



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
August 22, 2018, 2:30 PM

PROCEEDINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Local Government Committee (LGC), a committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC), was held on August 22, 2018.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Debbie Brannan, Cabarrus County, GICC
Jason Clodfelter, MapForsyth, NCLM
George Brown, Alexander County, NCLGISA
Tom Bell, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, ARCED

Others:

Marcus Bryant, City of Durham, SMAC Representative
David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Working Group for Census Geospatial Data
Wright Lowery, Wake County, Hydrography Working Group
Marlena Isley, Alamance County, Hydrography Working Group
Tim Johnson, CGIA Director
Jeff Brown, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

Absent members:

Alice Wilson, Robin Ethridge, Ben Strauss, Wayne Brewer

WELCOME

Jason Clodfelter called the meeting to order and welcomed members and representatives.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the May 15, 2018 were approved as submitted.

GICC TOPICS

Data Content Standard for Road Centerlines

The Council adopted the Geographic Data Content Standard for Transportation Roads, Version 2. The Working Group for Roads and Transportation updated the standard (2005) and the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) approved the revision and recommended adoption. For wider distribution of the revised standard, Jeff Brown will share the [URL](#) for the posted standard with LGC and coordinate sharing via listservs of LGC members' respective organizations.

NAIP 2018 Imagery

Dan Madding of NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported to the GICC that US Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans changed recently, and National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) will be acquired over North Carolina this summer rather than next summer, with products expected by the end of 2018. Jason noted that Forsyth County uses NAIP imagery looks forward to the update. Regarding public access to NAIP imagery, it is status quo—USDA will not move to fee-based access in 2019.

Access to Utility Data

Public access to private and local government utility data continues to be a topic of discussion for the GICC. One of its strategic elements for 2018 and beyond is to clarify public policies that restrict public access to geospatial data for local government infrastructure, and analyze business needs, security risks, and alternatives. SMAC has been assigned the task of leading this effort. LGC had a good discussion on this topic when it met in May. Jeff Brown suggested gathering more information from local governments about policies, concerns, and agreements. Marlana Isley, based on her experience, suggested reaching out to the City of Greensboro, Water Resources as well as Engineering and Inspections in particular. Tim Johnson added that the GICC will have more discussion from a statewide perspective and be interested in the range of local policies. Jason suggested reaching out to local government to describe more cases, look at policies, and ask for reasons why or why not. He added that there are instances of restricted data access between departments within a city or county. Marlana has observed difficulty with a county obtaining infrastructure data from a municipality within the county. After a brief discussion, the committee concluded that a survey for a broad sampling would be the best approach. Marlana, Marcus, and Jason, with assistance from Jeff, will draft survey questions for LGC to consider and sharpen.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The GICC continues to have interest in UAS. LGC started discussing use cases at its last meeting. Tom Bell followed up with a description of how UAS is used by Western Piedmont Council of Governments. Jason added that the City of Winston-Salem has a drone and licensed users. The Forsyth County Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office

are likely to adopt the technology. Meanwhile the county manager and the geographic information officer are working on a policy to guide the use of UAS. As in Charlotte, Forsyth County is looking into a qualified vendor for a multi-year service level agreement for indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity of services. Next steps for LGC can be to continue to build use cases and to obtain sample policies from local governments across the state. Marlana recommended Harnett County may be the best example for UAS use policies for the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management, and GIS. Alamance County staff has visited Harnett and is working on similar policies. Harnett County features a mobile command center and a UAS program in place. Marlana has contact information to share.

NEXT GENERATION 911 UPDATE

Tim Johnson, CGIA Director, gave an update on Next Generation 911. He observed that this will be a challenge for the GIS community in terms of datasets required and update frequency once the system is in place. He is on the evaluation team for proposals from vendors, and one will be selected to lead the geospatial data effort. An award of a contract is expected in late September. Outreach to local governments will follow, with attention to street centerlines, address points, administrative boundaries, and emergency service related boundaries in this statewide effort. There is much to learn about what departments locally are responsible for required geospatial datasets. Next Generation 911 implementation is planned for 2020, so there is limited time to prepare geospatial data that can be standardized to National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards and integrated into a statewide network. CGIA will lead the geospatial effort in collaboration with the staff of the NC 911 Board.

Marlana Isley, who will maintain Alamance County's administrative boundaries, commented that she frequently gets question from 911 staff about data for Next Generation 911 and the expected process. She suggested a survey of local governments to find out who maintains boundary data, how frequently, and how they share data. There is a listserv for local government addressing specialists that would be a good starting point. Mr. Johnson agreed that will be an important, early task for the project team to get to the right people in each jurisdiction. He added that he took part in regional meetings between the NC 911 Board and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) that has raised interest in and expectations for Next Generation 911.

LGC WORK PLAN

Jason led a review of the draft LGC Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The committee identified some minor edits to clarify intentions and guide work for this year. Jason offered to lead an effort to issue quarterly communications about the work of the committee and the GICC to keep members' respective organizations and the GIS community informed through listservs (task 2.1).

The committee favored maintaining and adding content to the story map on the value of GIS ([Are You on the Map?](#)) as task 1.4, and suggested promotion on the NC GIS listserv

and other efforts to keep it going. For example, George plans to update NC Local Government Information Systems (NCLGISA) in its open business session (October 26 is the next date). Jeff will retrieve promotional text and share that with the committee. (Kat Clifton is willing to continue her role as the gatekeeper on submissions to the story map).

The committee replaced task 4.4 (update to the state's road centerline standard that was accomplished in the spring) with a new task to do research on current policies and practices regarding public access to infrastructure data. Jason, Marlena and Marcus will lead the research effort with a plan to produce a report this calendar year. Jeff will assist on developing a survey.

Regarding the task for participation on the NC Board on Geographic Names, Tim explained that Amy Durden is the lone local government representative; other board members are state and university representatives. Name requests have been more frequent lately, in part because of promotion by the Department of Environmental Quality to name unnamed tributaries for programs such as stream restoration. Name requests can be submitted by citizens, often in relation to local historical significance. Also, David Giordano of CGIA will do a presentation on the NC Board on Geographic Names at the fall conference of the NC Property Mappers Association.

Voted: The Committee approved adoption of the LGC Work Plan 2018-2019 as modified in the meeting discussion

BRIEF UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Jeff Brown reported the spring update wrapped up with 88 counties participating. Counties not updated since last fall include those with staff turnover and tax system issues. The next update will take place in September through November. Also, for the planning effort by the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART), thanks to LGC members pointing to NC Parcels, CGIA and the working group collaborated with the planners to refresh parcel data in the 9-county in May and June. Jeff looks forward to learning about how the parcels data were applied. Marlena offered to advise about existing and new standard fields in NC Parcels that could be applied to the CommunityViz software used for regional transportation planning. Also, she explained that 52 counties use CommunityViz and 9 to 12 more may use the software as a result of the PART project. Jeff will follow up with Marlena and the committee on data content of NC Parcels.

Census 2020

David Nash, based on information from Bob Coats, the Governor's Census Liaison, reported that the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is winding down. The Census Bureau will review submissions and respond in 2019. After receiving a response, a jurisdiction will have 30 days to comment. A new construction program in the second

half of 2019 will enable local governments to report residential addresses developed after the LUCA submission. Also, the Participant Statistical Areas Program will offer an opportunity to define geographies representing neighborhoods, planning areas, etc., in the context of Census geography and statistics to be published from the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau will open offices in North Carolina, including locations in Charlotte and Raleigh during January to March 2019.

Metadata Committee

Jeff Brown explained that in-person metadata training can be arranged for local governments. NCDOT engaged North Carolina Central University to develop templates and instructional materials. There are six instructional [videos](#) created by the university on YouTube (scroll to “metadata training”) plus a webinar on [jumpstarting metadata](#). Please contact Stephen Dew, Sarah Sheldon or Jeff Brown if you know of interest or would like more information.

Hydrography Working Group

Wright Lowery reported that the Hydrography Working Group has met frequently this summer. The main goal of the group is to create a single dataset for streams for the state. It will be a unified geometry intended to meet a range of state and local business needs. The working group has heard information on the USGS’ National Hydrography Dataset as well as headwater stream mapping funded by NCDOT in its Advancing Transportation through Linkages, Automation, and Screening (ATLAS) project. From a local government standpoint, having a single dataset for streams would be very helpful for riparian buffer enforcement. Wright pointed to background information starting on page 6 of the July 18 [minutes](#) of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee. A new statewide dataset would be discoverable and accessible via NC OneMap.

Working Group for Municipal Boundaries

Alice Wilson, Steve Averett, and Marcus Bryant are local government representatives on the Working Group for Municipal Boundaries. Jeff, staff to the group, explained that NCDOT has maintained the best available statewide representation of municipal boundaries as part of the Powell Bill program. Regarding annexations, municipalities are required to report to the Secretary of State. Another process is the annual Boundary and Annexation Survey conducted by the Census Bureau in collaboration with the Secretary of State. The working group is looking in detail at those three processes and will identify ways to make maintenance of a statewide municipal boundaries dataset more unified and efficient for local governments and state agencies.

The working group is analyzing current statutes related to annexation reporting and the Powell Bill, administrative rules, guidance and communications. There may be opportunities to modify language to result in more consistent, complete, timely reporting.

Also, he noted that many counties have agreed to consolidate BAS reports for their respective municipalities. The group is meeting this Friday and aiming to report to SMAC in October. David observed that the Census-issued GUPS software (QGIS

customized for LUCA, BAS and other programs) worked well and may be a useful tool related to municipal boundaries.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

In the absence of Alice Wilson, Marcus and Jeff reported that SMAC met July 18 and the highlights of that meeting have been reported today in the GICC items and working group reports.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The committee discussed upcoming opportunities:

- The NC Arc User Group is holding its conference August 29-31 in Asheville. Also, NCAUG will hold a government symposium October 26 in Hickory.

- The 2019 NC GIS Conference will take place in Winston-Salem, February 27-March 1, 2019. Abstracts are invited through September 7. The conference website is expected to be launched early in September. Workshops to be offered by Carolina URISA on February 26 preceding the conference on the following topics:
 - Preparing for the GISP certification
 - Embracing the Parcel Fabric
 - Cartography and map design
 - Overview of open source GIS software
(Fees are set at \$150 for CURISA members and \$175 for non-members)

- Carolina URISA is offering the GIS Leadership Academy in Raleigh, May 20-24, 2019. Jason attended in 2012 and highly recommends the week-long training.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20.

LGC next meeting date: Wednesday, November 28—starting at 2:00 PM.

LGC's web page on the GICC website:

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