



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
November 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 November 28, 2018.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Tom Bell, Western Piedmont COG, NCARC
Debbie Brannan, Cabarrus County, GICC
Wayne Brewer, City of Raleigh, CURISA
George Brown, Alexander County, NCLGISA
Jason Clodfelter, MapForsyth, NCLM
Robin Ethridge, Dare County, NCPMA
Ben Strauss, Wake County, NCACC
Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, NC-APA

Others:

David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Working Group for Census Geospatial Data
Marlena Isley, Alamance County, Hydrography Working Group
Jeff Brown, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

Absent members:

None.

WELCOME

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

MINUTES

The Minutes from the August 22, 2018 were approved as submitted.

GICC TOPICS

Hurricane Florence

Jason reported on topics from the November 7th GICC meeting. The Council spend most of its time on the topic of Hurricane Florence and the role of geospatial data and technology in preparation, response and recovery. In a series of brief presentations, local and state GIS coordinators described how GIS was applied and lessons learned. Richard Tuinstra of the City of Wilmington, Alice Wilson of New Bern, and Josh Norwood of Pender County each described their experiences. Alice, Josh, and Patricia Pike of Onslow County also wrote letters as well. See presentations and letters on the [webpage](#) for the GICC meeting. Jason shared some of the common points made by presenters. One was the importance of statewide geospatial data, accessible through NC OneMap, for coverage of neighboring areas beyond the boundaries of a city or county. Another key point from presenters was the value of preparation for data access and communication.

Collaboration

Jason added that collaboration was recognized by speakers as valuable. Collaboration within and between jurisdictions was important, assistance from state and federal agencies, and collaboration with private GIS service providers was valuable and timely. He noted Esri's support to state agencies, and North Carolina companies Highland Mapping and Atlas Geographic Data were particularly helpful to some local governments.

Organized Resources for Technical Assistance

Alice added from the GICC conversation that it would be valuable for a local government to have access to an organized set of technical resources. For jurisdictions with limited GIS capacity, having experienced GIS professionals available to advise, for example, on issues related to common platforms like ArcGIS Server, ArcGIS Online, SQL Server, etc. Local governments have mutual aid for utility repair, for example, but not for GIS technical assistance. Preparation of data and applications prior to events is important, too. She expressed gratitude for being in North Carolina with its statewide datasets and GIS community, and thinks we can do more to support those in need in a crisis. For example, the demands of an emergency operations center require more than one GIS professional to cover needs around the clock. For smaller jurisdictions, onsite assistance is more valuable than for jurisdictions with larger GIS operations.

Jason commented that an organized resource has two aspects: GIS professionals who can travel and provide on-site assistance and an accessible database with contact information for subject matter experts who can assist remotely from locations not affected by an event. The remote GIS people could be from state and local government. An example of on-site assistance was a four-person GIS "strike team" organized by the NC Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA) that helped Pender County

tackle the large volume of requests for maps, data, and applications. Tasks on site can be varied from basic data processing and map making to online applications.

George added that NCLGISA discussed the concept and decided that an IT strike team and a GIS strike team should be separate entities. He suggested representatives by four regions, as NCLGISA is organized. NCLGISA membership is strongest in IT. The GIS side may be suitable for another organization to take on, to be determined. George added that some GIS professionals are members of NCLGISA and many are not. A larger pool of GIS professionals may be accessible if not limited to one organization or another, but some entity would need to organize efforts. This might be a topic for discussion at the NC GIS Conference. Jason added that URISA has an internationally based GIS Corps that may be a resource.

Given the need, what is the best way to organize resources? Jason and George envision a database with resources and regional representatives to be points of contact. A jurisdiction in need should be able to make one phone call to request specific assistance. People identified for certain tasks and topics, not engaged in an emergency operations center, should be able to respond in coordinated efforts.

Jason suggested that LGC reach out to organizations including NCLGISA, CURISA, and NCPMA to discuss the concept. An interest group at the NC GIS Conference may help define a framework. George offered to contact NCLGISA to learn more. Alice endorsed organizing a pool of GIS professionals.

Marlena suggested participation in the State EOC training exercises and events to learn more about what to expect, what data to prepare, and who to reach out to for volunteer assistance. An approach may be for a small group of GIS people to participate and then build a list of people who may be interested and reach out to them.

Debbie, speaking from an IT perspective, added that IT staff are not considered essential personnel for the Cabarrus County EOC, but IT and GIS always go to the EOC to add value to emergency response operations. George took the Incident Command System (ICS) 100, 200, and 300 classes to understand how to fit into the Alexander County EOC. He participated as an integral part of operations. Debbie's team took the basic classes and supports the EOC, but her team does not have a seat in the EOC. Debbie observed that the IT and GIS roles could be better defined. She added that Chris Koltyk of NCLGISA reported about the strike team and noted that some of the assistance was not related to IT or GIS, but extra helping hands were timely and appreciated. She explained that requests for GIS and IT assistance come from emergency management directors, so that is part of the communication challenge in making operations aware of resources. Jason added that MapForsyth was assertive in taking ICS courses, getting involved in the county EOC and adding value, and a new emergency management director made the GIS team essential personnel. He noted that even when directly involved in the EOC, many of the operations people are not familiar with GIS and what can be done to assist. He encouraged others to inform emergency management directors and gain official involvement in the EOC if possible. A command structure may have GIS under "planning" as in Alexander County.

Jason asked the LGC to continue discussions and to reach out to learn more about the best approach to organize resources. He will reach out to John Farley and the State Government GIS User Committee about state resources. Also, Jason will follow up on an opportunity at the NC GIS Conference.

Smart Cities

Jeff Brown explained that Steve Averett, City of Greensboro and member of the GICC, would like to know more about the role and potential of geospatial data and technology in Smart Cities initiatives. The GIS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has taken on a task to assemble subject matter experts on an ad hoc basis to research the issue and reach an understanding to share with local governments. Smart Cities involves digital solutions for efficient services including transportation. TAC is seeking participants in the effort. Alice Wilson, given the planning aspects, volunteered to assist and reach out to planners.

SURVEY ABOUT PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE DATA

Jason thanked Marlena, Marcus Bryant, and Jeff for assistance in designing a survey about public access to infrastructure data. The survey went out to the GIS listserv and to a listserv for members of the American Public Works Association. There are 33 responses to date. Jason prepared charts for the results so far, shared with the LGC yesterday. He recommends getting more responses. Joseph Sloop offered to send the survey to managers listserv. In discussion, George suggested putting links to the survey on the web pages of organizations. More responses through the end of December, analysis in January, and preparation of a findings late in January for the GICC in February would be timely. Jeff noted that the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee has a parallel effort, seeking information from private utilities. Robin suggested sending on NCPMA listserv, and Debbie will put it on the NCLGISA listserv. David suggested the NC League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners as other resources for reaching out. Tom will send a message to COGs. Jeff suggested targeting specific jurisdictions if we happen to know they have local infrastructure data and they haven't taken the survey.

NC GIS CONFERENCE

The 2019 NC GIS Conference will take place in Winston-Salem, February 27-March 1, 2019. There is a spot for a panel of local government people on the topic of public access to geospatial data representing infrastructure. This would be a breakout session. The panel would have a mixture of utility providers and data users. Findings of the survey will be important, with discussion time. Different perspectives would be ideal concerning policies, risks, and consumer benefits. Jason suggested presentation of survey findings by someone on the LGC. Colleagues could be on the panel, e.g., a GIS data manager from public works. Jeff will follow up with Jason on details.

Plans for a session about response to Hurricane Florence are in progress. Also, the conference program committee seeks advice about a session about GIS Professional (GISP) certification. Tom noted that one of the pre-conference workshops is on "Preparing for GISP Certification" (Tripp Corbin) and expects people with the most

interest in GISP and the exam may take the workshop. A short conference presentation could be focused on the basics and the value of getting a GISP.

The Herb Stout Award competition will be announced next week. Jeff encouraged LGC members to consider applying or urge others to apply to be recognized for accomplishments.

BRIEF UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Jeff Brown reported that 72 counties have completed the fall update in NC Parcels. Another 13 were last updated in the summer. The group will prioritize outreach to the 10 counties that were last updated in the spring, and three counties last updated in 2017. Storms have delayed some of the updates. Before Hurricane Florence arrived, CGIA ran updates for several eastern counties, particularly those with downloadable data.

Census 2020

David Nash, based on information from Bob Coats, the Governor's Census Liaison, reported that the [Participant Statistical Areas Program](#) (PSAP) is upcoming. This program will give local invited participants an opportunity to review and update certain statistical area boundaries (such as census tracts, block groups, and census designated places) for the 2020 Census. COGs are helping organize this across the state. With the end of traffic analysis zones (TAZ) this program may particularly useful for transportation planners. Alice added that this is important to small towns, as well, for purposes of the block group geography for the American Community Survey.

The [New Construction Program](#) will give local governments an opportunity to update the Census Bureau's residential address list with living quarters for which construction is in progress during or after March 1, 2018 and completion is expected by Census Day, April 1, 2020.

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is in the review phase, with results expected in 2019. He referred to a participation [map](#).

Working Group for Municipal Boundaries

Alice Wilson, Steve Averett, and Marcus Bryant are local government representatives on the Working Group for Municipal Boundaries. Alice and Jeff reported that the working group has a pilot project with a few counties to test a proposed work flow for submission of annexation information. Jason is part of the pilot effort coordinated by John Bridgers. The group is identifying ways to enhance municipal boundary source data including plats submitted to registers of deeds. Alice pointed out the value of municipal boundaries for local and state governments.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Alice Wilson highlighted the 2022 Reference Frame, with expectations of more information about state plane coordinates coming soon. NC Geodetic Survey has been

working with counties on establishment of boundaries in several locations including Chatham-Wake-Hartnett. The Metadata Committee reported intentions to hold more training sessions in 2019 and issue a new guide for creating and editing metadata in ArcCatalog. Hurricane Florence delayed the work of some of the working groups including hydrography. The Land Cover Working Group will seek more response to a survey about business needs.

Orthoimagery and Elevation

2018 delivery of imagery to Public Safety Answering Points in the Western Piedmont and Mountains will take place next week in regional meetings. NC OneMap imagery services will be updated by mid-December. The project team appreciates the strong local government participation in visual quality control.

Hydrography Working Group

Has not met since the last LGC meeting.

Metadata Committee

Has not met since the last LGC meeting.

Roads and Transportation

Has not met since the last LGC meeting.

OTHER ISSUES AND CONCERNS

None.

MEETING DATES FOR 2019

Considering the NC GIS Conference at the end of February, the first meeting date for the LGC in 2019 will be sometime in March, to be determined.

The other quarterly meetings will be held at 2:00-3:30 PM on Wednesdays two weeks after GICC meetings (May 22, August 28, November 20).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The committee discussed upcoming opportunities:

- NC GIS Conference in Winston-Salem as discussed.
- Carolina URISA is offering the GIS Leadership Academy in Raleigh, May 20-24, 2019. Alice and Jason highly recommend the week-long training.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LGC next meeting date: to be determined.

LGC's web page on the GICC website:

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