



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
February 28, 2018, 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 February 28, 2018.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Kathryn Clifton, Chair, Davidson County, representing NCLM
Alice Wilson, Vice-Chair, City of New Bern, APA-NC and SMAC Representative
Michelle Deese, Catawba County, NCLGISA
Robin Etheridge, Dare County, Property Mappers Association
Tom Bell, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, ARCED
Wayne Brewer, City of Raleigh, Carolina URISA

Others:

Stephen Dew, Guilford County, Metadata Committee and Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation
David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Working Group for Census Geospatial Data
Jeff Brown, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

Absent members:

None

WELCOME

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

MINUTES

The Minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

MEMBERS

Kat Clifton welcomed Wayne Brewer from the City of Raleigh, representing Carolina URISA. He is serving as president of CURISA and is in his 17th year of work on addressing for the City. He was a creator of the CURISA addressing special interest group.

Ms. Clifton will continue to serve as LGC Chair through May. She is now a GICC member appointed by the Governor, so the NC League of Municipalities needs a new LGC representative to take her spot and the LGC will need to elect a new chair by summer. The committee still has a vacancy for the representative from the NC Association of County Commissioners, and the GICC Chair may appoint a member.

Michelle Deese announced she is retiring from Catawba County. This is her last LGC meeting representing NCLGISA. She is communicating with NCLGISA for representation. The committee congratulated her and expressed appreciation for her time on LGC. Robin Etheridge's term is ending at the end of June. She will explore the possibilities with NCPMA for renewing or making way for a new representative.

BRIEF UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Alice Wilson reported that SMAC met January 24. Ben Shelton of CGIA provided an update on Statewide Orthoimagery. He explained that visual quality control has been finding fewer issues to resolve, in part because of improved digital elevation models, based on newer LiDAR, used for orthorectification. Imagery products for the 2017 Eastern Piedmont region were delivered to Public Safety Answering Points seven weeks earlier than in previous years. Imagery is available from NC OneMap as services and downloadable data. For the 2018 Northern Piedmont and Mountains region, flights are now in progress.

Hope Morgan reported for the Department of Public Safety on LiDAR. For Phase 4 LiDAR collected with a Geiger Mode sensor, 11 of 20 counties have been delivered by contractors. Files are very large. Processing for Phase 5 is going well, with two counties delivered for quality control.

Regarding hydrography, Cam McNutt of the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reported to SMAC that there is progress on a new application for downloading DEQ hydrography data. Ms. Wilson will share a URL with LGC when it is released.

Tim Johnson reported to SMAC that the Geospatial Data Act was revised in November. The new version, Senate 2128, ensures local governments will be included on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, and directs federal agencies to have meaningful partnerships with state, local and tribal governments, institutions of higher education and the private sector. The GICC Chair and staff drafted a letter of support for

the Geospatial Data Act and submitted it to the State Chief Information Officer for review before it goes to federal officials.

Metadata training was discussed by SMAC. Also, from the Working Group on Orthoimagery and Elevation, Dan Madding explained that the US Department of Agriculture is considering changing access to National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) from free public distribution to fee-based access under license. Meanwhile, the Working Group on Land Cover met twice and is doing a survey to learn more about business needs for land cover data. NAIP imagery, especially the color infrared version, has been used for classifying land cover as well as for other purposes.

On another topic of interest to local government, SMAC will ask the GICC to develop an approach and communication for an annual geospatial data request to county data managers that is consolidated to meet data needs for multiple state programs.

SMAC asked the Working Group on Orthoimagery and Elevation to analyze options for creating and publishing contours from newer LiDAR data and make a recommendation.

Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS

Kat Clifton has been participating in small group meetings with a surveyors' committee to examine in detail the use cases developed by the working group. Discussions have been lengthy and she observed greater understanding of terminology, interpretations and perspectives of GIS professionals and land surveyors. She noted concern about nongovernmental GIS professionals in the context of interpretations of GIS practice and surveying. Another meeting is scheduled for March 20.

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Jeff Brown reported the spring update is in progress and reminders will go out beginning the second week in March. LGC members confirmed that is a reasonable timetable. Mr. Brown thanked members for running the NC Parcels Transformer and reminded members to contact the working group about special projects for which updates could be prioritized for a few specific counties.

Stephen Dew described an example where communicating the availability of statewide parcels is needed. He explained from a recent meeting that a regional transportation planning organization was planning to request parcel data from 8 or 9 counties; all but two desired items were represented by a standard field in statewide parcels, but the organization knew nothing about the statewide dataset. It may be an opportunity to discover what additional fields are valuable in their transportation modeling, for example the built area within a parcel and the number of dwelling units (not just the number of structures). Marketing appears to be needed among transportation organizations. Ms. Clifton confirmed the point and has some notes and documents to offer from the meeting. For example, the organization, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, is interested in classifying land cover in all or parts of several counties. The URL for this example is PARTNC.org/communityviz.

Mr. Brown and Tim Johnson have been invited to present to a meeting of the Lead Regional Organization Executive Directors in April, and will highlight NC Parcels and other statewide datasets. Tom Bell and Stephen Dew offered to help prepare for briefing.

Also, Ms. Clifton described Davidson County's two days without its county web map viewer while recovering from an attack of ransomware. She pointed numerous consumers to statewide parcels as a source and walked people through how to access the data. She intends to update Davidson's parcels in NC Parcels more frequently in case of other interruptions. Mr. Brown noted it's not too early to do the spring update if tax records are updated for January 1. Mr. Dew confirmed that tax mappers are finishing updates in Guilford County, and the data will reflect January 1. Mr. Brown invited committee members to let him know if there is a project for which certain county updates could be prioritized to the benefit of the project. NC Parcels cannot control the flow of updates, but can send a reminder and do quality control for a specific county sooner than others if beneficial.

In terms of updates, the last field for each record is TRANSFDATE, auto populated as the transformation date typically the same day or the next day after data upload from a county source. Also, NC OneMap's downloadable zip files contain the transformation date in the title. In addition, a file geodatabase is generated each weekend with statewide parcels (over 5 million records) and placed on the download site.

Census 2020

David Nash updated the committee about the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). Address data are about to be mailed to counties and municipalities, and once received, the review period is 120 days. Mr. Nash forwards information to LGC from Bob Coats, the Governor's Census Liaison. Mr. Nash has downloaded the block summary address counts (2018) from the Census, and will join it to block boundaries (2010, with statistics) and compare 2018 address counts to 2010 housing counts to identify blocks with large differences for attention in updating addresses. A few counties did not register for LUCA by the December 15 deadline. Also, the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) has been in progress with a deadline of March 1.

Mr. Nash inquired about use of the Census Bureau's Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) among committee members. It designed to be used for BAS or LUCA. Ms. Wilson has used it successfully. He also learned that Census does not plan to publish data tabulated for Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) as it has in the past. This may impact transportation planners. He observed that block group boundaries could be configured to better represent transportation zones if that is a practical solution.

Ms. Clifton observed that address points can be joined to parcel polygons to help identify residential addresses as a subset of all addresses. This can help in review of Census address data.

Working Group for Roads and Transportation (WGRT)

Michelle Deese reported the group's work is coming to a close as final editing and recommendations for an updated data content standard for street centerlines are in progress. Greta Bumgarner and Harry Lee represent local government on the group.

Metadata Committee

Jeff Brown reported that in-person metadata training can be arranged for local governments this year. The Metadata Committee with assistance from North Carolina Central University has developed templates and instructional materials. There is interest in the Asheville area. Please contact committee members Stephen Dew or Jeff Brown if you know of interest or would like more information.

OTHER GICC TOPICS

National Agriculture Imagery Program

Kat Clifton described an issue presented by Dan Madding, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to the GICC and requested a letter to the US Department of Agriculture. Mr. Madding has seen much use by state and local government and private consumers who are unlikely to pay for access to the imagery (1-meter, leaf-on, 4-band). North Carolina is scheduled to be flown again in the summer of 2019. USDA has paid most of the cost and federal partners have not provided adequate support in recent years. Mr. Madding and GICC members will seek more information within the state and from representatives of other states—Tim Johnson is attending the National States Geographic Information Council this week.

Next Generation 911 and GIS

Mr. Brown reported that the Department of Information Technology issued a request for proposals for a vendor to provide data services including geospatial data. Selection of a vendor is expected as soon as April. This will relate to coordination of data sharing by local governments. More information will be available in the coming months.

Alice Wilson added that the City of New Bern has an IT governance committee that recently discussed the network for Next Generation 911 under development by AT&T. The network is in progress on a separate track from the geospatial data.

What Do Local Governments Need from the GICC?

Kat Clifton posed a question from the GICC about local government concerns, needs, or issues related to policy or direction that could be considered by the GICC. In the last LGC meeting there was discussion about communication of training initiatives. She pointed out an opportunity for more outreach from the Metadata Committee to identify training needs. Wayne Brewer added that CURISA is developing an inclusive calendar for all types of training, and he invited LGC members to push information on opportunities to him for posting by CURISA.

Ms. Wilson observed that regional GIS user groups were more common years ago, and suggested there may be value in reviving groups, especially to share information with

jurisdictions that have the least GIS resources. Mr. Brown has noticed user group activity in the Charlotte area and the Asheville area. Tom Bell observed the NC ArcGIS Users Group used to hold in-person symposiums in eastern and western locations, reduced to one local government symposium. Half-day workshops with no fee could be beneficial to local governments. Might the GICC partner with one or more professional organizations or lead regional organizations to hold some informative sessions on datasets and initiatives? For example, the Census Bureau collaborated with councils of government for LUCA training sessions.

Communication of available datasets is still needed, for example, in economic development. Also, Robin Etheridge pointed out that the NC Property Mappers Association holds informative land records workshops, though the topics tend to attract mostly county property mappers and land surveyors.

Access to Local Utility Data

Ms. Clifton explained that local government geospatial representations of water lines and other underground infrastructure tend to be restricted from public access for security reasons with concerns about system vulnerability. She recalled that the City of Salisbury was also concerned about interpretation of the data and potential misunderstandings. The GICC discussed this topic and heard concerns from consultants and engineers who would benefit from access to utility data, including details about capacity, for site selection and land development purposes. Security is tight, but potential benefits are not realized. Mr. Bell confirmed that regional organizations assist towns in mapping assets and security is the norm. Stephen Dew added that data from the City of Greensboro is not accessible to the public for concerns about security and about misinterpretation of service availability in a location of interest. Ms. Clifton suggested that utility service area polygons may be informative for planning purposes without revealing locations of infrastructure.

Projections of the extent of service areas are made public by the City of Greensboro, for example. Mr. Brown reminded the committee that the NC Rural Economic Development Center developed and published statewide water and sewer service areas with descriptive data in 2004, but has not had funding to do it again. In discussion, the committee concluded that more information is needed about the value of service area polygons. It is not clear what would be acceptable to data managers and sufficient to meet business needs for consumers. A statewide dataset would be challenging given the many entities involved including local water authorities.

BUSINESS NEEDS FOR DATA

Land Cover

A survey about business needs for land cover data is in progress with 60 respondents to date including committee members and other local government GIS contacts. The committee recommended targeting invitations to more university contacts, regional organizations, and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Brown shared information collected so far. The working group will analyze results after March 9 and report to SMAC in April. Tasks after that will relate to tools and techniques for generating one or two land cover products and associated costs.

Color Infrared Imagery

The Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation prepared a brief report on what it would take to generate color infrared imagery from the exposures captured by sensors in the Statewide Orthoimagery Program and approximate costs. Local governments have the option of piggy-backing on the state contract to purchase color infrared imagery. For example, Henderson County purchased color infrared in conjunction with the 2015 imagery for about \$6,500 or about \$13 per square mile. The NC 911 Boards pays for true color orthoimagery but is not prepared to pay for the extra time and disk storage space for the 4th (near infrared) band. Business needs for color infrared imagery do not include emergency communications, but the working group is updating its 2011 report on color infrared imagery that included uses such as crop inventory, soil mapping, wet areas, impervious surface, tree coverage, and land cover classification.

MEETING DATES FOR 2018

LGC meeting dates for 2018: Tuesday, May 15; Wednesday, August 22; and Wednesday, November 28—starting at 2:00 PM.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alice Wilson will be a presenter at a workshop, “Data to Knowledge” in Jacksonville, NC on March 9, relating to GIS and community development. She will send information to the committee.

The 2019 NC GIS Conference was announced by Tim Johnson by email, including rates.

Esri will hold its annual Public Sector Conference May 2-4 in Charlotte.

NC ArcGIS Users Group will have its conference in Asheville, August 29-31 and a symposium in Hickory on October 26.

Ms. Wilson is working with Esri’s community mapping program on base map data.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32.

LGC’s web page on the GICC website:

<http://it.nc.gov/gicc-local-government-committee-lgc>