GIS Conference include lessons learned. There is less duplication in requests for parcel data from state agencies to local governments; please point state requests to NC OneMap for downloadable data and web services for the standardized parcels. He demonstrated the ArcGIS Online application for NC Parcels accessible from NC OneMap for multi-county work. The tax systems are varied across the state, metadata is scarce, some data items are well populated, and some items need to be more widely populated including parcel use descriptions, owner type, number of structures, and year built. Opportunities to participate in professional conferences are appreciated. The spring update is underway and reminders will go out in April. The individual county map viewers continue to be the best sources for property look-up and research. How many counties are publishing parcel map services individually is not known.

Pam confirmed that updating parcels in the Transformer is quick and easy and stressed the value of providing values for all the standard fields. 47 counties are now registered for do-it-yourself transforming. Also, Kat has reached out to her neighboring counties to encourage registration in the Transformer.

Census 2020

David Nash reported that there will be a series of meetings in the state in April sponsored by councils of governments for public officials to learn about the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program and the opportunity to designate a local point of contact for updating addresses in 2018. David shared an email from Bob Coats with a copy of the schedule.

ARE YOU ON THE MAP?

Kat reached out to local government and student winners of 2017 Herb Stout Awards to request participation in "<u>GIS in NC – Are You on the Map</u>?" There is a link from the LGC page on the web page. Jeff will look for another place on the GICC website to post a link to the map. Kat will review the content submitted to avoid duplicated or inappropriate content.

2019 NC GIS CONFERENCE

Tim Johnson joined the meeting to discuss plans for the 2019 NC GIS Conference with the committee. He thanked those who could attend the 2017 conference. Attendance exceeded 900. Presentations are now available <u>online</u>. Audio and video quality were very good. Michelle and Kat commented on the fine quality of the presentations they have viewed. The online survey about the conference elicited 250 responses and provided insight into the conference experience. The most striking result was the preference for extending the conference to a third day. This deserves careful consideration. The preconference workshops would be held on Tuesday and the conference would begin on Wednesday morning instead of Thursday morning, and end Friday afternoon. The same number of sessions would be spread over more time, reducing the number of concurrent sessions. Comments today will be timely as the conference planning is underway and quotes will be requested from convention centers in the major cities as soon as mid-April.

A third day will mean higher cost (particularly food) and higher registration fees, and an additional night of lodging for some.

The committee members, thinking about their own departments and their respective professional organizations, commented on the potential of extending the conference to a third day. In summary:

- The conference occurs every two years, making somewhat higher costs less important as a factor in getting approval to attend and spending the extra time at the conference.
- An additional day and scheduling one lunch "on your own" would make attendees more likely to explore the host city.
- A registration fee over \$200 would not be a deterrent.
- Lodging costs are more scrutinized by local governments than registration fees. Given that lodging options in a host city are available, more justification is needed to stay at a conference hotel.
- Getting approval for the conference registration and travel is not problematic for in-state events like the conference. Knowing in advance for budget planning helps get approval. Location and approximate costs in February or March of 2018 would be timely.
- Being away from work for an extra day is offset by the value of the biannual conference and its learning opportunities.
- An option for a single-day rate is possible, though predicting costs is more complicated with multiple rates.
- Options for private sponsorships are limited by government rules and procedures but worth considering.
- Vendor preferences will be important to consider.
- Training opportunities within the conference helps justify the cost to a local government.
- Less overlap in sessions also makes the conference more valuable to attendees who can get more content of interest.
- Costs of the NC GIS Conference, even somewhat higher, are reasonable and not a barrier to attendance.

The window for the conference has been early February through March 10 but no later considering competition for dates later in the spring as well as higher rental rates.

Based on Guilford County experience, Stephen suggested online placement of conference videos on a platform like Vimeo for a more business orientation and less risk of inappropriate or irrelevant video suggestions.

Tim Johnson expressed his appreciation for the valuable comments and suggestions.

OTHER CURRENT ISSUES OR CONCERNS

None.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Land Records Management Workshops sponsored by NC Property Mappers Association will take place this spring.

Esri is holding a "Public Sector GIS Conference" in Florida this spring.

Alice suggested organizing local government oriented discussions about technical topics such as python scripting for GIS. Sharing knowledge about tools and techniques can be beneficial. For future consideration.

The NCLGISA Spring Conference will take place May 24-26.

NEXT MEETING

LGC meeting dates for 2017 are the following Wednesdays, starting at 2:00 PM: May 17, August 16 and November 1.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

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